

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 8

The following exhibit is a folder that has an assortment of pamphlets, and other documents that cannot be scanned it exceeds the 10-page maximum. A few documents have been scanned to assist you with your research.

The exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and can be viewed there.

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**Montana Meth Watch Program FOLDER
[Poster, notepads, informational
documents COPIED PPP paper copy
and testimony]**

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LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY	
EXHIBIT NO.	<u>B</u>
DATE:	<u>2-2-5</u>
BILL NO.	<u>SB 287</u>

February 2, 2005

Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety
Senator Brent Cromley, Chairman

Re: SB 287 (Sen. Schmidt)

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Lewis and Clark City County Board of Health would like to go on record in strong support of SB 287, a bill to restrict and regulate the sale of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine products.

Faced with a growing crisis of methamphetamine addiction and clean up problems from homemade drug laboratories, Montana is among at least 20 states considering legislation which would significantly limit the ability of illicit drug manufacturers to obtain methamphetamine precursors. This bill mirrors the approach taken by Oklahoma where the legislature unanimously approved a bill last April after three state troopers were shot and killed by meth cooks. Since the Oklahoma law's passage, seizures of clandestine meth labs have dropped by 81%. Simply stated, this approach works. If the precursors are not available, meth cannot be easily manufactured.

The Board believes this approach will significantly decrease the numbers of drug labs we see in our communities and the associated problems we are experiencing in Montana. The inconvenience to legitimate customers buying ephedrine and pseudoephedrine products simply does not compare to the benefits our society will realize. In fact, the Board believes that SB 287 is not only worthy public policy, but a necessary one at this point. As neighboring states shut down unlimited access to methamphetamine precursors, Montana cannot risk the likely outcome that, if we do not take similar action, meth producers will assume that Montana remains "open for business." Montana needs to join other states in announcing that the illegal methamphetamine manufacturing business is not welcome in our communities and in our state.

We urge your support of this important legislation.

Montana Meth Watch

- Funding: \$70,570
 - The majority of funding was awarded through a grant received from Consumer Health Care Products Association (CHPA).
 - All funds have been used for supplies and mini-grants; no indirect or staff expenses have been accrued
- Meth Watch is an environmental strategy designed to assist Montana communities in their fight against methamphetamine production.
- Modeled after a similar, successful program in Kansas
- Targets retailers by increasing employee awareness about meth production and procedures for reporting suspicious activity
 - Many communities have expanded this to include both hotels/motels and landlords.
- Decreases theft and suspicious sales of meth precursors (pseudoephedrine, acetone, drain cleaner, etc.) by posting Meth Watch signage throughout the store
- Montana Meth Watch has received widespread support; partners include 22 state, tribal and federal government agencies, business organizations, and law enforcement associations.
- Currently, the program is being implemented in 20 pilot communities across the state of Montana, 3 of which are reservations.
- The Chemical Dependency Bureau's Prevention Specialists are assisting with the implementation of Meth Watch in communities and are also serving as a point of contact.
- Quarterly evaluations will be conducted to monitor the success of the program.
- Accomplishments so far...
 - Full support and enthusiasm from Safeway stores
 - Statewide support and involvement from Town Pump
 - Widespread community support and involvement
 - Communities are actively taking part in Montana Meth Watch, including some of which were not awarded grant money.

Montana Meth Watch

By Jean Branscum, Health Policy Advisor to Governor Martz

Montana is counting on a new program to be an effective strategy in combating the methamphetamine problem in communities across the state. Governor Judy Martz announced the launching of this program, Montana Meth Watch, at a regional methamphetamine summit in September. It promises to be an effective program in terms of stopping the production of methamphetamine by small, home-made labs within the state, reducing the availability of meth in communities, and increasing public awareness about meth-related issues.

Methamphetamine is a serious and growing threat throughout Montana. It is increasingly available because it is cheap to make and the all the ingredients necessary can be found in local retail stores. Limiting access and reducing theft of those products used in the illegal manufacturing of meth is a focal point of Montana Meth Watch.

Modeled off a successful program designed in Kansas, retailers are the cornerstone of the Montana Meth Watch program. Retailers are provided with signage, product management tips, and training materials for employees and managers. Through their voluntary participation and partnership with law enforcement, retailers become part of the solution by stopping the flow of precursor products into the hands of meth cooks. Retailers reap the benefits of safer stores, better customer relations, reduced theft, and improved employee and community awareness.

Montana's governor was quick to act on the recommendation to implement a Meth Watch program upon learning about its success in Kansas and Washington. Her health policy advisor, Jean Branscum, led the charge to implement the program by approaching retail organizations to determine their interest. After gaining widespread support, a Montana Meth Watch Leadership Partners Team was formed to capture the enthusiasm and interest expressed among the twenty-two state, tribal and federal government agencies, business organizations, and law enforcement associations. Business partners, including the state's Chamber of Commerce, Agricultural Business Association, Food Distributors, Retail Association and Petroleum Marketers & C-Store Association were quick to see the benefit of working with law enforcement partners of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Montana Narcotics Association, and Montana Peace Officers to address the meth problem.

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) stepped forward to play the coordinating role in the implementation of the program, including the administration of community grants. Seizing the opportunity to enhance the utilization of the existing network of prevention specialists across the State, the department expanded work contracts to include Montana Meth Watch as a prevention activity. As interest in the program continued to surge in communities, the state's fifteen prevention specialists serve as a valuable collaborative-building role and point of contact for the state agency. Other important community partners include the local Extension Service, Montana National Guard, and AmeriCorps volunteers.

Through resources from the Consumer Health Care Products Association, Montana has created Montana Meth Watch posters, brochures and decals for distribution to retailers along with a training video. Fifteen communities will receive up to \$500 in grant monies to assist their local efforts to implement the program. These communities will also be part of the state's evaluation of the Meth Watch program's success. The recipients of the community grants will be announced during Red Ribbon Week on October 28. The materials will be ready for display in stores across Montana in mid-November. Stephanie Wrightsman, a VISTA worker, has become the lead contact for the program and the creation of a state website.

Methamphetamine Problem in Montana

- Meth is increasingly available and is considered the most significant drug problem to local law enforcement and a considerable public health care issue.
- Nine percent of high school youth indicate they have used methamphetamines.
- Many counties in the state report that at least fifty percent of the child abuse and neglect investigations conducted the past year involve methamphetamine-impacted families. Some counties report that fifty to seventy-five percent of the children placed in foster care are in placement because of parental use of meth.
- Ten years ago, fifteen percent of the people treated in state-approved community chemical dependent program were addicted to meth; by 2003 that number had increase to twenty-nine percent.

- The number of meth labs busted increased from 16 in 1999 to 122 in 2002. In 2003, 89 labs were busted costing taxpayers \$327,500 in clean-up fees.
- Meth-related crimes have inundated the court system and filled prisons. About 85 percent of the inmates in the Montana women's prison are there, at least in part, because of methamphetamine.

From the start of her administration in 2001, Governor Martz was determined to define a plan that would eradicate meth from Montana communities. She began the journey to find workable solutions by initiating a partnership with the Montana Attorney General in the Fall of 2001 to form the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Control Policy Task Force. The Task Force's final report, "*COMPREHENSIVE BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE, A LIVING DOCUMENT*" can be found at www.discoveringmontana.com/gov2/css/drugcontrol/execsummary.asp. In June 2004 Governor Martz hosted a statewide Methamphetamine Summit where professionals in law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and education discussed meth-related problems and defined solutions. The summit resulted in the exploration of avenues to increase public awareness and forge stronger cooperation among state agencies, including the Meth Watch program.

Meth Watch Communities

Name	Address	Phone	Email	Focus
Athena Schritz	Flathead Reservation & Lake County Coalition for Kids 802 Main Street Polson MT 59860	406-546-5781	schritza@yahoo.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training
Becky Robideaux	Adolescent Resource Center 502 So. 19 th Ave. Suite 302 Bozeman, MT 59718	406-586-5943	beckyr@cu.imt.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenience and Grocery Store regulation and limiting the sale of pseudoephedrine • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training • Community Service
Jennifer Wells	MSU-Hill County Extension 315 4th St Havre MT 59501	406-265-5481 ext 233	jwells@montana.edu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training
Dan Haffey	Butte-Silver Bow Chemical Dependency Services 25 West Front Street Butte MT 59701	406-497-5073	dhaffey@co.silverbow.mt.us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training • Billboard "Methwatch" near highway exits
Jill Flynn	Broadwater County Social Services Committee PO Box 233 Townsend MT 59644	406-266-4956	jflynn@townsend.k12.mt.us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Awareness Campaign • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training

Name	Address	Phone	Email	Focus
Cindy Larsen	Whitehall Chamber of Commerce PO Box 72 Whitehall MT 59759	406-287-2400	cabbagerosecottage@peoplepc.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training • Working with landlords and motel owner/operators
Colleen McCarthy	Helena Housing Authority 512 Abbey Helena MT 59601	406-457-2915	cmccarthy@hhamt.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with students from Project for Alternative Learning and the Capital High Link Crew to help in the implementation • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training • Working with landlords • Quarterly Newsletter
Denise Seilstad	Fergus County Extension 712 W Main St Lewistown MT 59457	406-538-3919	dseilstad@montana.edu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Community Awareness Campaign • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training
Terry Moran	Ravalli County Methamphetamine/Drug Endangered Children Task Force 158 Ricketts Road Hamilton MT 59840	406-363-7656	terrymoran1955@yahoo.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training • Working with motel/hotel owner/operators

Name	Address	Phone	Email	Focus
Rosie Buzzas	Western Montana Addiction Services/Turning Point 1325 Wyoming Missoula MT 59801	406-532- 9827	rbuzzas@wmmhc.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training • Monthly Newsletter • Working with motel/hotel owner/operators
Barbara Hood	Granite County Drug Watch PO Box 400 Philipsburg MT 59858	406-859- 3789	tbhood@blackfoot.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Awareness Campaign • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training
Ralph Stever	Flathead Valley Chemical Dependency Clinic - Libby PO Box 756 Libby MT 59923	406-293- 7731	fvdcralph@frontiernet.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training • Bi-monthly lunches for training and identified needs • Working with landlords and motel owner/operators
Kathy Ackerman	Dawson County Healthy Communities 207 W Bell Glendive MT 59330	406-377- 5213 ext 128	dchealthycmm@yahoo.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training • Farming community focus • Working with landlords and motel owner/operators

Name	Address	Phone	Email	Focus
Nicole Hazelbaker	Meth Free Montana - Southwest Chapter Student Life, UM-Western 750 E Cornell Dillon MT 59725	406-683-7900	n_hazelbaker@umwestern.edu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training • Monthly meetings • Banners to be displayed at exits to be constructed by the boy scouts and the high school industrial technology
Melissa Boyer	Partnership for Promise Coalition 221 5th Street SW Sidney MT 59270	406-433-2207	mbhealth@richland.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Help in the development of policies and procedures on restriction of the amount of sales on pseudoephedrine and other pre-cursor products • Collaborating with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) • Neighborhood Watch Program • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training
Jean McCauley	Southwest Chemical Dependency Program 430 East Park Street PO Box 1587 Livingston MT 59047	406-222-2812	swcdp@aol.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training • Working with schools to use their monthly newsletter to gain more community awareness • Bi-monthly newsletters

Name	Address	Phone	Email	Focus
Loretta Russette	Chippewa Cree Community Wellness Coalition Rural Route #1 Cox 544 C/O Chippewa Cree Tribe Box Elder MT 59521	406-395- 5705	cctwiayouth@yahoo.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Tribal development of meth use prevention awareness poster • School Awareness
Tracy Houck	Gateway Community Services 401 Third Ave North Great Falls MT 59401	406-452- 6655	tracy@gatewayrecovery.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training • Speaker's Bureau Training
Tara Andrews	Custer Count Extension 1010 Main Street Miles City MT 59301	406-874- 3370	tandrews@montan.edu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awareness • Retail Signage • Retail Staff Training • Region 9 Meth Conference