Montana State Legislature

2009 Session

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QUICK ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Reduce the amount of warm water used.

- Turn water heater temperature to **115-120° F.** Change to a low-flow shower head that uses less than 3 gallons of water per minute.
- Run only full loads in the dishwasher and clothes washer in warm or cold water.

Turning down the heat turns down the bill.

Consider turning down the thermostat when going to bed or away from home. Programmable thermostats adjust automatically throughout the day and qualify for the Montana Energy conservation tax credit.

Use compact fluorescent bulbs in light fixtures.

Compact fluorescent bulbs save up to 75% in energy usage and last 6-10 times longer than regular bulbs.

See NorthWestern's E+ Lighting Program to save on switching.

Seal all air leaks.

Take this test to measure the air leakage in your home:

During cold weather, is your home drafty or excessively dry, which leads to static electricity shocks?

If so, excessive air leakage could be the cause.

Or is your home moist with condensed water collecting on windows?

If so, your home may be too tightly insulated.

The best way to check air flow is to have a blower door test done during a home energy audit.

Remember to close the fireplace damper when there is no fire.

Clean or replace furnace and heat pump filters.

The efficiency of your furnace is lowered when it does not get enough air.

Check your freezer and refrigerator temperatures.

Freezer temperatures should be set at **0-5° F** and refrigerators at **38-40° F.**

THESE ENERGY SAVING TIPS AND MORE CAN BE FOUND IN THE MONTANA ENERGY SAVERS GUIDE BOOK AVAILABLE ONLINE AT *www.energizemontana.com* OR CALL 406-444-6697.

Some assistance described here requires you to be accepted for the federal energy assistance program called LIEAP (income levels on reverse side). For directions and application: *www.dphhs.mt.gov/programsservices/energyassistance.*

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Montana State Office
30 W. 14th St., Ste 301
Helena, MT 59601-3390
Email: mtaarp@aarp.org

AARP℠

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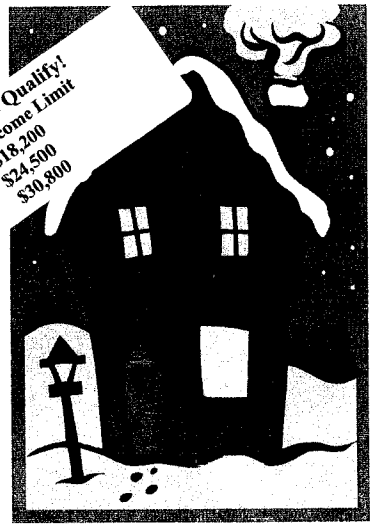
We want to keep Montanans warm this winter...



Urgent information to help make energy more affordable . . .

Winter 2008-09

AARP℠

The power to make it better.®

INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR ENERGY SAVING IMPROVEMENTS

Montana homeowners are eligible for a tax credit to cover a portion of the cost to install measures that reduce energy use and lower utility bills. The credit is 25 percent of the investments made to improve energy efficiency, up to $500 per year.

What conservation investments qualify?

EXISTING HOMES:
Adding insulation to floors, walls and ceilings,
Installing energy efficient windows,
Installing Energy Star heating systems,
Installing programmable thermostats,
Insulating and sealing heating system ductwork.

NEW HOMES and REMODELING:
The tax credit is allowed ONLY for the portion of cost and materials that is above established standards.

How to sign up:
Complete and include tax form "ENRG-C" when filing your State Income taxes ONLY for the year improvements are made. Tax forms are available at **www.energizemontana.com** or by calling the Department of Revenue at 406-444-6900.

Save up to 30 percent on annual utility costs with the purchase of Energy Star products and appliances. Check out **www.energystar.gov** to take advantage of this money saving strategy.

ENERGY SHARE OF MONTANA

Energy Share is a private nonprofit organization with the goal of helping Montanans faced with energy emergencies meet their needs.Often, families face a financial emergency when an unexpected expense occurs, for example, medical expenses. **The primary way Energy Share helps people is through one–time heating bill assistance.**

Another way Energy Share helps is through its **furnace and water heater safety and efficiency programs.** These programs are funded by ENERGY WEST and MDU for their customers who have unsafe furnaces or water heaters. Energy Share will examine the appliance and either repair it if possible, or replace it if necessary.

How to sign up:
Call the local Human Resource Development Council, or the statewide Energy Share office at **1-888-779-7589**.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIEAP)

All Montanans who pay their own energy bill and earn less than indicated in the chart below per year per household are eligible for fe[illegible]al assistance.

Number in Household	Income
One	**$18,200**
Two	**$24,500**
Three	**$30,800**
Additional Members	**$ 5,400 per person**

OR Households with all members receiving SSI or TANF funding can qualify to receive bill assistance for the October- April heating season.
How to sign up: Call the Montana Citizens' Advocate Hotline at **1-800-332-2272** or contact your local HRDC to find out where to apply. **Sign up begins October 1.**

Human Resource Development Council Office Numbers

BILLINGS	247-4710	800-433-1411
BOZEMAN	587-4486	800-289-0896
BUTTE	496-4975	800-382-1325
GREAT FALLS	761-0310	800-326-0955
GLENDIVE	377-3564	800-227-0703
HAVRE	265-6743	800-640-6743
HELENA	447-1625	800-356-6544
KALISPELL	758-5433	800-344-5979
LEWISTOWN	538-7488	800-766-3018
MISSOULA	728-3710	
ROUNDUP	323-3857	

Tribal Energy Assistance Office Numbers

Blackfeet Reservation	338-7977
Crow Reservation	247-4732
Flathead Reservation *(Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes)*	675-2700 ext 1049
Fort Belknap Reservation *(Assiniboine & White Clay Tribes)*	353-8499
Fort Peck Reservation *(Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes)*	768-5810
Northern Cheyenne Reservation	477-6284
Rocky Boy's Reservation *(Chippewa & Cree Tribes)*	395-4728

FREE WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

Households that qualify for LIEAP will also be enrolled in the weatherization program. Not all households will be weatherized within the first year on the program.

F[illegible] E services provided during weatherization:

* Heating system and ducts are tested and any modifications or replacements are made.
* Water heaters are wrapped.
* Insulation is installed to attics, walls, floors, and pipes.
* Interior and exterior storm windows are installed.
* General repairs to protect investment of weatherization materials.

NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FREE HOME ENERGY AUDITS and E+ HOME LIGHTING REBATE

NorthWestern Energy space and water heater customers who own or rent their homes *and have not had an energy audit on their home since 1992,* may qualify for a free home energy audit.

Services provided during audit:

FREE air leakage test
FREE analysis of energy use and recommendations for savings
FREE water heater safety check
FREE insulation/ventilation check
FREE water heater blanket
FREE pipe insulation
FREE low flow shower and faucet aerators

NorthWestern Energy is offering rebates to customers who switch to compact fluorescent lighting. Customers need a rebate application and proof of purchases to receive the E+ Home Lighting Rebate.

How to sign up: Call toll free **1-800-823-5995** or visit **www.northwesternenergy.com** to find out more about a FREE NorthWestern Energy audit or the E+ Lighting Program.

UTILITY DISCOUNTS

NorthWestern Energy Discount

Customers who are on LIEAP automatically receive a 25 percent discount on their NWE electric and 30 percent on their natural gas bill Nov. 1 - Apr. 30. Discounts from May 1 - Oct 31 are 15 percent on electric bill only.

Montana Dakota Utility Discount

Customers who are on LIEAP qualify for discounts based on income level. For more information on MDU's electric and gas discount program and weatherization assistance, contact your local MDU office or call: 1-800-MDU-FAST (1-800-638-3278).

Flathead Electric Co-op Bill Assistance

Customers who meet the LIEAP income criteria (top of center panel) are eligible for a 50% credit on their basic monthly charge, or any customer facing disconnection can qualify for one-time bill assistance up to $200. Contact Flathead Electric: 751-4483.

If your utility is not listed, contact the utility directly or ask your local Human Resource Development Council (HRDC—center panel) about available assistance in your community.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

JOAN MILES
DIRECTOR

STATE OF MONTANA

www.dphhs.mt.gov

PO Box 4210
HELENA, MT 59604-4210

January 13, 2009

To: Health and Human Services Subcommittee

From: Anna Whiting Sorrell, Director

Re: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization – Congressional Actions

I wanted to provide you a brief update regarding the most current Congressional actions related to the federal reauthorization of CHIP.

- There are two CHIP Reauthorization bills which Congress will address this week:
  - HR 2 will be introduced on the House floor tomorrow (1/14) and a vote in the House appears imminent.
  - Senator Baucus' "Chairman's Mark" is scheduled to be marked up in the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday (1/15). A full vote by the Senate is also considered imminent.
- Both the House bill and the Chairman's Mark largely mirror the first bill passed by the House and Senate in September 2007 but vetoed by the President.
- It appears language in the Senate Chairman's Mark addresses the "Once CHIP, Always CHIP" issue and Montana would not need to pay for a Medicaid expansion for children with federal funds allotted for CHIP.
- DPHHS is analyzing the federal CHIP Reauthorization legislation to determine the impact on the state's implementation of I-155, the Montana Healthy Kids Plan.

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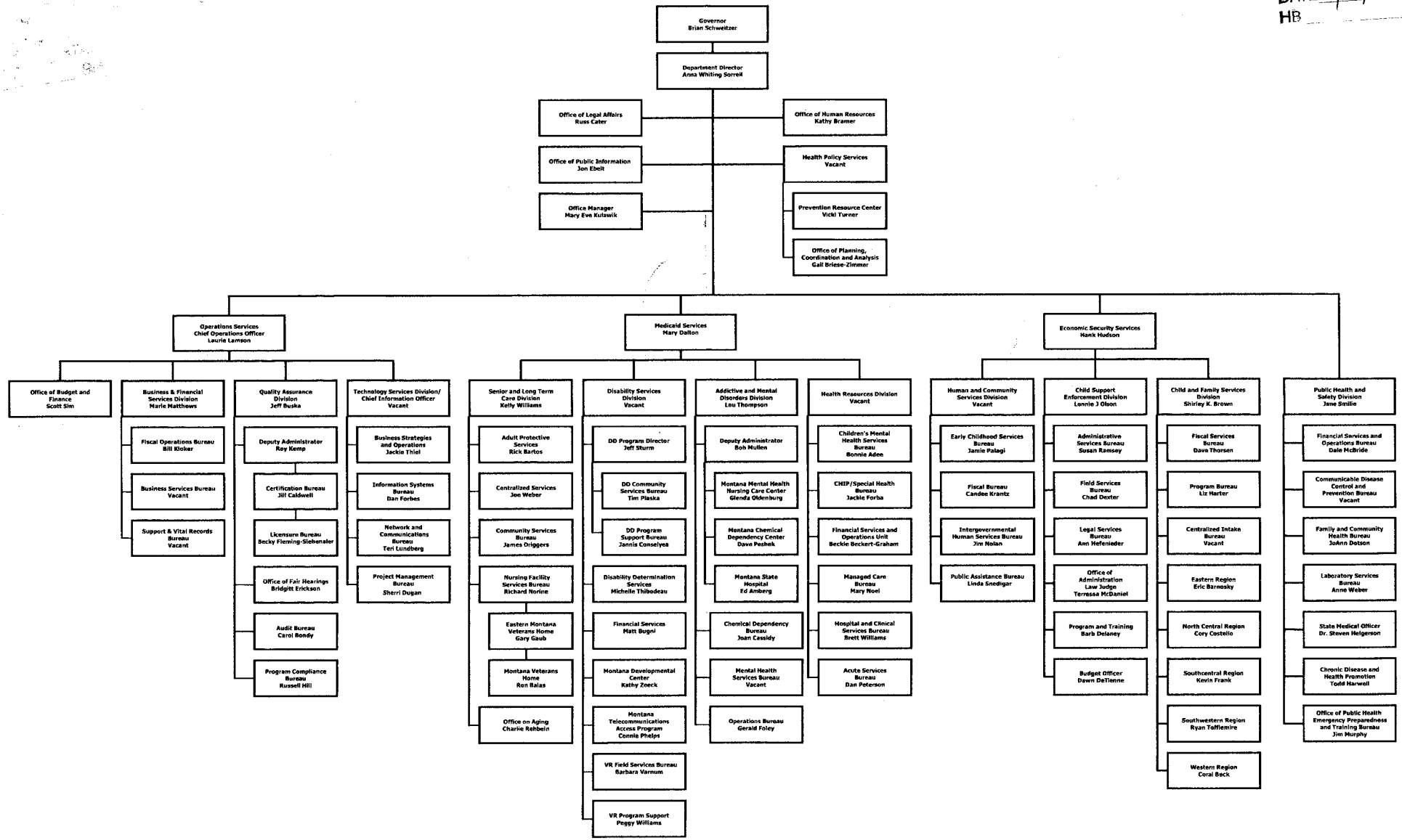
Department of Public Health and Human Services
Organizational Chart by Bureau



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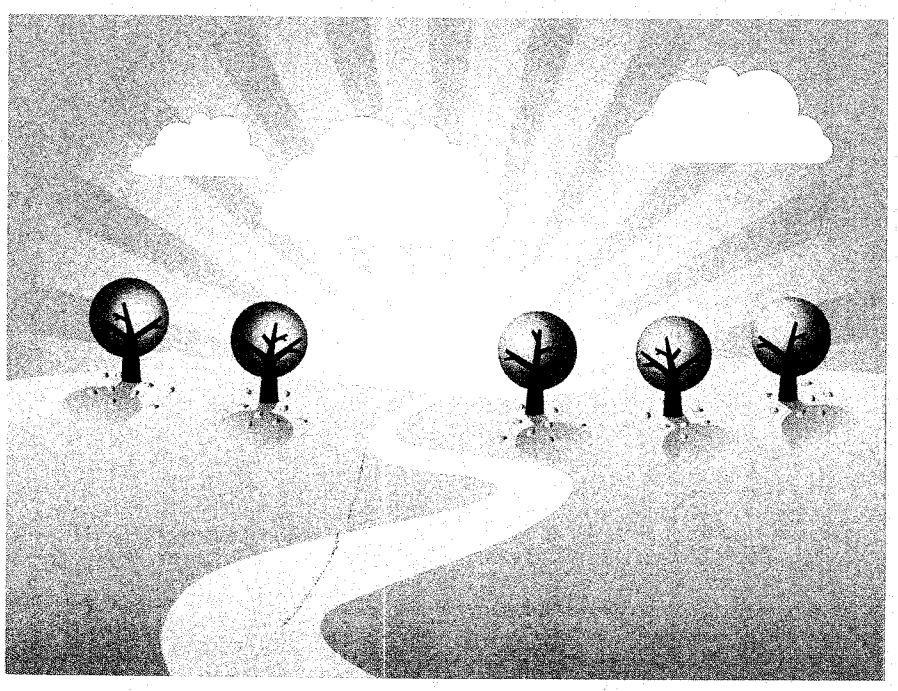

Montana Strategic Suicide Prevention Plan

MONTANA
Department of Public Health & Human Services

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The State Strategic Suicide Prevention Plan Work Group

Susan Court
Cecilia Cowie
Dennis Cox
Karen Duncan
Deborah Henderson, RN
Col. Jeff Ireland
Gary Mihelish, DMD
Maureen O'Malley, LCSW
Joyce O'Neill, LCPC
Kerry Pribnow
Kathy Rappaport, M.D.
Karl Rosston, LCSW
Sherl Shanks
Nina Smith
Stephanie Iron Shooter
Donnie Wetzel, Jr.

Bruce Schwartz, Montana DPHHS Vital Statistics
Marc Scow, Collaboration Institute
Todd Harwell, Montana DPHHS
Carol Davidson, Addictive and Mental Disorders Division
Participants from public and private agencies

The compilation of the Montana Strategic Suicide Prevention Plan was coordinated by Karl Rosston, LCSW. Comments concerning the contents of this plan should be directed to:

Karl Rosston, LCSW
Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
555 Fuller Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620-2905
(406) 444-3349
krosston@mt.gov

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SUICIDE PREVENTION IN MONTANA:

A WORK IN PROGRESS

Introduction

Suicide persists as a major public health problem in Montana. There are many individuals and organizations working to address this issue. The individuals and agencies currently addressing suicide often do so from their own unique perspective and in many cases without collaboration with other entities. Until 2000, there had been no statewide, strategic effort to link these many assets and to build a stronger network of resources to address suicide as a major statewide public health priority.

In the spring of 2000, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services invited a group of private organizations, concerned citizens and government officials to begin the development of a statewide plan for suicide prevention. With consultation from international experts in suicide prevention, the Montana Suicide Prevention Steering Committee began work that led to the development of this statewide strategic plan. This document is a continuation of the initial planning effort, which originally outlined a 5-year strategic direction and an action plan.

This plan was updated in the spring of 2005 and again in the summer of 2008 by key stakeholders committed to reducing suicide in Montana. Accomplishments and ongoing challenges are delineated. Strategic directions for prevention, intervention, postvention and coordination among providers are expanded, along with special attention to groups within Montana's population with the highest risk of suicide.

Mental Illness is Treatable

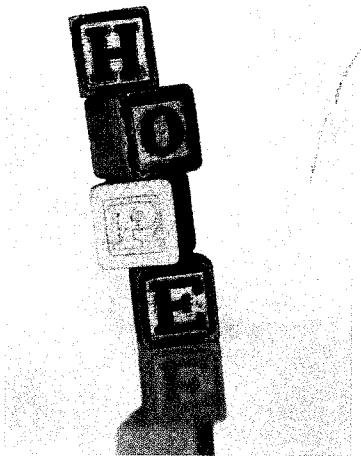
Suicide is Preventable

If you are in crisis and want help,

Call the Montana Suicide

Prevention Lifeline at

1-800-273 TALK (8255)



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