



Greetings to All! Happy New Year!

January 2022

We hope this month's newsletter finds you all well. SUDC is so excited to move into our second year of existence, and we are so pleased you are on this journey with us.

Here are some updates for you:

- **Need to catch up?** If you missed our last newsletter, sent November 22nd, please refer to the attachment in this email.
- **Recovery Residences.** As reported last month, the coalition chose Recovery Residences as the focus of our third action committee. [Are you interested in being a part of this Action Committee? Please email us and let us know by Monday, January 17th!](#) We are hoping to have our first meeting in the next month.
- **Peer Support.** Fifteen members attended this action committee's first meeting on Monday, December 20th. Main themes that emerged include:
 - Improved pay for the profession
 - Increasing the number of peer support specialists
 - Opportunities for peer support specialists to work full-time
 - Removing barriers for individuals working in peer support
 - More opportunities for social interaction
 - Availability for ongoing trainings
 - Peer support availability to multiple agencies/organizations with flexibility to shift if necessary
 - Developing a standardized policies and procedures process for peer support
 - Enhancing the credibility of the profession as a whole
 - Having the ability to instantly connect an individual to a peer support specialist when necessary

Our next peer support meeting (date TBD) will include guest speakers from Montana Peer Network to provide us with background information about peer support qualifications, barriers, potential trainings, and reimbursement rates.

- **Harm Reduction.** Nine members attended this action committee's first meeting on Tuesday, December 21st. Main themes that emerged include:
 - Providing access to "vending machines" for harm reduction items
 - Understanding the importance of treating the whole person, not just the immediate need
 - Reducing stigma
 - Improve literacy/training on harm reduction
 - Increase partnerships/referral systems
 - Ensure services are all-inclusive and include tobacco abuse
 - Improved crisis care and housing availability
 - Expanding naloxone access

Our next meeting (date TBD) will further explore some of these themes.
- **Interested?** If you are interested in participating in one of these groups, but have not yet responded... it's not too late! You are still welcome to join any group. Please email Kaitlyn (kaitlyn@missoulaunitedway.org) to let us know your interest.
- **Sustainability.** SUDC is currently operating under a grant from HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program). HIDTA has granted a 90-day extension to March 31 in order to spend down our remaining budget. SUDC has hired grant writer to assist us in locating, applying for, and receiving additional funding. We are pleased to announce that the BNSF Railway Foundation has committed to a donation of \$5,000 to SUDC/United Way of Missoula County! We wish to acknowledge BNSF and thank them for their generous support! We are on the lookout and applying for additional funds as well. United Way of Missoula County is also committed to standing behind our initiative and coalition.
- **Who is missing?** As always, we want to make sure that we have folks at the table who should be there. Do you know or collaborate with someone you think should be a part of SUDC? Please let us know.

**Thank you for your time and efforts to be a part of this community coalition –
connecting for success!**