September 2026

MPHTC NEWSLETTER
September 2026

UNIVERSITY OF
MONTANA
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC &
COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES
MONTANA PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING CENTER

Search Job Postings or Post Your Position

Help us update the Job Board! If you posted a position to the job board in 2026 and you have filled the position, please let us know. Email mphtc@mso.umt.edu with your location and the position title.

Thank you!

As UM welcomed the Class of 2030,
the MPHTC Team gathered in Missoula for all-team meeting! Our team represents five cities in Montana. It's great when we can all be together in one place. Happy Fall everyone!

Bottom row (L-R): Todd Harwell, Tony Ward, Denise Higgins, Shari Morin-Degel, Maria Hamm
Top row (L-R): Anna Kiley, Kayla Chipongian, Desiree Restad, Kristen Cram
Tippy-top: Aimee Elliott- Not pictured: Stacie Pannell

Upcoming Trainings & Learning Opportunities

Meaningful Coalition Engagement Series, Power Session 2: Relationship Recharge - Moving from Attendance to Authentic Engagement

Engagement is more than getting people to show up. It's about creating the kind of relationships, spaces, and shared purpose that make people want to stay involved. This session focuses on how organizations can meet people where they are, reduce barriers to participation, and create welcoming environments where volunteers, partners, and community members feel valued. Participants will examine common engagement challenges, explorere what motivates people to contribute, and identify practical ways to strengthen connectcion and trust.

Trainer: Melissa Moore

Date: September 15

Time: 10:00am

Location: Zoom

Register: MPHTC Portal

Meaningful Coalition Engagement Series, Power Session 3: Resource Remix - Turning Community Connections into Capacity

When time, funding, and people are limited, communities need to think differently about resources. The answer is not always "find more money" or "recruit more volunteers." Sometimes the bigger opportunity is learning how to better connect, align, and activate the resources already present. This session focuses on maximizing community assets, strengthening partner roles, and generating support through relationships. Participants will explore practical ways to identify untapped resources, invite partners into meaningful action, and turn engagement into shared ownership. The session will also highlight simple tools and talking points that help organizations communicate their value and keep momentum moving forward.

Trainer: Melissa Moore

Date: September 29

Time: 10:00am

Location: Zoom

Register: MPHTC Portal

Budgeting with Excel: Fun with Numbers

This six-module, asynchronous course is designed to help build practical skills and confidence in understanding and managing operating budgets. Through short video lessons and hands-on activities, you'll learn to identify key components of a budget, apply basic forecasting concepts, and strengthen your Excel skills to analyze and present financial information with clarity. By the end, you'll feel more comfortable creating, adjusting, and interpreting budgets as part of your everyday work.

Trainer: Stacy Maloney
Location: Asynchronous
Register: MPHTC Portal

Recordings of past training sessions may be found on our website
Recordings

Project
ECHO®

Disease Intervention Specialists ECHO

Upcoming Disease Intervention Specialist Project ECHO Topics

Montana Public Health Training Center hosts Disease Intervention Specialist on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 11:00am on Zoom. Register and read more here

- ***September 10: Gonorrhea: Overview, Treatment, Partner Services*** - presented by Stephanie McLaughlin
- ***September 24: Chlamydia Overview and Case Study*** - Melissa Snyder & Cara Murolo

Upcoming Hepatitis C & Sexual Health Project ECHO Topics

Montana Public Health Training Center also hosts a Hepatitis C & Sexual Health ECHO. Click here *to learn more. Sessions are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 12:00 via Zoom*

- ***September 15: Post Acute Withdrawal Syndrome*** - Amy Solomon, MD

Recorded sessions may be found on the Project ECHO DIS or HCV & Sexual Health webpages. Recorded sessionssssions are not eligible for continuing education credit.

Wellness Program

Join us for the final session of the Workplace Wellbeing series on September 17 - ***Sustaining the Journey: Strengthening Wellbeing Through Connection***. The session is from 11:00 - 12:00. Register Here

Recordings from the previous session may be found in the MPHTC portal.

Sponsored by the DPHHS Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Division

Public Health in Schools Initiative

This summer, we joined Boys & Girls Club camps in Polson, Ronan, and St. Ignatius to introduce youth to public health through hands-on activities exploring wildfire smoke, lung health, and public health in their communities. Click here to check out an amazing video of the camp created by SKC Summer Camp Co-Facilitator Leina Ulutoa.

Coming soon: ***Made in Montana: Our Stories Told Our Way,*** a statewide art campaign inviting Montana students to creatively share how public health and prevention shape the health of their communities. Stay tuned for submission details!

UM Technical Assistance Center

Prevention Specialists from around Montana gathered together in Missoula on August 25-26th for the UM-TAC Mini-conference held at the award-winning Missoula Public Library.

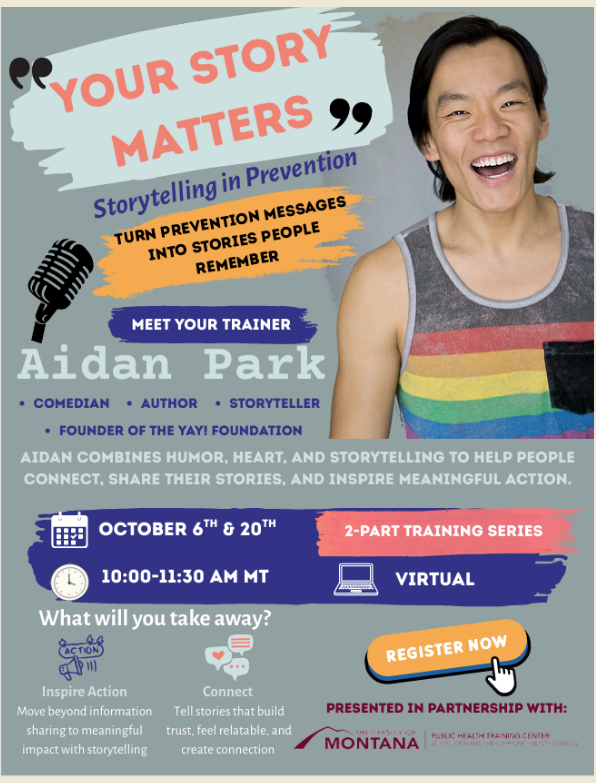
Prevention Specialist Highlight

If something great is happening in prevention, there is a good chance **Beth Price** is behind it! As a Prevention Specialist with Alliance for Youth, Beth is always working on something exciting, from helping move policy change forward to putting together her monthly newsletter, *The Prevention Post*. We are excited to share *The Prevention Post* here each month, along with other prevention news, updates, and great things happening across Montana.

Please enjoy the September edition of *The Prevention Post* HERE

Beth Price, Alliance for Youth

Coming in October....



"YOUR STORY MATTERS"

Storytelling in Prevention

TURN PREVENTION MESSAGES INTO STORIES PEOPLE REMEMBER

MEET YOUR TRAINER

Aidan Park

- COMEDIAN
- AUTHOR
- STORYTELLER
- FOUNDER OF THE YAY! FOUNDATION

AIDAN COMBINES HUMOR, HEART, AND STORYTELLING TO HELP PEOPLE CONNECT, SHARE THEIR STORIES, AND INSPIRE MEANINGFUL ACTION.

OCTOBER 6TH & 20TH

2-PART TRAINING SERIES

10:00-11:30 AM MT

VIRTUAL

What will you take away?

Inspire Action
Move beyond information sharing to meaningful impact with storytelling

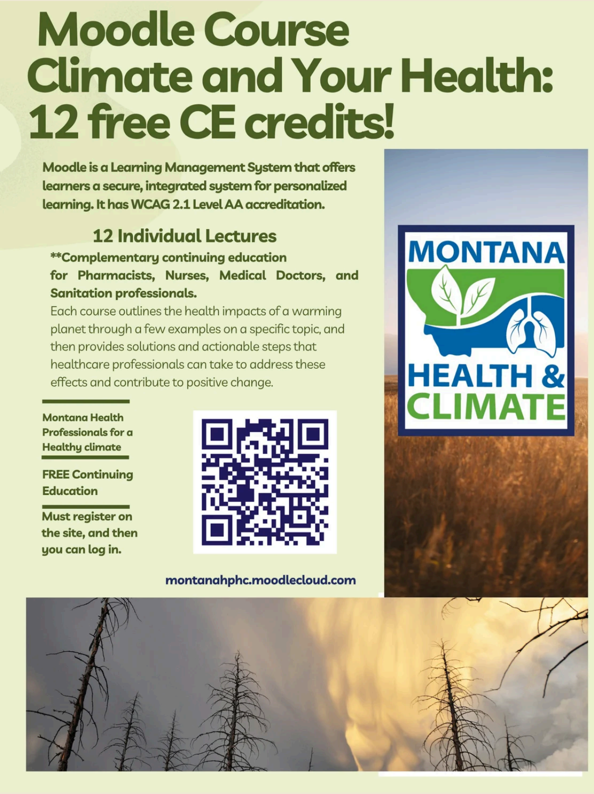
Connect
Tell stories that build trust, feel relatable, and create connection

REGISTER NOW

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

News From Our Public Health Partners

MONTANA HEALTH & CLIMATE



Moodle Course Climate and Your Health: 12 free CE credits!

Moodle is a Learning Management System that offers learners a secure, integrated system for personalized learning. It has WCAG 2.1 Level AA accreditation.

12 Individual Lectures

****Complementary continuing education for Pharmacists, Nurses, Medical Doctors, and Sanitation professionals.**

Each course outlines the health impacts of a warming planet through a few examples on a specific topic, and then provides solutions and actionable steps that healthcare professionals can take to address these effects and contribute to positive change.

Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy climate

FREE Continuing Education

Must register on the site, and then you can log in.

montanahphc.moodlecloud.com

RMPHTC
Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center

Designing Effective Meetings workshop – **September 16 (2 hours)**

How do you design a meeting so it is focused, effective, and engaging? This workshop focuses on the key leadership skill of how to plan and structure a meeting to achieve your desired outcomes and explores strategies for leading meetings that are inclusive, invite dialogue and engagement, and motivate participants to action.

For more information or to register - Click Here

PublicHealth IN THE 406

MONTANA DPHHS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Educational Opportunity for State, Local, and Tribal Health Department Staff

To meet the needs outlined in the 2026 - 28 Montana Public Health Workforce Development Plan, the PHSD is *offering scholarships for state, local, and tribal health department staff* who want to broaden their knowledge of public health and gain early career support by participating in the 12-month New to Public Health (N2PH) Residency Program.

The program is built upon the Foundational Public Health Services Model and focuses on leadership, professional development, specific role formation and competency for public health practice. Components of the program include online learning content, a community of practice with monthly facilitated discussions with peers, program staff and content experts, an individually matched mentor, and completion of an evidence-based practice project to build leadership, critical thinking and translational research skills. Program participants will be awarded up to 77 eligible continuing education contact hours (ANCC, CHES, ACE, or a general healthcare credit).

Program Dates: December 2026 – December 2027

Format: Online learning course with monthly facilitated discussions in a cohort of peers on the second Tuesday of the month from 12:30pm – 2pm, mentorship, and completion of an evidence-based practice project. In total, participants should plan to commit approximately 10 hours a month.

Eligibility

- Staff who are interested in the program should discuss the opportunity with their supervisors.
- Staff must be new to public health (0-3 years of public health experience; will consider years more under certain circumstances).
- Staff must have a minimum of six months in their current position / completed probationary period.
- Must be an employee the DPHHS PHSD or FCHB, a local, or a tribal health department in Montana.

Application Process

If this opportunity is appropriate, **staff will need to complete the application through the following link.**

Applicants should be prepared to provide information on why they want to pursue the certificate program, what will make them successful in the program, any need for financial support and how this opportunity would benefit their program and/or agency.

Applications for sponsorship are due September 18, 2026.

Guidelines of the Program

- Participants are expected to complete assigned work tasks within a 40-hour work week.
- Participants are expected to stay employed with their current health department during the 12-month program. Any changes to employment during the 12-month program must be reported to the PHSD Public Health System Improvement Office.

For questions, please contact:
Kaela Schommer, Instructional Coordinator
PHSD Public Health System Improvement Office, kaela.schommer@mt.gov

Building Effective Communication Campaigns | October 22 | 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Strategic communication campaigns can turn routine messaging into meaningful and measurable results. **This session will guide participants through the core components of planning, implementing, and evaluating communication campaigns that truly make an impact.** This webinar is ideal for anyone responsible for planning communication activities, designing outreach strategies, or evaluating communication effectiveness. The audience for this training is local & Tribal health department staff. ***This training meets the PHEP Communication Training Deliverable requirement.***

Storytelling | December 10 | 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Storytelling brings public health work to life by highlighting the people, experiences, and outcomes behind programs and services. **This session will teach participants how to find compelling stories, conduct meaningful interviews, and craft narratives that connect emotionally while remaining accurate and credible.** This session is designed for anyone working to communicate the value of public health initiatives to internal and external audiences. The audience for this training is local & Tribal health department staff. ***This training meets the PHEP Communication Training Deliverable requirement.***

TRAIN Montana

PublicHealth IN THE 406 MONTANA DIABETES PROGRAM

ADCES Montana Coordinating Body

The 29th Annual ***Montana Diabetes Professional Conference*** will be held ***October 22 and 23, 2026***, at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown, with a virtual option for attendees who cannot travel.

Co-hosted by the DPHHS Diabetes Program and the Montana Coordinating Body of the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (ADCES), the conference provides state-of-the-art training in diabetes prevention, education, and clinical care for nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, social workers, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and physicians. Continuing education credits will be available.

Register, view the agenda, and find lodging details on the conference website. Register by September 25 for a discounted rate. The group lodging block expires September 20.

Interested in becoming an exhibitor? Click here for exhibitor registration.

MONTANA PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

Funding Opportunities

MTPHI **Community Engagement Grants** - In an effort to overcome common participation barriers, MTPHI will fund community engagement activities led by local and tribal health departments aimed at addressing public health priorities. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

MTPHI **Capacity Enhancing Grants** - MTPHI will fund fund project to enhance organizational capacity for local or tribal health departments with priority given to projects that address a Foundational Public Health Service (FPHS) area and have been identified as a community or organizational need through a formal plan or a locally identified priority area. The next application cycle will open in October 2026.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA | PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING CENTER
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES

The MPHTC newsletter is your monthly gateway to the latest public health insights—featuring timely updates, upcoming trainings, events, resources, and more to help you grow, lead, and make an impact in your community. Explore more opportunities and stay connected on our website.

MPHTC Website

University of Montana, 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, Montana 59812

Unsubscribe Manage preferences