October 2026

MPHTC NEWSLETTER
October 2026
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC & COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES
MONTANA PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING CENTER

Search Job Postings or Post Your Position

Since the Public Health Jobs Board was launched in July 2025, it has received more than 27,700 views!

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!

Project ECHO®

Do you have a case you would like to submit? The submission of cases for presentation and discussion or consultation is a key component in the **Project ECHO** model and critically important for knowledge building and sharing. We welcome you to submit any of your communicable disease cases. You will receive input and recommendations from your peers and subject matter experts. There is something to learn from every case!

DIS Case Submission Form
Questions? Contact stacie.pannell@umontana.edu

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

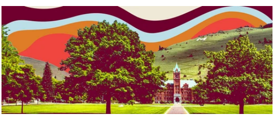
- ***October 8: Complicated Gonorrhea: Disseminated and Drug-Resistant, New Medications -***
  Presented by Stephanie McLaughlin
- ***October 22: CDC/MT STI Data Report Out -*** Marydale Oppert

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

- **October 20: *Reimbursement and Billing for Hep C Treatment***
  Presented by Cory Lovec, PharmD

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



Workplace Wellbeing

Check out this training on Increasing Workplace Wellness by Growing Positive Community Norms presented by Carla Ritz of the Montana Institute

Watch the Video Here

Sponsored by DPHHS Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Division

Public Health in Schools Initiative

The Montana Public Health Training Center at the University of Montana is excited to announce the launch of the *Made in Montana: Our Stories Told Our Way* public health youth art campaign! We invite you to share this opportunity with your connections and community. We have attached a flyer that can be printed and displayed, which includes a QR code link to the submission form and additional information.

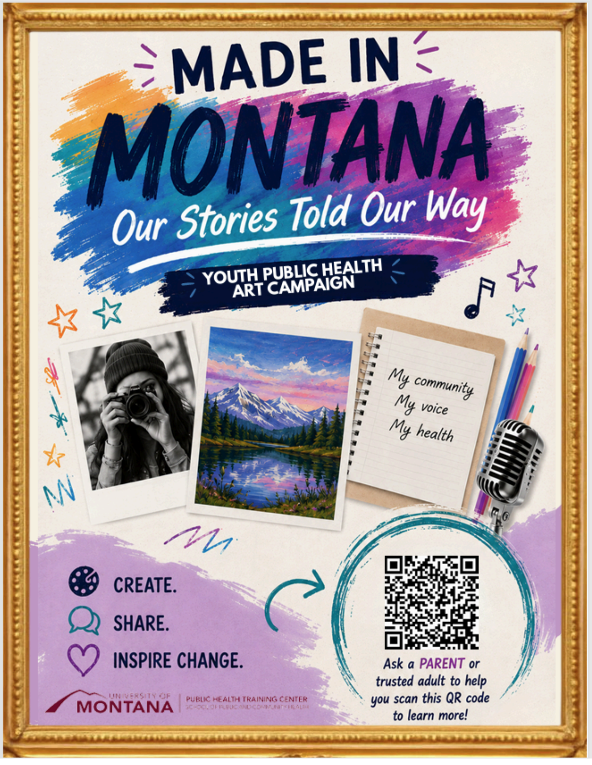
This public health youth art campaign aims to elevate the voices of students and give them a platform to share their stories and experiences through art. Every community is unique, and we want to hear what your students are passionate about, what challenges your community faces, and what successes you would like to celebrate.

Any Montana student is eligible to enter. There will be two submission categories:

- **Art Showcase** (non-judged, participation guarantees entry to showcase)
- **Art Exhibition** (judged, participation does not guarantee entry to exhibition)
    - *The Art Exhibition submissions will be divided into two categories: submissions from those under the age of 14 and submissions from those over the age of 14.*

More information is available on our website: https://www.umt.edu/mt-public-health-training/publich_health_schools.php

If you have any questions at any time, please do not hesitate to reach out. We hope to see art from your community in the campaign!


MADE IN MONTANA
Our Stories Told Our Way
YOUTH PUBLIC HEALTH ART CAMPAIGN
My community
My voice
My health
CREATE.
SHARE.
INSPIRE CHANGE.
Ask a PARENT or trusted adult to help you scan this QR code to learn more!
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA | PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING CENTER

UM Technical Assistance Program

Prevention Specialist Highlight

Lynda Vande Sandt – Liberty County

Liberty County's Prevention Specialist, Lynda Vande Sandt, is bringing prevention and community connection together in a big way. Not only does she coordinate matching leopard print outfit days, but this month, she also partnered with local organizations to support the 5th Annual Liberty County Harvest Festival, a free, family-focused event featuring activities, competitions, music, and community fun.

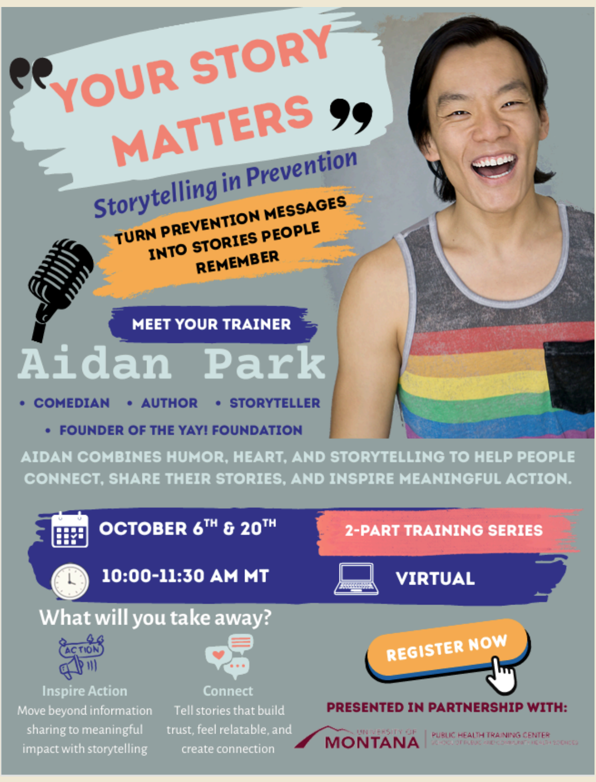
At the festival, Lynda helped promote healthy youth development by hosting a prevention booth with resources from ParentingMontana.org and other evidence-based materials for families. Through outreach, education, and community engagement, she continues to strengthen protective factors and support healthy choices across Liberty County.

HI-LINE
HARVEST
FESTIVAL

Lynda Vande Sandt at the Hi-Line Harvest Fest

Lynda brought her leopard print outfit day to the MTUPP Statewide Summit in September

Coming 20th...Part 2 of Storytelling in Prevention


"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:
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA | PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING CENTER

Local Storytellers Wanted in Havre! October 19-22nd

Do you have a story to share? The *YAY! For Havre* program is seeking local storytellers to take part in a unique community wellness show that uses humor and personal experiences to build connection, reduce stigma, and inspire hope. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to share your journey. Participants will learn from **Aidan Park**, founder of the YAY! Foundation, an internationally recognized comedian who has appeared at the Laugh Factory, The Comedy Store, NBC, and Hulu/Peacock comedy specials.
Space for storytellers is limited. If you're interested in becoming a storyteller or would like more information:

Contact **Mark Cichosz** at MarkC@BGCHI-LINE.com.
The final performance will be on October 23rd, 7PM at Beaver Creek Perk, all are welcome to attend!

Brief-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Training (B-CBT) for Suicide Prevention

Help Move the Needle on Suicide in Montana

Join us in person for this 2-day workshop taught by Dr. Craig Bryan, internationally recognized expert on suicide prevention and author of *Brief Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Suicide Prevention.*

B-CBT is a brief psychotherapy treatment for people who are experiencing suicidal thoughts or recently attempted suicide**. B-CBT differs** from traditional mental health treatments by focusing directly on two core problems that maintain long-term vulnerability to suicide: **emotion dysregulation** and **cognitive rigidity.** B-CBT is most often provided in the outpatient setting as 10-12 individual one-hour weekly sessions. B-CBT can be safely delivered in-person or remotely via telehealth.

This course is designed for mental health professionals seeking to acquire entry-level information and training on the assessment, management, and treatment of suicide risk among suicidal patients. Everyone who attends this course is invited at no additional cost to join a bi-weekly consultation group with Dr. Bryan for one full year. Specialized care will not prevent every suicide, but the existence of specialized care provides a critical platform for other strategies to be more successful.

Multiple published research studies show that patients who receive B-CBT report faster and larger reductions in suicidal ideation and are 45-65% less likely to attempt suicide than patients who receive other mental health treatments, regardless of treatment setting. (Baker et al., 2024; Diefenbach et al., 2024; Rudd et al., 2015; Sinyor et al., 2020).

Trainer: Dr. Craig Bryan

Date: December 10-11, 2026

Time: 8:00am - 4:00pm

Location: Park County Community Room, Livingston, MT

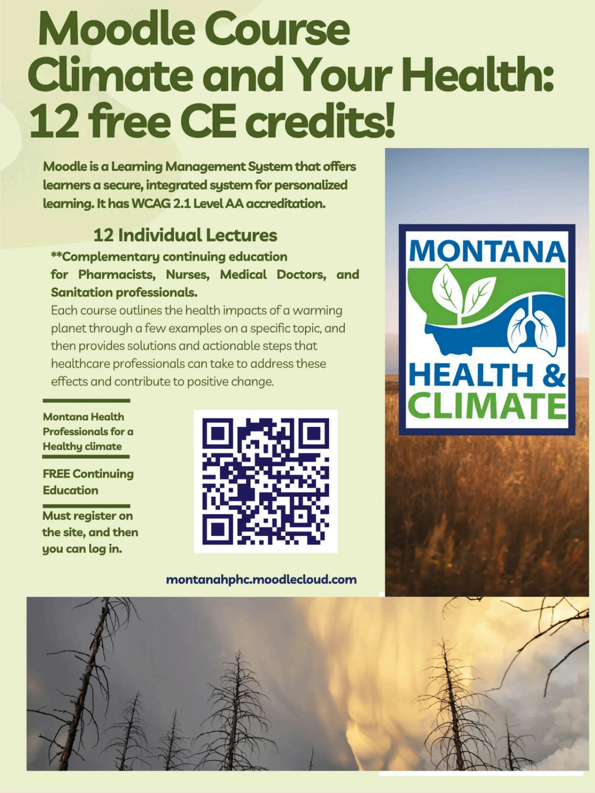
Register Here

Registration fee: $100.00 includrd the Treatment Manual by Dr. Bryan and 13.5 CE credits approved by the American Psychological Association and the Association of Social Work Boards

Sponsored in part by DPHHS Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Division

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
A Member of the Nation's Network of Public Health Training Centers

Upcoming Events

Designing Effective Meetings

Registration closes on November 3, 2026

Join us for a two-hour virtual workshop on designing focused and inclusive meetings. Explore techniques to foster collaboration and encourage diverse perspectives. Whether leading a team or facilitating a discussion, you'll gain practical tools to strengthen your meeting design.

Date: Thursday, November 12, 2026

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 PM MST

Location: Zoom

Register Here

Cost: FREE for CO, WY, MT, SD, ND and UT participants

Facilitation: Brainstorming to Decision Making

Registration closes on November 16, 2026

This three-part workshop will provide in-depth practice and practical tools to support you as you facilitate the decision-making process with groups. Sessions will be highly interactive as participants explore facilitation processes, tips, and tricks for brainstorming, narrowing down and evaluating ideas, and coming to a decision

Dates: Tuesdays in December - Dec 1, Dec 8, Dec 15, 2026

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 PM MST

Location: Zoom

Register Here

Cost: FREE for CO, WY, MT, SD, ND and UT participants

PublicHealth IN THE 406

MONTANA DPHHS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

TRAIN Montana

Building Effective Communication Campaigns | October 22 | 9:30 – 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 – 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.***

Upcoming Trainings & Learning Opportunities

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

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

Capacity Enhancing Grant Opportunity
Fall 2026 Application Period

MTPHI's **Capacity Enhancing Grant Opportunity** opens on October 1 for the Fall 2026 application period. This opportunity is open to Local and Tribal Health Departments in Montana and is intended to strengthen infrastructure, foster partnerships, and enhance responsiveness to community needs.

📅 **Deadline:** applications for capacity enhancing projects will be accepted on a **quarterly basis.** For this quarter, the application window is October 1-22, 2026. The next round will open in January 2027.
💰 **Funding Available:** up to $15,000 per award. Health departments are eligible for one project through June 30, 2027.
🔗 **Learn more & apply: Capacity Enhancing Grants**

In addition, MTPHI staff will host office hours during the application window where applicants can drop in to ask questions, talk through project ideas, or get feedback before submitting. Currently, there are two office hour sessions scheduled:

- **Office Hours – 10/14/26 @ 11am: Register here**

Community Engagement Grant Opportunity

MTPHI's **Community Engagement Grant Opportunity** is **accepting applications on a rolling basis**. This opportunity is available to local and tribal health departments in Montana, in an effort to overcome common participation barriers. MTPHI will fund community engagement activities aimed at addressing public health priorities.

💰 **Funding Available:** up to $1,500 per award. Health departments are eligible to divide this into multiple requests through June 30, 2027. If funding is requested for a re-occurring event, only one application is required.
🔗 **Learn more & apply: Community Engagement Grant**

MONTANA 21C
Strengthening Public Health Together
MONTANA 21C: STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH TOGETHER

Join the **Montana 21C: Strengthening Public Health Together** group on Connected Communities to connect with colleagues working to strengthen Montana's public health system. Share a resource, ask a question, or join a discussion to help build an active hub for collaboration and 21C updates!

Join Here

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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

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