November 2026

MPHTC NEWSLETTER
November 2026

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

Search Job Postings or Post Your Position

Keep the Job Board up-to-date! If you posted a position to the Job Board in 2026 and filled the position, please let us know. Email mphtc@mso.umt.edu with your location and the position title.
Thank you!

Welcome, Kennedi to MPHTC

The Montana Public Health Training Center welcomed Kennedi Bouchee to the team in October. Kennedi splits her time between MPHTC and the Montana Clinical & Translational Research Center in the School of Public & Community Health. Kennedi has joined us as our new Administrative Associate IV position. She graduated from UM in Psychology in 2024. In her personal time, she enjoys hiking, reading, skiing, and spending time with her boyfriend and dog, Ajax.

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Trainings & Learning Opportunities

Coming January 27, 2027 10:00am - Heather Voorhees, PhD & Joel O. Iverson, PhD from the University of Montana Communications Department, will present ***De-escalation Techniques for Public Health Professionals: Promoting Safety, Trust & Effective Community Interactions.*** Registration is now open on the MPHTC PORTAL

Public Health in Schools Initiative

Exploring Public Health at Sentinel High School

On October 2, we joined Sentinel High School's *"One School, One Read"* event to provide a day of interactive public health activities. During four rotations, students used community health asset mapping to explore the people, places, organizations, and resources that help communities stay healthy. At the schoolwide fair that afternoon, students spun a color wheel representing different public health domains and searched for examples of each domain on our I Spy Public Health banner.

The activities were developed through a collaboration between the Montana Public Health Training Center's Public Health in Schools Program and the UM Technical Assistance Program. The teams drew on expertise from both programs in prevention, public and community health, and youth engagement to create activities that helped students see the many ways public health is present in their everyday lives.

I SPY PUBLIC HEALTH

Photo caption: Manager of School-based Programs, Anna Kiley, talks with students at the *One School, One Read* fair at Sentinel High School.

MISSOULA COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSET MAP

Photo caption: Two students identify community health assets on the map.

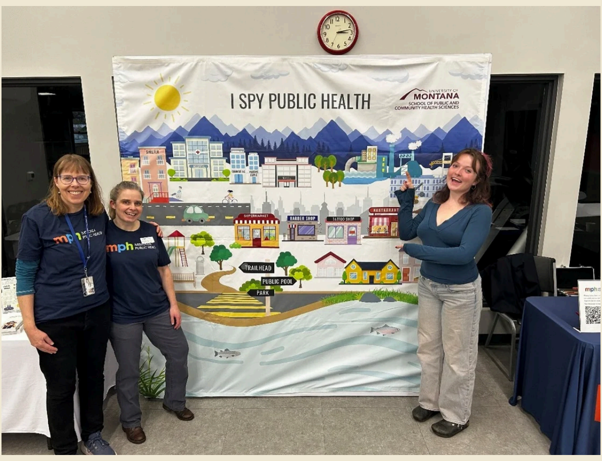
SEN
I SPY PUBLIC HEALTH
MONTANA

More Ways We're Engaging Students in Public Health

Our *Public Health in Schools* program recently connected with youth across Missoula through several community events. We shared our I Spy Public Health banner and coloring sheets with Missoula Public Health for use at a recent immunization clinic, volunteered alongside our Montana Health and Climate partners at Missoula Climate Fest, and explored community health asset mapping with students attending the AHEC REACH Camp. We would love to join you in your community for student engagement events! If you have upcoming events and would like our support or have ideas, please reach out to us!

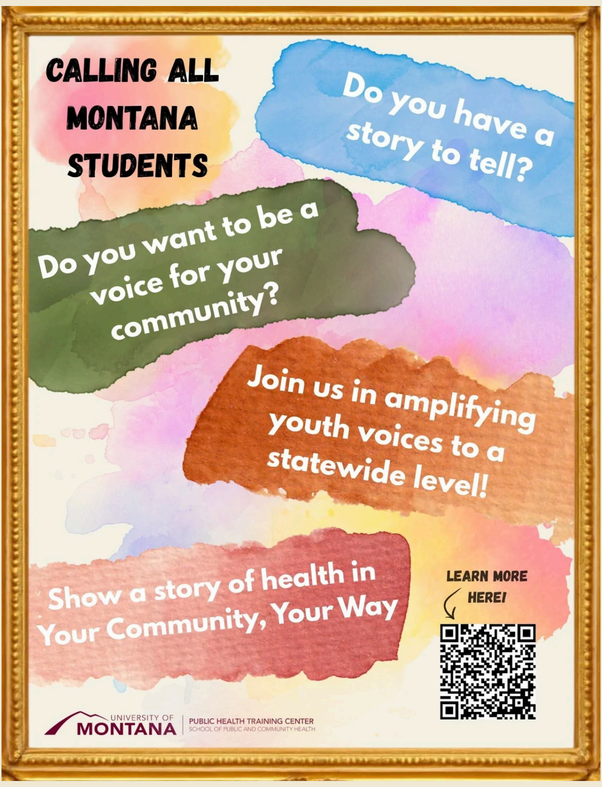
"The Climate Crisis is a Health Care Crisis"
UTILITECH
20 in Box Fan
MONTANA HEALTH

Montana Health and Climate booth at Missoula Climate Fest, September 2026.



Missoula Public Health utilized the I Spy Public Health banner and coloring sheets at a recent immunization clinic to engage with the community.

Students explore community health asset mapping at the October AHEC REACH camp.



CALLING ALL MONTANA STUDENTS

Do you have a story to tell?

Do you want to be a voice for your community?

Join us in amplifying youth voices to a statewide level!

Show a story of health in Your Community, Your Way

LEARN MORE HERE!

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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

WILLOW
CARSON
HUCK
NYXEE
ZIGGY
TEDDY
INIGO MONTOYA
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
TESS
AJAX
CINDER
BERNIE
RAJ
SAMMY
HARPER

Happy Thanksgiving from the furry family at the Montana Public Health Training Center!

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

- ***November 12: Syphilis labs, Testing algorithms, Titers -*** Presented by Melissa Snyder, Cara Murolo - MT DPHHS

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*

- **November 3: MTHFR Polymorphisms: Connecting Genetics to Hepatitis C Clinical Practice -** Presented by Amy Solomon, MD

- **November 17: Suicide Prevention -**
  Presented by Thomas Chavez, Rachel Rose

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

UM Technical Assistance Program

Prevention Specialist Highlight

Mark Cichosz - Hill County

If you have met Mark Cichosz, you know he is always ready with a smile, a laugh, and a positive attitude. What makes Mark special is how he brings that same energy into his prevention work and finds creative ways to connect with people in his community.

On October 23 in Havre, Mark partnered with Aidan Park from the YAY Foundation to host a comedy show focused on the connection between humor and healing. The event seats were sold out, leaving standing room only for the rest to squeeze in. The audience was moved by the stories shared throughout the evening, sharing tears and laughter. Mark, Aidan, and the volunteer storytellers were met with a standing ovation at the end of the show.

The Technical Assistance team could not be prouder of Mark and the impact he is making throughout Montana communities.

A big thank you to Mark, Aidan, and all the volunteers who helped make the evening such a success.

Several open mic events are already planned for the coming year. If you are interested in attending or learning more, please reach out to Mark Cichosz at markc@bgchi-line.com.

YAY!
Comedy Show
Break the Stigma!
Mental Health Awareness
Suicide Awareness
Prevention of Substance Misuse
Beaver Creek Park

Mark Cichosz hosting the YAY! for Havre Comedy Show on October 23

WICHE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

MOUNTAIN PLAINS RURAL OPIOID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

Region 8 Training & Technical Assistance Needs Assessment

Mountain Plains Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Center (MP ROTAC) is conducting a brief 10-minute needs assessment to better understand training and technical assistance needs related to opioid, stimulants, and other substance use challenges across the Mountain Plains region. Your feedback will help guide future resources and support for rural and trial communities. Please complete the survey by clicking the above link.

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, **December 10 - 11,** 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 includes 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

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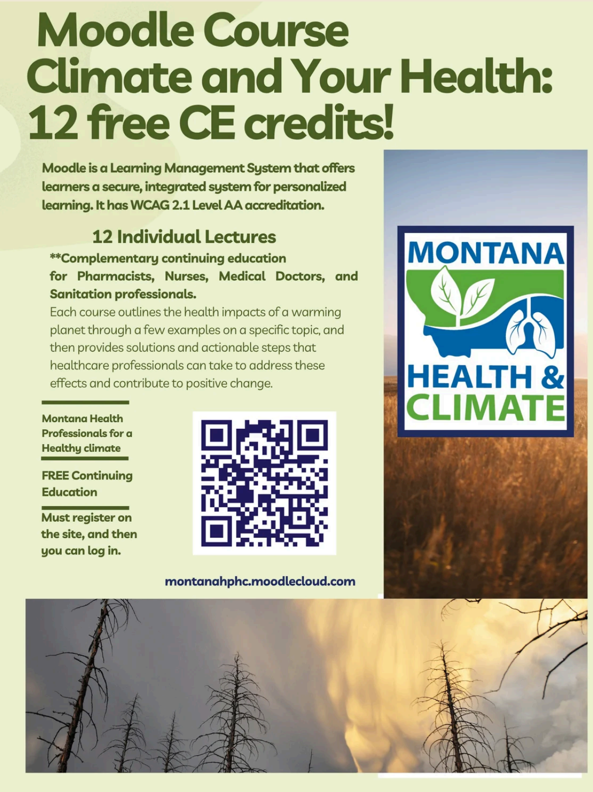
News From Our Public Health Partners

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

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.***

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

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confluence
public health alliance

Share Your Work and Celebrate Your Peers at the 2027 Confluence Conference

Join us March 1–3 in Helena for the Confluence Conference! This year's

theme is ***Rooted in Health: Strong Connections, Vibrant Communities, Safe Environments.***
We're seeking abstracts for sessions that highlight public and environmental health work, ideas, and experiences from across Montana. Whether you have a project or research at any stage, a lesson learned, or an emerging idea to share, we encourage you to submit an abstract.
Submit an abstract by November 22 at 5:00 PM.

Know someone making a difference in public or environmental health? Help recognize their contributions by nominating them for a MEHA or MPHA award.
Submit an award nomination by December 4 at 5:00 PM.

More information on the conference can be found on our website: Confluence Conference

Legislature 101 & Pre-Session Webinar | November 16 | 2:00 p.m.
👉 Register Here
Get ready for the 2027 Montana Legislative Session! Join Confluence Public Health Alliance's Policy & Advocacy Committee for an informative webinar that will include:

- **Legislature 101:** A practical introduction to Montana's legislative process and opportunities to engage.
- **Post-Election Outlook:** What the election results may mean for the upcoming session.
- **2027 Policy Priorities:** Highlights from Confluence's Policy Priorities Survey and our collective 2027 policy agenda.
- **Learning from Peers:** Hear how your local peers have engaged in legislative issues, from educating decision-makers to advocacy and lobbying.

Open to all AMPHO, MEHA, and MPHA members.

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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