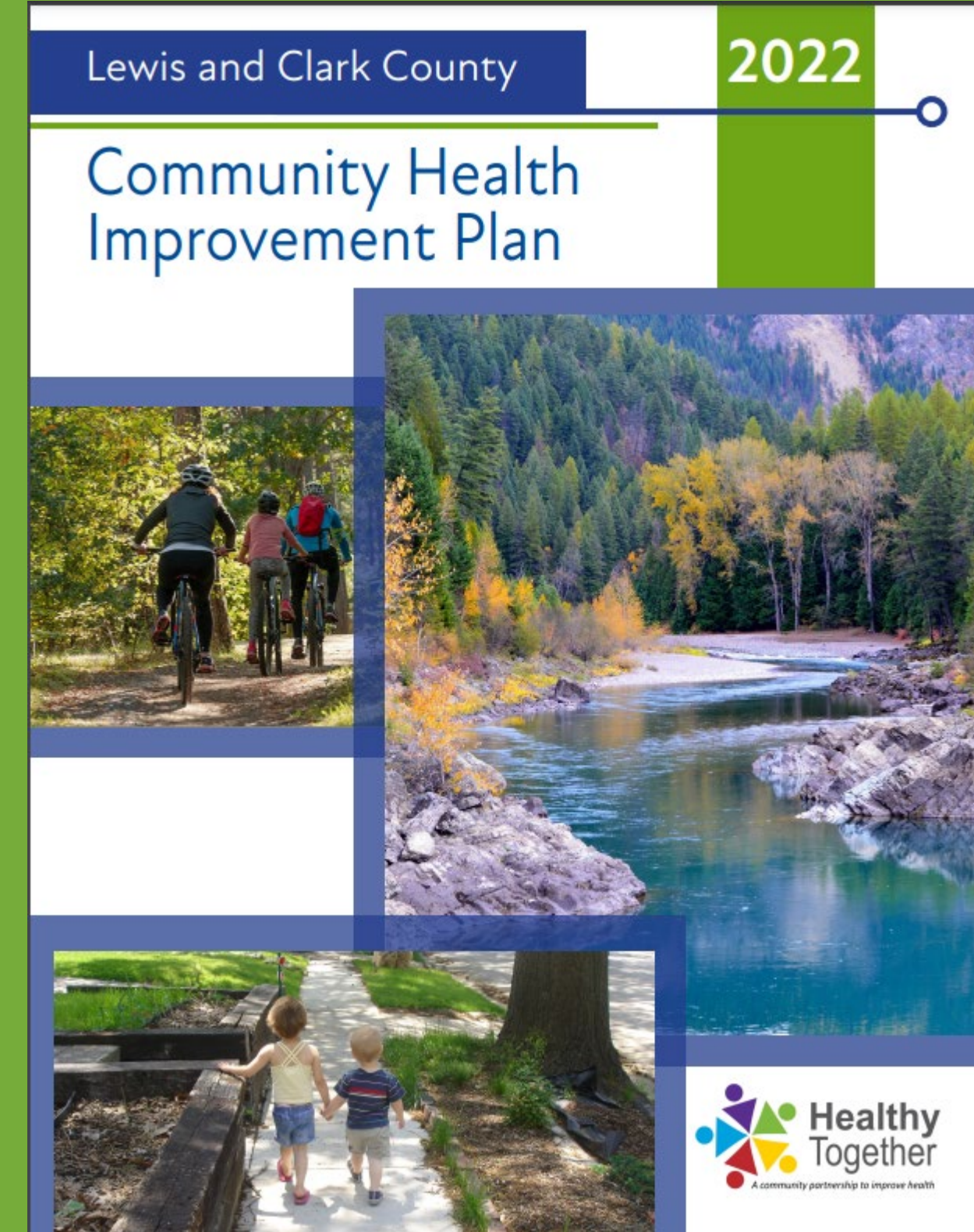


Healthy Together Annual Progress Presentation

July 30, 2025

Presented by



Priority Area 1: Chronic Disease

Goal: Design culturally responsive policies, systems and environments in Lewis and Clark County for making the healthy choice the easy choice so that all community members can thrive in a culture that sustains health and prevents chronic disease.

Presented by: Julie Bir



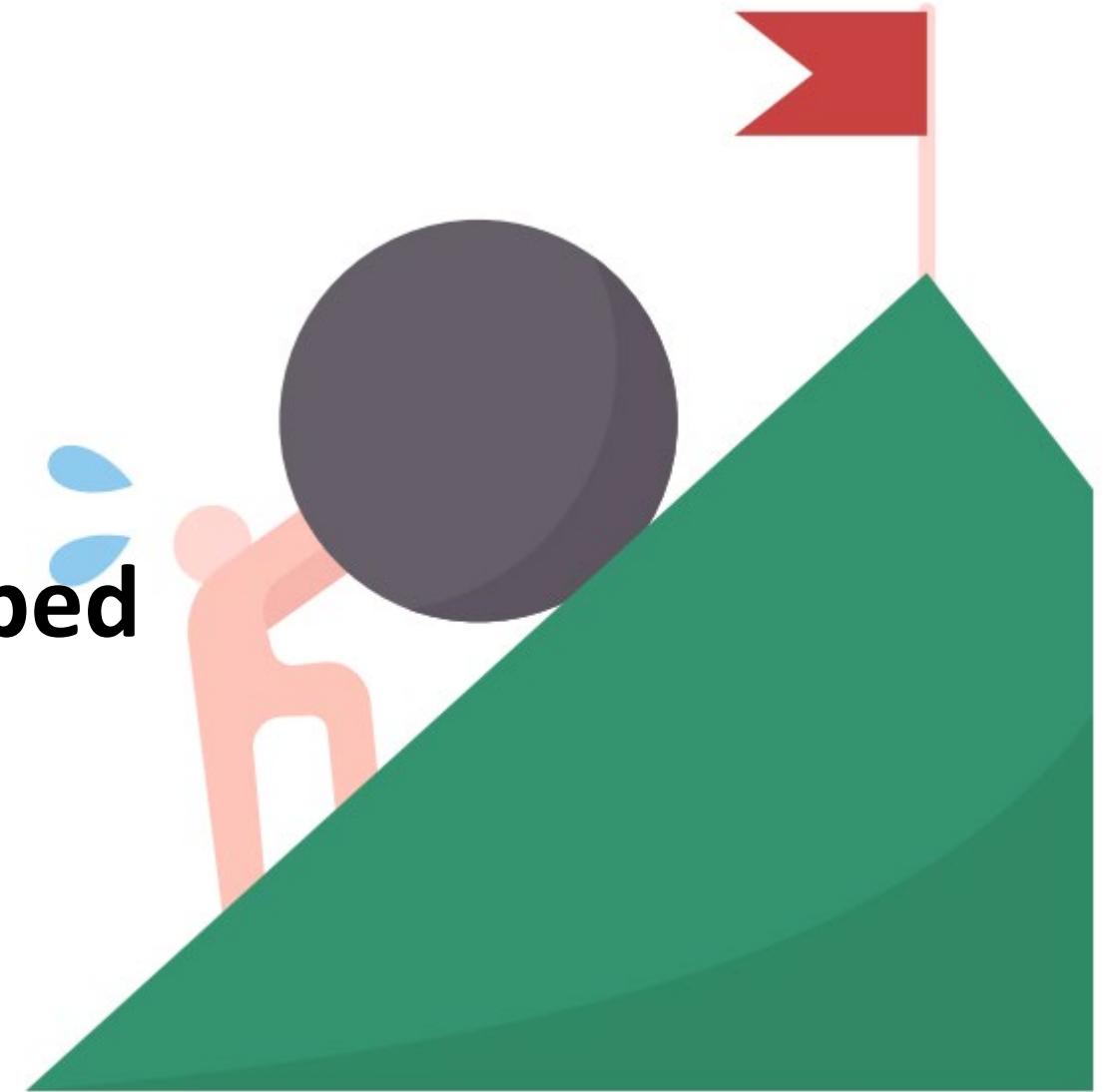
Successes

- ✓ **Bike to Work Day and Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day**
- ✓ **Created monthly Vape Recycling Program with middle and high schools**
- ✓ **Social Determinants of Health work led to cultural competency training list and food resource map**



Challenges/Barriers

- ✓ **Changing landscape in federal funding**
- ✓ **Could use more staff in Chronic Disease – untapped potential**



Next Steps : 2025 CHIP

- ✓ Engage with communities outside of metro
- ✓ Partner with community groups to develop creative ways to address chronic disease (e.g. Helena Food Share)
- ✓ Partner with elementary schools to support some kind of physical activity program
- ✓ Advocate for Age-Friendly Designation for Lewis and Clark County



Chronic Disease Contact Information

Healthy Communities Coalition and Aging Well

Carin McClain, cmcclain@lccountymt.gov, 406-457-8924



Priority Area 2: Behavioral Health

Goal: Create an environment in Lewis and Clark County in which the mental wellness of every resident is supported, and all are empowered to live free from substance misuse or abuse.

Presented by: Jakob Miles, Jolene Jennings, Rachel Jefferies, Vilette Burk



Safer Communities Montana

Successes:

- Expanded our forms of advertising with three new campaigns.
- Added 4 new lethal means safety items to be distributed into the community.
- Helped establish the first Safe Hold location for Veterans & Service members in the area.

Challenges:

- New items need new distribution methods.
- Reaching rural residents.
- Storage.
- Continuing to expand the coalition and bring more stakeholders into the group.

SAFER COMMUNITIES MONTANA

SAFER COMMUNITIES MONTANA

PREVENTION ITEM MENU

ALL ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR FREE

	GUN LOCKS - TRIGGER LOCKS OR CABLE LOCKS Trigger locks good for firearms that are not lever action. Cable locks for any.
	SAFES AND GUN CASES Handgun safes, single and double gun cases with padlocks, or small home safes
	DETERRA Drug deactivation packets that can be safely thrown out
	LOCKING PILL BOTTLES Keep medications safe in locking pill bottles
	LOCKBOXES Store pills, ammo, or other small items

JAKOB MILES
LCPH HARM REDUCTION COORDINATOR
406-457-8875
JMILES@LCCOUNTYMT.GOV

SAFERCOMMUNITIESMT.ORG



Safer Communities Montana

Next Steps 2025 CHIP:

- Expanded community engagement and education on the importance and options for lethal means safety.
- Increase the number of partners who distribute prevention items.
- Grow our awareness campaigns through new advertising and community events.
- Add new trainings we offer to help prevent suicide before and during a crisis.



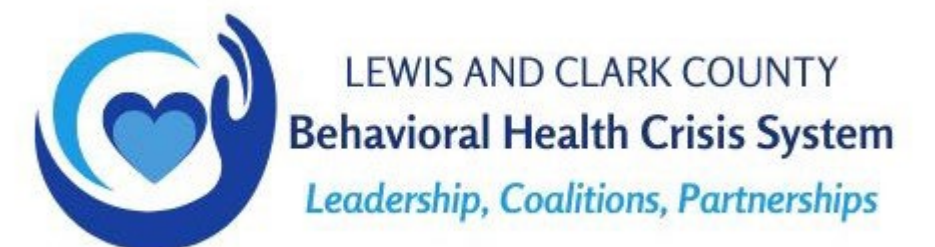
Successes: Behavioral Health Crisis System

The Crisis Now Model 3 Pillars:

988 - MT Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline a person to call since July 2022

MCRT - Mobile Crisis Response Team a person to respond since November 2020

Crisis Facility - Journey Home Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Facility a place to go opening planned for 2025



Challenges/Barriers: Behavioral Health Crisis System



988 Awareness Expansion & Promotion



MCRT 24/7 Staffing Coverage & Expansion



JH Crisis Facility Opening Delay

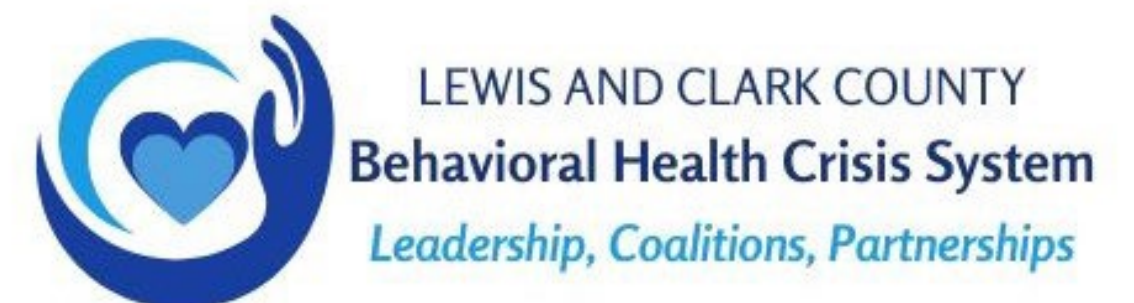


Next Steps : 2025 CHIP

Behavioral Health Crisis System and Continuum of Care

Focus Area 3

- ✓ **Nine Strategic Areas**
- ✓ **Lead Partners and Coalitions**
- ✓ **Activities and Measures**



Suicide Prevention Coalition & LOSS Team

Successes

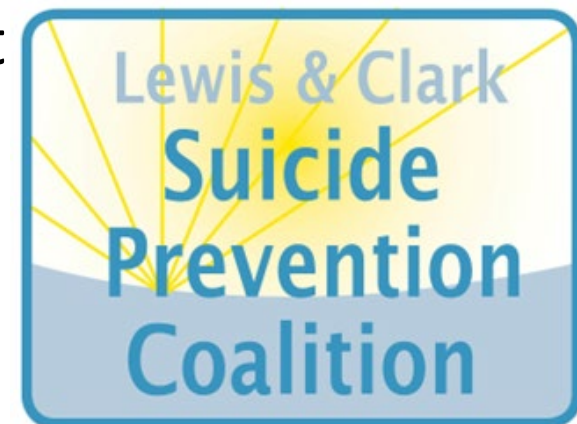
- 751 people received suicide prevention and mental health awareness training in Q1-Q3 via SAMHSA's MHAT Grant
- 74 suicide loss survivors received calls, resources, and support since September 2024, and 166 total survivors served since the beginning of the Lewis and Clark Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS)
- St. Peter's certified 3 QPR trainers with support from LCPH Suicide Prevention
- Boulder Elementary became the 6th school to use the Signs of Suicide (SOS) with support of SAMHSA's MHAT Grant

Challenges

- Loss of volunteer trainers limited the capacity to host suicide prevention and mental health awareness training in the community
- Fewer clinical volunteers for LOSS to respond to death notification
- Declining interest in the current models that require 4 or more hours;
- Time is a barrier - need to engage stakeholders differently



LOSS
TEAM
OF LEWIS & CLARK
COUNTY AREA



Next Steps : 2025 CHIP

- Bring suicide prevention to meet people where they are by engaging community businesses, organizations, and spaces.
- Seek mental health awareness models that incorporate evidence-based strategies for resilience and connection as preventive measures
- Partner with community agencies to promote evidence-based tools, such as safety plans, to make mental health awareness and suicide prevention strategies more easily accessible to the community
- Promote in-house suicide prevention and mental health trainers within organizations to increase sustainability and capacity for training



Strong Roots Coalition

Successes:

- The Opioid Coalition and Substance Misuse Coalition were combined into one coalition with common goals. The Substance Misuse Coalition was rebranded into Strong Roots Coalition & logo developed.
- Community Events
- Behavioral Health Mobile Clinic

Challenges:

- Mobile Clinic Van has been getting repaired/retrofitted
- Serving rural communities
- Federal funding uncertainty
- Service limitations ie Detox services in Helena, transportation, availability of LACs & Peer Support Services
- Engaging key community partners in the SUD efforts



Strong Roots Coalition

Next Steps 2025 CHIP:

- Community Education Campaign for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Continuing to provide education opportunities to SUD professionals
- Continuing to provide community & school outreach by hosting family friendly sober activities.
 - Youth Sporting Event: Dodge-a-Palooza
- Continuing to build connections & communication between SUD providers & organizations
- Continue supporting Mobile Clinic efforts



Behavioral Health Contact Information

Safer Communities Montana:

Jakob Miles, jmiles@lccountymt.gov, 406-457-8875

Crisis System:

Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council, MCRT Community Coalition, Crisis Facility Community Coalition

Jolene Jennings, jjennings@lccountymt.gov, 406-457-8957

Suicide Prevention Coalition:

Rachel Jefferies, rjefferies@lccountymt.gov, 406-457-8970

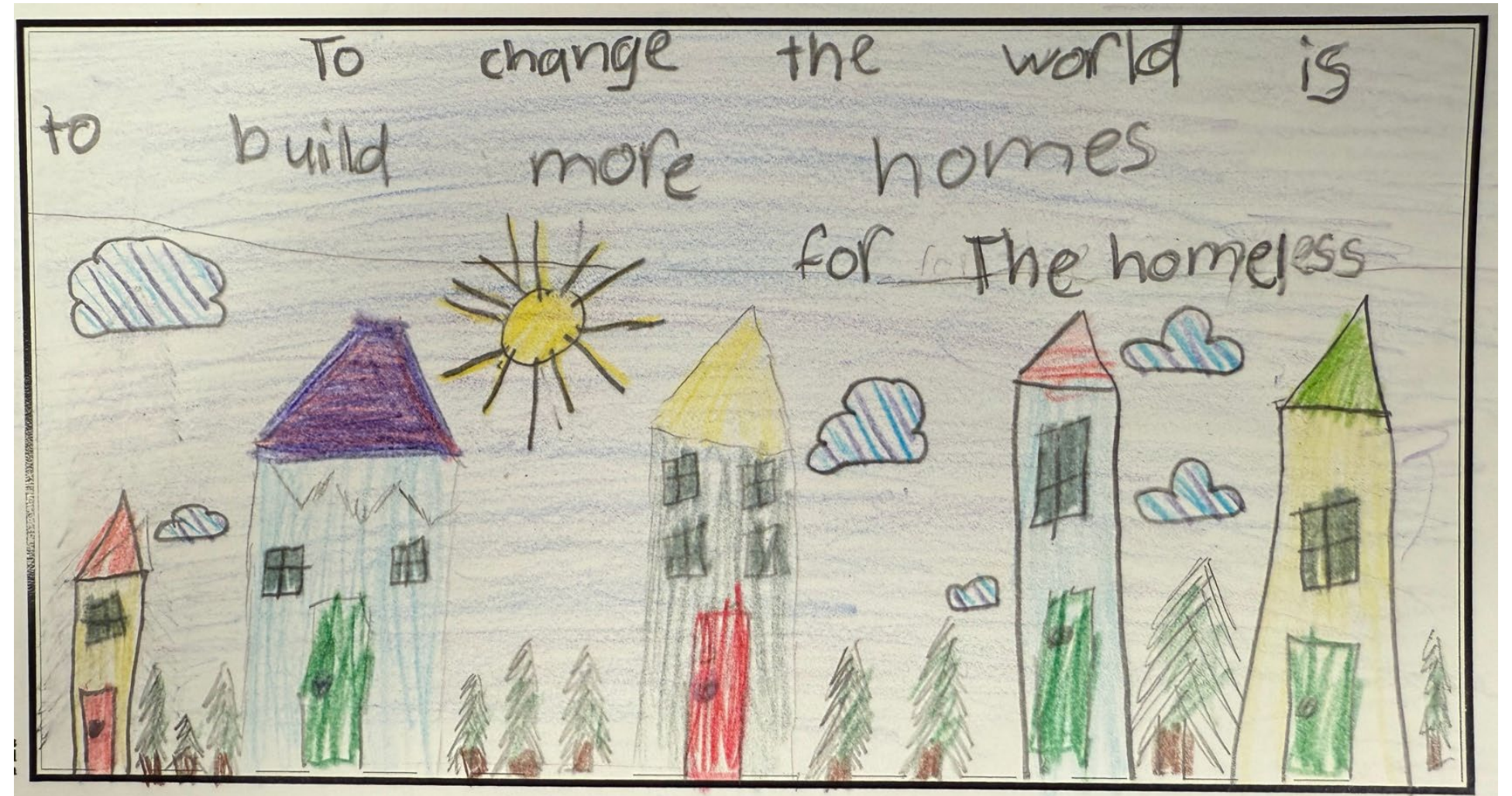
Strong Roots Coalition:

Villette Burk, vburk@lccountymt.gov, 406-457-8954



Priority Area 3: Housing

- Provide opportunities for residents of Lewis and Clark County to access safe and affordable housing.



Presented by: Emily McVey and Jeff Buscher
from the United Way of the Lewis and Clark Area

Successes

- Ground broken on Family Promise Facility and Women's Shelter
- Continuum of Care evaluation completed, and steps taken to improve local services
- Case Conferencing process successfully housed over 40 persons in 2024
- Tenancy Support Specialist position created and will soon be staffed at United Way
- Additional Street Outreach staff being hired at Good Samaritan Ministries
- Launch of Good Neighbors United program
- Twin Creek Apartments and Habitat for Humanity housing on track or sites near completion
- Fair Market Rent value increased

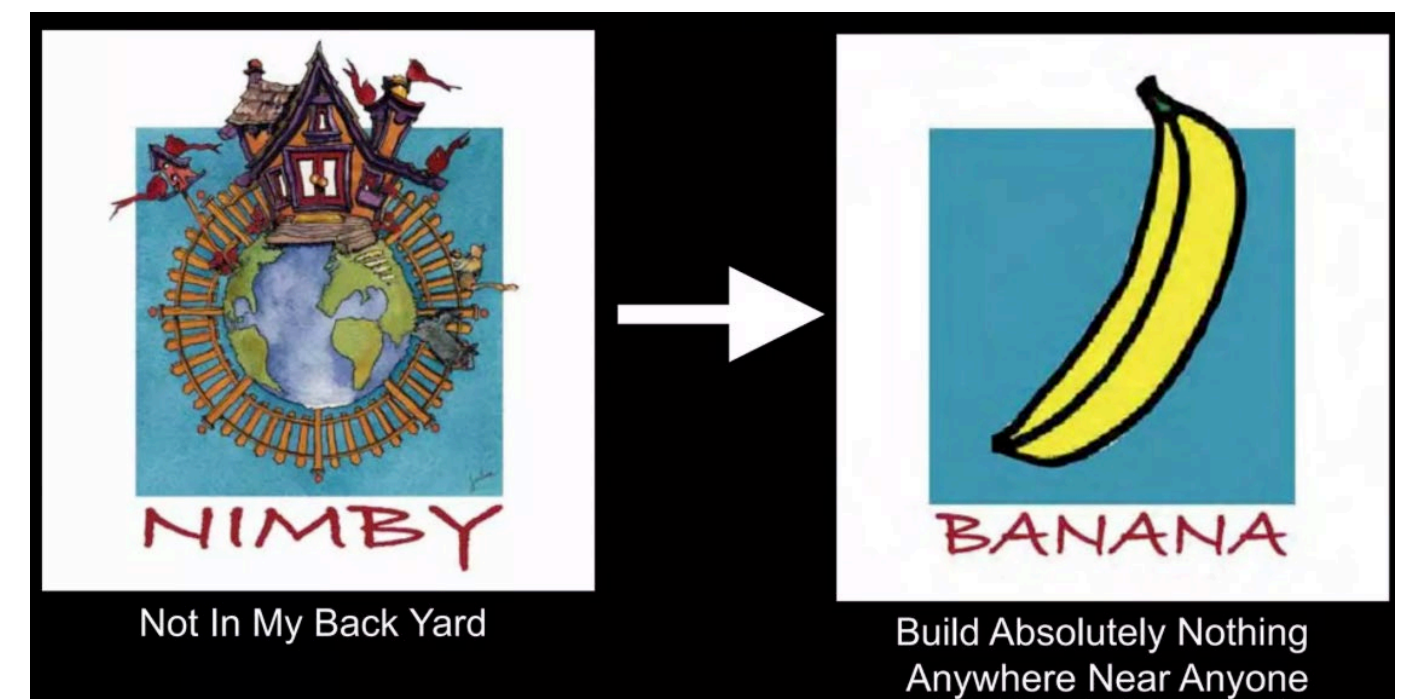


Challenges / Barriers

- Unstable / Unpredictable financial support from Federal resources

Example: Tentative nature of Medicaid availability for vulnerable populations

- Failure to prioritize resources for housing at state and federal level
- Ongoing funding and staffing challenges across the Social Work/Case Management sector
- Lack of an available site for Supportive Housing (Not in my back yard)
- Shortage of affordable homes leads to inflated home and property values



Next Steps : 2025 CHIP

- Improved coordination of services and communication across the housing network
- Establishment of a formal Supportive Housing program
- Support re-positioning and expansion of Helena Housing Authority properties
- Continued support and expansion of FUSE program
- Support Annual Housing Summit and Town Hall housing conversations
- Re-Engage a “Move the Dial” Action Team to locate site for a Supportive Housing



Move the Dial Housing Contact Information

United Way of the Lewis and Clark Area, Executive Director

Emily McVey, emily@unitedwaylca.org

United Way of the Lewis and Clark Area, Community Impact Coordinator

Jeff Buscher, jeff@unitedwaylca.org



THANK YOU

Steering Committee:

PureView Health Center, St. Peter's Health, Rocky Mountain Development Council, United Way of the Lewis and Clark Area, Lewis and Clark Public Health, Helena Indian Alliance, Shodair Hospital

[https://www.lccountymt.gov/Government/Public-Health/Healthy-Together-Steering-Committee\(lccountymt.gov\)](https://www.lccountymt.gov/Government/Public-Health/Healthy-Together-Steering-Committee(lccountymt.gov))

