



Legislator Alert

To inform and educate our Legislators about important

Behavioral Health Issues

February 2, 2009

Legislators Should Continue Funding Based on Results

The 2007 legislature approved the Governor's request for \$4.0 million over the biennium "to implement a residential treatment service for low income Montanans to address the longer-term support needed for recovery from methamphetamine, other drugs and alcohol abuse. This was the first time Montana committed general funds to community-based treatment of addiction!

Until 2008 Montana has historically had only two levels of treatment services; short-term inpatient and outpatient funded largely with federal block grant dollars. Outpatient services have been the main source of treatment within the public treatment system. In fact, we know that the more severe the addiction, the more likely the individual is to need longer term treatment and a supportive controlled environment.

Montana finally has such a system of care in the Residential Treatment Expansion Consortium (RTEC), which has been designed to incorporate current evidence-based best practices within a continuum of service levels.

Employment Is Among The Best Predictors of Successful Addiction Treatment

| | Employed | Unemployed |
|--|------------------------------|------------|
| Employment Status at Time of Admission to RTEC | 31% | 68% |
| Employment Status 3 Months Post-Discharge | 66.7% 33.3% Self-Employed | -0- |

RTEC: The Project

The RTEC project, which is included in the Governor's budget for continuation, is a system of care in which most patients enter the system through the two intensive residential treatment sites in Billings and Boulder. At these sites, patients are stabilized, detoxified, and evaluated medically and psychologically. Intensive treatment is initiated as well.

When the patient is clinically ready, he/she is transferred in a seamless continuation of care to one of five longer-term residential sites located in Kalispell, Great Falls, Bozeman, and Box Elder, and Miles City. The

patient remains in these residences receiving continuing care services and life skills training, job placement etc. for six to nine months.

Average Amount of Money Spent on Drugs Past 90 Days

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Admission | \$531.88 |
| 3 Months Post Discharge | -0- |
| 6 Months Post Discharge | \$12.50 |



A state leader in providing behavioral health services

SUMMARY

The initial outcome results of this project are very encouraging and we urge you to support continuation of the RTEC program over the next biennium. If you would like a copy of the full outcome findings, please ask any staff member of the Chemical Dependency Bureau or e-mail monasumner@aol.com.

| % of RTEC Patients Incarcerated | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
| | Admission | 6 Months |
| Jail | 42.5% | 8.2% |
| Prison | 4.2% | -0- |
| Electronic Monitoring | 5.5% | -0- |

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Rimrock Foundation is Montana's oldest and largest private, non-profit treatment center. Rimrock has more than forty years of experience in treating people who suffer from compulsive disorders and their families. Through that experience we have developed one of the most effective nationally-recognized treatment programs available today.

For more information regarding treatment services, please call (406) 248-3175, or 1-800-227-3953, or visit our Web site at www.rimrock.org