



Yellowstone County DUI Task Force
PO Box 20982
Billings, MT 59104

**Yellowstone County DUI Task Force
AOD Symposium Planning Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2026**

Present: Andrew Loken, Brandon Ihde, Karen Sylvester, Travis Sylvester, Kevin Holland, Darla Tyler-McSherry.

The group worked on developing the schedule. See the attached working document.

DoubleTree Hilton

Thursday May 13	Law Enforcement	Treatment	Prevention	Presenters
7:00-8:00	Registration & Breakfast	Registration & Breakfast	Registration & Breakfast	Vinnie Montez
8:00-9:00	Opening Ceremonies	Opening Ceremonies	Opening Ceremonies	Melanie Schwarz Upstream Consulting
9:00-10:00	Vinnie Montez	Vinnie Montez	Vinnie Montez	RiverStone Health
10:00-11:30	James Berry Avoiding Potholes: N: James Berry Avoiding Potholes: Navigating the Cautionary			
11:30-1:00	Lunch on Your Own	Lunch on Your Own	Lunch on Your Own	Jonathon Huber
1:00-2:00	Vinnie Montez Mental Health	Open	Upstream Consulting Suicide Prevention in the Workplace	Sheriff O'Donnell and Others
2:00-3:00	Ryan Haskell Cannabis and the SF	Open	RiverStone Health: Designer Drugs and Predatory Market	James Berry
3:00-5:00	Dominic Syracuse Team Building			
Friday May 14				Dominic Syracuse
7:00-8:00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
8:00-9:45	Jonathon Huber Beyond the Menu	Open	Dominic Syracuse Staying Human in Times of AI	
9:45-11:30	Ryan Haskell--Common Drug Indicators for Patrol Officers	Open	Open	
11:30-1:00	Lunch on Your Own	Lunch on Your Own	Lunch on Your Own	
1:00-2:30	Upstreaming Consulting: Vicarious Trauma	Upstreaming Consulting: Vicarious Trauma	Upstreaming Consulting: Vicarious Trauma	
2:30-4:00	Dominic Syracuse Emotional Intelligence/Resilience Training	Dominic Syracuse Emotional Intelligence/Resilience Training	Dominic Syracuse Emotional Intelligence/Resilience Training	
4:00-5:00	O'Donnell Your Sheriff and You	O'Donnell Your Sheriff and You	O'Donnell Your Sheriff and You	
	Continued Contract Signed (Compensated)	Open		
	In Progress No Contract Signed Yet if Compensated			



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Present: Kevin Holland, Brandon Gatlin, Cameron Farrel-Fox, Kent O'Donnell, Andrew Loken, Karen Sylvester, Shaun Pisk, Sam Atwood, Brandon Ihde, Travis Sylvester, Darla Tyler-McSherry. **Excused:** Kacy Keith, Monty Wallis, Bob Drake, Andy Beach, Jenna Solomon, Haley Swan.

Brandon called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

Members received the August meeting minutes via email. Kevin made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes without changes. Karen seconded. Motion approved.

There were no new disclosures of Conflicts of Interest.

Members received the current budget reports via email. No questions were brought forward at this time.

Brittney Garrett and Paige Sutherland joined the Task Force meeting via Zoom and gave a brief presentation on the Montana Angel Initiative. The Montana Angel Initiative is a voluntary, non-punitive program designed to help individuals struggling with substance use disorder (SUD). Through trusted partnerships with law enforcement and community organizations, MT AI connects individuals to treatment professionals, support services, and recovery resources. They are currently able to accept more referrals. Darla will follow up and provide them with the Task Force mailing address to receive promotional materials.

Travis provided the social media report. They are utilizing the falls sports and hunting season to promote our message of not driving under the influence, utilizing the tag line of, "Catch a ride, not a crash."

The Ales for Trails event was well attended. Our booth included free bottled water, and the interactive spin-the-wheel-game. We had good engagement and we added an educational element to the event.

The group reviewed the design for the car sunshades. We added the HOPE Coalition and Bridgemont logos which help offset costs and allow us to purchase the products at bulk pricing. Travis will take the feedback provided and will send a revised draft which will be routed for vote via email.

Brandon provided an update on the Symposium planning process. We've identified several excellent presenters and are working on securing commitments and finalizing presentation dates and times. The schedule to date will be sent with the meeting minutes. We will ask Brennen to help secure POST credits, and Sam Atwood will help navigate the continuing education credit process for attorneys. Travis will develop the Certificate of Attendance.

The Task Force voted to renew the Coordinator contract for the next three years, with a 3% increase each year. Brandon will update the contract language and submit it to County Finance as the current contract ends in November.

Darla provided a PowerPoint report for the RFPs from the January-June 2026 cycle. The PowerPoint will be included with the meeting minutes.

Applications for the January-June 2027 RFP cycle are due November 1. The applications must contain the following three (3) items: 1) confirmation that the event/project takes places in Yellowstone County; 2) a clear nexus between the project/event and DUI, whether interdiction, treatment, or prevention, and 3) include a detailed project budget. Applications can be submitted to dtylermcsherry@hotmail.com or hard copy mailed to: Yellowstone County DUI Task Force, PO Box 20982, Billings, MT. 59104.

Save the Date for the Award of Merit/Angel Tree Ceremony on Thursday, December 17. Award of Merit nominations are due November 1.

Brandon asked for a motion to adjourn. Brandon Gatlin motioned to adjourn. Andrew seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:52 PM.