Making the healthy choice, the easy choice

The Healthy By Design Coalition Monthly News

December 2021, Featuring:
CHIP Update & Highlights
Strengthening Area Partnerships
Upcoming Events & Opportunities
Recognition Opportunities

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Update & Project Highlights

2020-2023 CHIP Update

As we approach the end of 2021, here is what our strategy working groups have been up to:

- The Healthy Neighborhoods strategy working group shared the results of the Pioneer Park Neighborhood Task Force resident survey during the November task force meeting, held at the former Harper and Madison
neighborhood beautification. Members of the project steering committee meet next week to determine what to do with the results.

- The Healthy Connections group is launching the Be A Good Neighbor snow shoveling campaign. Select businesses along Grand Avenue will be contacted to sign a Snow Free and Safe pledge and the group will be promoting the importance of shoveling through a press release, social media, and more.
- The Healthy Investments group is currently on hold as we head into the holidays.
- Key staff and partners are working to launch the new COVID-19 Response and Resilient Communities grant we received from the CDC. Key partners include the Montana Office of Rural Health at MSU-Bozeman, the Montana Public Health Institute, local Emergency Preparedness trainers, RiverStone Health, St. Vincent Healthcare, and Billings Clinic. In the next month, we will be announcing our local organizations who will be partnering with us to recruit, train, and deploy community health workers/community organizers to assist with our upcoming COVID-informed community health needs assessment and improvement planning process.

If you would like to learn about how you can become involved, contact Melissa at melissa@hbdyc.org or 651.6569.

Read the Annual CHIP Progress Report

Project Highlight: Gardeners' Market 2021 Season Summary Published

We are pleased to announce the publication of the 2021 Season Summary. Highlights from this year’s data include how the Gardeners' Market encourages healthy eating and its impact on the local economy. Read the summary to learn more by visiting our market page.

Community Highlight: Holiday Food Donations
As we enter another pandemic holiday season, many residents continue to struggle with food access. You can help by supporting and spreading the word on the following opportunities:

- Backpack Program meal kits are available to elementary school children enrolled in Billings, Laurel, and Lockwood public schools. Click [here](#) to find resource details for Yellowstone County’s local Backpack Programs, or you can check with your child’s school counselor. Billings School District counselors can also help connect middle and high school students with Teen Pantries meals.
- Visit the [United Way of Yellowstone County’s Montana 211 website](#) for a detailed list of local food resources. Many local agencies are accepting donations. Healthy items such as brown rice, whole wheat products, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, and other whole foods are always appreciated.
- Big Sky Senior Services is running their Empty Stocking Fund to send $25 gift cards to each of their clients, many of whom live on less than $1000 a month. The gift card allows the dignity to choose the holiday "gift" the senior may prioritize most, whether that's food, clothing, or supplies for their furry companion. Visit [Big Sky Senior Services' campaign page](#) to learn more.

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**Strengthening Partnerships**

**Coalitions Aim for Greater Collective Impact**

For one of our key CHIP strategies, Strengthening Partnerships, a small group of individuals working as backbone support for area coalitions has formed with the aim of increasing our collective impact for a healthy, vibrant Yellowstone County. Those represented include Best Beginnings, Continuum of Care, Healthy By Design, Substance Abuse Connect, and the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Yellowstone County. Currently, they are planning a Collective Impact training to build their strength as individual coalitions, and map each other’s work to reduce overlap and highlight opportunities for collaboration. Stay tuned for more in 2022!

_Pictured here is an image from the Community Builders workshop in February of 2020._
Creating a Community Forum

Since the launch of our new website, we have been able to shift resources to begin building out our own use of a community planning tool - a plugin for collective impact, public sharing, and population health data tracking originally created by the public health department of Garrett County, Maryland. We are set to begin pilot testing with a few coalition partners to better understand its functionality and application for strengthening partnerships in Yellowstone County.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Safe Routes to School Plan: Public Input Ends 12/17

The Billings MPO is continuing the public input portion of the 2021/2022 Safe Routes to School Update. The study has four major tasks:

- Evaluate current walking, biking, and rolling conditions for students in the region
- Identify barriers or issues that might discourage students from walking, biking, and rolling
Develop a list of prioritized projects that can be built to improve walking, biking, and rolling conditions for students.

- Create walking route maps for all 22 public elementary schools in Billings.

Parents, guardians, and students in Billings Public Schools elementary schools, your experience and knowledge can take this plan from good to great. Head to tinyurl.com/BillingsSRTS-plan to give your input on the project webmap. Share where you currently walk, where you think there are issues, and what you or your students would need to walk or bike to school more. The input deadline is December 17th. Share the word and sign up to receive updates on the study here.

Healthy Resources Recognition

Healthy Events & Food Truck Recognition

Want Healthy By Design to promote your event? Recognition from Healthy By Design tells your participants that you are committed to their safety and wellness. Visit our Event Planning resource page for lots of healthy tips, see our list of healthy food trucks, and apply for Healthy Event recognition!

Note: Healthy Food Vendor recognition is now running seasonally. We will begin accepting applications and processing renewals in April 2022.

Congrats to the 2021 Healthy Worksites

These 11 Yellowstone County businesses demonstrated their commitment to Healthy Eating, Active Living, Work-Life Balance, & Health Promotion. Worksite wellness initiatives like the ones these businesses employ can enhance productivity can improve recruitment and retention efforts. Looking for more inspiration for worksite wellness at your business? Find an array of helpful resources here.
We commend you for making
the healthy choice, the easy choice at your worksites!

Stay in Touch

Use our links below to learn about coalition initiative not featured in this month's newsletter by visiting our website, sending us an email, or following us on Facebook. You can also call us at 406.247.3394. We're always happy to answer your questions.

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