

VICTIM SERVICES IN GLASGOW, MT



05/24/2023

Montana Board of Crime Control State and Tribal Victim Liaison Project

Data collected from a roundtable discussion with victim service providers who support the Glasgow and Valley County communities but have also expanded services to the surrounding areas.

Victim Services in Glasgow, MT

MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL STATE AND TRIBAL VICTIM LIAISON PROJECT

PARTICIPANTS

Thank you to the graciousness of Glasgow Police Department for hosting this roundtable and providing the participants with pizza, pasta, and salads. These service providers and allied professionals came together to discuss the services provided, where there are strengths and weaknesses in the community, and where there are opportunities for growth. We finished off the meeting with a discussion regarding our top priorities. Those participating in the roundtable included:

- Sheridan County Sheriff's Office
- Sheridan County Attorney's Office
- DPHHS: Child and Family Services
- Judicial Branch District 17 - Juvenile Probation
- Phillips County Sheriff's Office
- Glasgow Police Department/Northeast Montana Victim Services
- Blaine County Attorney's Office
- Daniels County Sheriff's Office

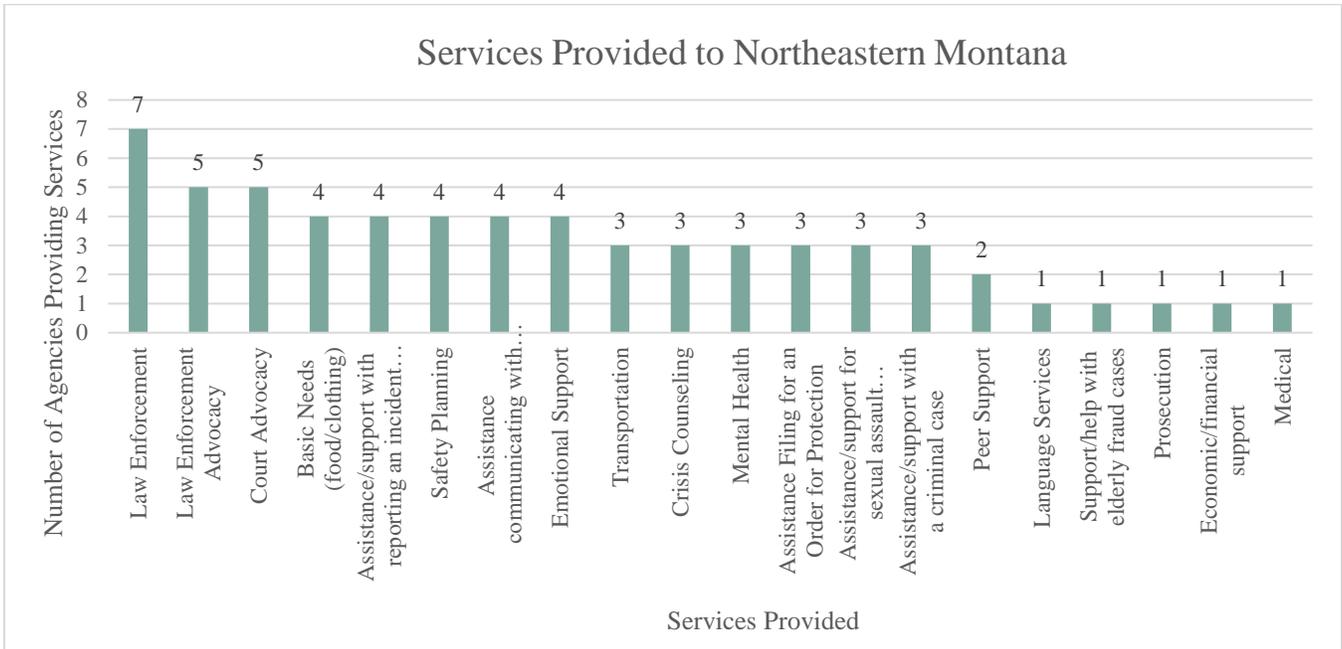
Services Represented

Service providers and allied partners for the Valley, Sheridan, Daniels, Blaine, and surrounding communities completed short surveys addressing the services they provide to the community.

This list summarizes the services from the survey and all the agencies that provide these services. The agencies identified 62 services with many duplicates, as shown in the following lists and graphs:

<i>Law Enforcement</i>	7
<i>Law Enforcement Advocacy</i>	5
<i>Court Advocacy</i>	5
<i>Basic Needs (food/clothing)</i>	4
<i>Assistance/support with reporting an incident to law enforcement</i>	4
<i>Safety Planning</i>	4
<i>Assistance communicating with other agencies</i>	4
<i>Emotional Support</i>	4
<i>Transportation</i>	3
<i>Crisis Counseling</i>	3
<i>Mental Health</i>	3
<i>Assistance Filing for an Order for Protection</i>	3
<i>Assistance/support for sexual assault examination</i>	3
<i>Assistance/support with a criminal case</i>	3
<i>Peer Support</i>	2
<i>Language Services</i>	1

<i>Support/help with elderly fraud cases</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Prosecution</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Economic/financial support</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Medical</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>62</i>



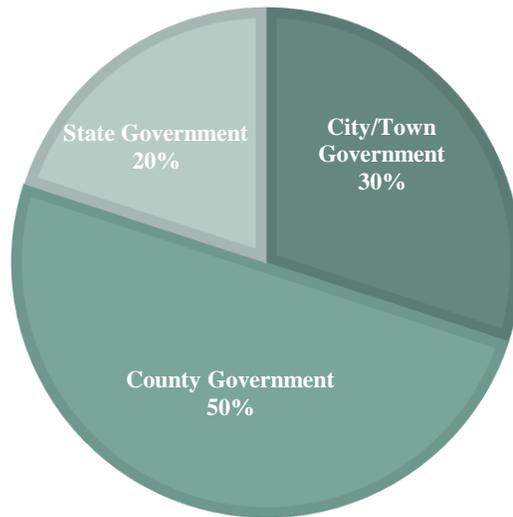
Types of Organizations Represented

The following data represents how the organizations and agencies identified their type of organization. It is important to note that the data represents data specifically from government organizations as community-based programs severely limited in Northeastern Montana.

<i>City/Town Government</i>	3
<i>County Government</i>	5
<i>State Government</i>	2

Grand Total	10
--------------------	-----------

TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED IN NORTHEASTERN MONTANA



Strengths

What does this community do exceptionally well?

- Collaboration among counties
- Roosevelt and other counties have a fund for hotels
- Proactive victim services
- Streamlined process
- Collaborating with law enforcement
- Communication for safety reasons
- Navigating problems well and problem-solving together

What valuable resources exist for Valley County and the surrounding areas?

- Montana Highway Patrol and Border Patrol relationship
- Local church provides vehicles, but there are time issues
- MPO – assists with PFMA
- Law enforcement
- MDT – good meetings

Weaknesses

What could be done better?

- No SANE
- Lack of access to mental health
- Lack of funding

- Calls out of county
- Fiscal year end dilemmas
- Finding placement for youth, those with disabilities, and the elderly
- Court room delays
- Staffing
- Transportation
- Prosecution
- Accountability for the system
- No bed space, youth going out of town/state
- Law enforcement paying for train tickets
- Nearby community-based program only serves those living on the reservation
- Workloads
- Gap in services
- Law enforcement turnover
- Housing
- Cannot buy what is needed ahead of time for accounting reasons
- Specialized fields
- DOC and probation and parole's response

Opportunities

What opportunities do we have to do better?

- Getting justice for victims
- Creating safety for providers
- Rules and procedures for the whole state don't always work in rural communities
- More peer-to-peer support
 - More local peer-to-peer support
- Defining first responders
- Law enforcement follow-up
- Victim services in each county
- SANEs – a SANE mentoring program
- Availability of clothing after SANE exam
- Build on North Dakota collaborations
- Staggered grant cycles
- More local experts
- A shelter
- More advocates who are passionate about the work
- After school programs/Boys and Girls/clubs
- Passionate county attorneys
- Training for judges and attorneys
- Separate advocates and MDT

- More positions
- Childcare
- Consistent funding

Actionable Priorities

What can we do when we leave here today?

- Education on omegle
- Resources to set up transitions
- Steps on how to expand a program
- Annual roundtable – an opportunity to explore shared experiences
- An open forum for victim service providers
- An open forum for grant writers
- The victim network
- Dashboards

Conclusions Reached

Discussing victim services in communities across Montana allows us to determine where Montana is meeting the needs of victims of crime and survivors. The participants for the roundtable discussion in Glasgow represented far more than just the City of Glasgow and Valley County. Blaine, Daniels, and Sheridan County were all represented as well. However, what makes this part of Montana exceptional, is the dedication to providing services despite the sparse availability of resources. Northeastern Montana Victim Services operates out of the Glasgow Police Department but provides services to six surrounding counties. In our discussions, we learned about the relationships that have been formed with border patrol, local highway patrol, as well as providers in North Dakota.

The discussion in Glasgow highlighted the need for shelter services to support victims on the Northeastern side of Montana. As a community that also serves a tribal reservation, it is crucial to have culturally relevant services and service providers.

However, despite the isolation and lack of resources, these communities have come together to ensure that victims of crime and survivors have support throughout the process. Without the voices and wisdom of victim service providers, the voices of victims would not be heard in an offender-centric system.