

VICTIM SERVICES IN LIBBY, MT



6/1/2023

Montana Board of Crime Control State and
Tribal Victim Liaison Project

Data collected from a roundtable discussion with victim service providers who support Libby, Lincoln County, and the surrounding areas.

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MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL STATE AND TRIBAL VICTIM LIAISON PROJECT

PARTICIPANTS

Thank you to the graciousness of Flathead Valley College – Lincoln Campus for providing us with a location and snacks. Thanks to FVCC – LC, we were able to host multiple service providers who support survivors and victims. 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:

- Lincoln County Attorney's Office
- Lincoln County Crisis Solutions
- Sindy Filler LLC
- Lincoln County Treatment Court
- Montana Adult Protective Services
- CASA for Kids – Lincoln County

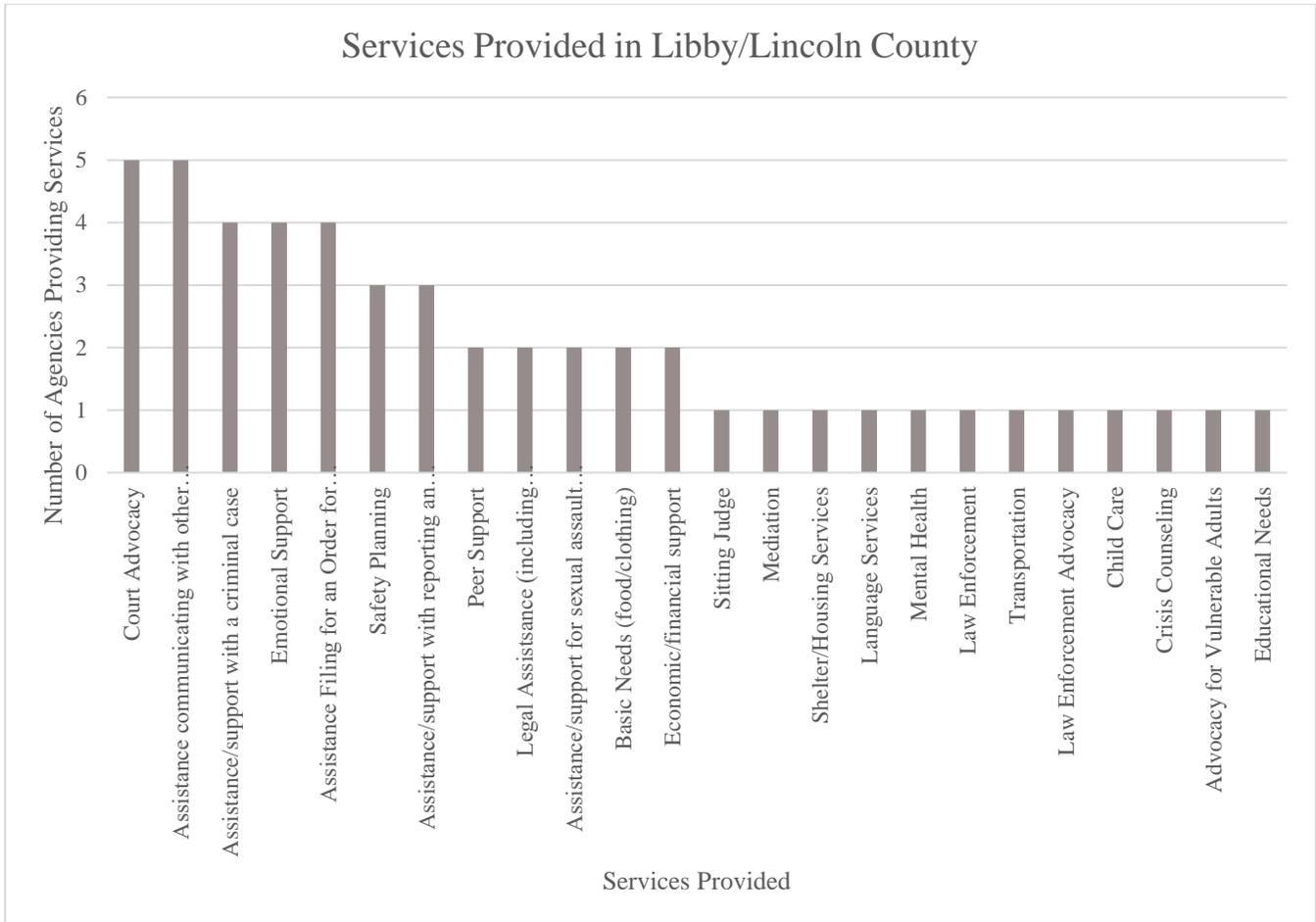
Services Represented

Service providers and allied partners for Libby, Lincoln County, and surrounding areas 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 50 services with many duplicates, as shown in the following lists and graphs:

<i>Court Advocacy</i>	5
<i>Assistance communicating with other agencies</i>	5
<i>Assistance/support with a criminal case</i>	4
<i>Emotional Support</i>	4
<i>Assistance Filing for an Order for Protection</i>	4
<i>Safety Planning</i>	3
<i>Assistance/support with reporting an incident to law enforcement</i>	3
<i>Peer Support</i>	2
<i>Legal Assistance (including divorce/custody)</i>	2
<i>Assistance/support for sexual assault examination</i>	2
<i>Basic Needs (food/clothing)</i>	2
<i>Economic/financial support</i>	2
<i>Sitting Judge</i>	1
<i>Mediation</i>	1
<i>Shelter/Housing Services</i>	1
<i>Language Services</i>	1
<i>Mental Health</i>	1
<i>Law Enforcement</i>	1
<i>Transportation</i>	1
<i>Law Enforcement Advocacy</i>	1

Child Care	1
Crisis Counseling	1
Advocacy for Vulnerable Adults	1
Educational Needs	1
Grand Total	50

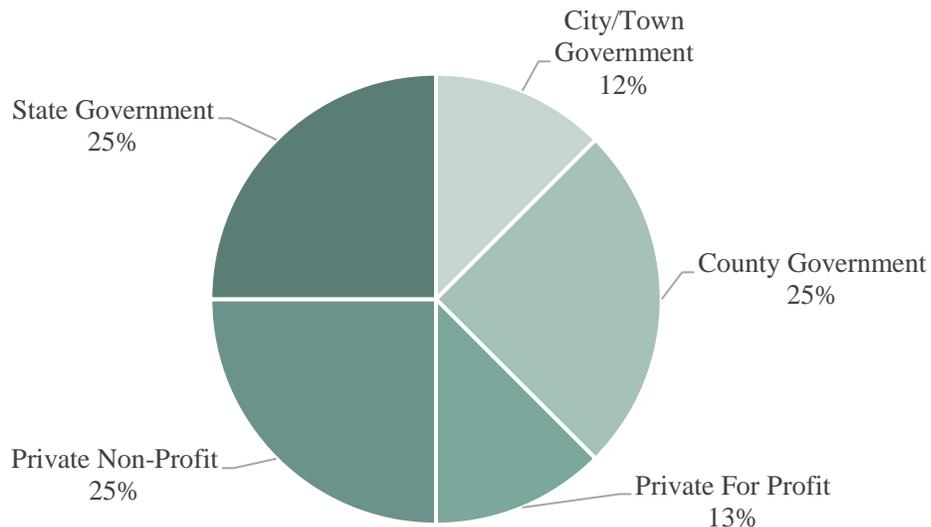


Types of Organizations Represented

The following data represents how the organizations and agencies identified their type of organization. This data outlines what agencies are providing services and derives from agencies supporting Libby and the surrounding communities.

City/Town Government	1
County Government	2
Private for Profit	1
Private Non-Profit	2
State Government	2
Grand Total	8

Types of Organizations Represented in Libby, MT



Strengths

What does Libby/Lincoln County do well?

- Collaboration
- Community
- Emergency response/ crisis response team
- Victim witness in the county attorney's office

What valuable resources exist?

- Volunteers and groups willing to help
- Unite for youth
 - Schools
 - Sports
 - Arts
- Victim services model
- Faith communities
 - Love, Inc

Weaknesses

What could be done better?

- Having a SANE Nurse near Libby
 - Currently, SANE is only available in Kalispell, Sand Point, and Missoula
 - Law enforcement does not transport, but there's no written policy in regard to transportation

- Develop a policy and procedure for victim referral throughout the system
- Everyone knows each other creating an old boys club
- County and community resources need updated

Opportunities

What opportunities do we have to do better?

- Connect services across counties or services that be provided virtually for communities that need services that are not available locally
- Better transportation
- A bench card or bench book that explains victim services
- A stabilization room that brings mental and CIT together
- You can only stay in your lane if you know what's going on and have the tools

Actionable Priorities

What can we do when we leave here today?

- Explore transportation options

Action Items:

- Tawny – research policies and procedures from other agencies in regards to transportation and the process of victim information being passed from law enforcement to local advocacy to court
- Zach – getting the others involved in MHC
- Create a list of all providers and the services they provide that is available both online and in print
- Tawny – get in touch with MLSA to provide a legal clinic on victims' rights, dissolutions, and parenting plans.
- Kathleen – assist others in getting on the jail roster list

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 discussion in Libby was a productive conversation that opened the collaboration of providers and allowed us to see what resources are available and where there is more need. Gaps we discovered included no policy or procedure available for victim information getting from law enforcement to the county attorney victim/witness coordinator. However, despite the identified gaps, there was also a lot of strength in this community through volunteers and existing collaborations.

Without the voices and knowledge of victim service providers, the voices of victims would not be heard in an offender-centric system.