

MONTANA METH PROJECT

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Montana Meth Project Selects Missoula Prevention Specialist Peg Shea as Executive Director

Statewide meth prevention effort selects proven leader to connect project to local communities

Missoula, Montana, September 20, 2005 – The Montana Meth Project today announced that drug prevention expert Peg Shea has been selected as executive director of the statewide project. Shea will be leaving her post as executive director of Western Montana Addiction Services to assume this new position at the beginning of October. She has been an integral part of the Montana Meth Project from its inception, as an original member of the project’s advisory council.

“Peg brings a wealth of knowledge and domain expertise to this project, and has been one of the primary architects of prevention strategy in the state over the past 10 years,” said Tom Siebel, Chairman of the Montana Meth Project. “She’s a passionate problem solver who knows how to mobilize the community and its resources—she’s the absolute right person for the job.”

A licensed social worker and addiction counselor, Shea is a drug prevention expert and has nearly 30 years of experience in counseling and addiction services. In her most recent position, she developed a variety of innovative adult and adolescent community-based addiction, prevention, and treatment programs, and managed more than 4 million dollars in county, state, and federal grant programs annually. In addition, Shea developed and managed school-based prevention programs and serves as a consultant for state, tribal, and community service providers.

“My commitment in taking this position is to focus all of my professional resources and experience toward one goal—prevention. Prevention involves many components, ranging from law enforcement, to education, down to a very local level where individual support from community members is key,” Shea said. “The Montana Meth Project is a very progressive and innovative concept—and a critical part of the broader equation.”

Shea has served on dozens of public service, nonprofit and government boards and committees on a local, state and national level, and is a founding member of the Missoula Forum for Youth and Family. She is currently a member of the State Provider Association for Addiction Services, member of the recent Governor’s Task Force on Drug Control Policies, and is a Federal Grant Reviewer. Shea has also played a key role in raising more than 10 million dollars in public and private funding for drug prevention and addiction services over the course of her career in Montana.

“Peg’s appointment is definitely a positive step for the Montana Meth Project,” said Montana Attorney General Mike McGrath. “She’s knowledgeable and talented, someone who can bring people together to get involved in the fight against methamphetamine use in Montana.”

About the Montana Meth Project:

Formed in February, 2005, the Montana Meth Project is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization based in Montana. The primary objective of the Montana Meth Project is to dramatically reduce first-time methamphetamine use among Montana teens, educating them early and often about the risks and consequences of using methamphetamine. The ultimate goal of this effort is to create positive, lasting change through a significant teen-focused media campaign focusing on prevention. The project also seeks to raise awareness about the scale, depth and critical nature of the methamphetamine problem in Montana, mobilizing a call to action in communities across the state to get involved. The project is funded by a grant from the Thomas and Stacey Siebel Foundation.

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