

Alpha House  
3109 1st Avenue North  
Billings, MT 59101  
406-259-9695

Passages  
1001 South 27th Street  
Billings, MT 59101  
406-294-9609

Misdemeanor Probation /  
Beta Jail Alternatives  
17 North 31st Street  
Billings, MT 59101  
406-256-3501

Carbon Beta Jail Alternatives  
PO Box 1652  
Red Lodge, MT 59068

Stillwater Beta Jail Alternatives  
PO Box 1050  
Columbus, MT 59019

info@altinc.net



*"Alternatives to the Corrections System"*

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# Alternatives, Inc.

## Quarterly Newsletter

Spring, 2016

**MISSION STATEMENT:** We promote public safety and challenge offenders to become responsible productive citizens through firm, fair, consistent supervision, treatment, and education.

### John Williams: New Alpha House Director - David O. Armstrong, Chief Executive Officer

Although Betty Ann Roan had excelled in her position for 28 years before retiring, it turned out we needn't have worried about finding a new Alpha House Director as we had many well qualified applicants. The interview process brought confirmation that there were exceptionally talented people within the organization and without willing to step in.

Ultimately, John Williams was offered the position and began his tenure as Director of Alpha House on January 1st. John has twenty-three years of experience in juvenile corrections and most recently as the Regional Administrator for Probation and Parole in Billings. He is well versed in MDOC policy and an advocate of evidence based practices. He has established relationships with local law enforcement, central office personnel, and with Probation and Parole staff. Not surprisingly, he has hit the ground running.

Alpha House is primarily a pre-release, or re-entry, center serving nearly two hundred male residential clients. The treatment component addresses addictions, criminal thinking, Partner or Family Member Abuse, and anger management. All two hundred offenders are employed requiring ongoing support for job seekers and employers. Residents are taught basic life skills, parenting, and budgeting. Public safe-

ty is promoted through security practices that mirror those in prisons. Contracts are held with the Montana Department of Corrections, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and the United States Probation Office. In short, the Alpha House is a complex operation that requires a well-rounded person to direct it.

A couple of John's character traits and personal beliefs set him apart. Experienced at managing offenders, who by virtue of histories of trauma and abuse, addiction, lower levels of educational attainment and limited work experience, face an uphill battle to re-enter the community, he still believes in the ability of people to change. John's expectation that a personal change can and will occur greatly increases the prospects for our clients. Secondly, John believes that offenders are deserving of respectful treatment as individuals. This does not mean that they are not to be held accountable. Alpha House has a stringent set of requirements for its clients, but the manner in which they are treated impacts their motivation to make changes.

John has the right mix of "firmness" and "fairness" to succeed as Director. Alternatives, Inc. and the Billings community are fortunate to have an experienced and talented professional taking the reins at Alpha House.

## Beta is Expanding - Amanda Green, Beta Jail Alternatives Supervisor



As the local jail populations of Montana continue to reach capacity, Beta Jail Alternatives works to serve clients and provide much needed jail alternative services to courts and clients.

Beginning in February of 2015, Beta began to answer requests to expand its community alternatives programs to two new counties and three additional referral sources. Roundup

City Court/Musselshell County Court and Big Timber City Court/Sweet Grass Justice Court began utilizing the SCRAM,

Remote Breath, and PharmChem patch technology. Managers from the Beta program have been traveling to these new locations to hook up clients and continue to manage the clients from their office site in Billings and Columbus. More recently, Carbon County District Court requested our Carbon Alternatives Manager to begin attending law and motion proceedings in an effort to use our available programs. Other counties and referral sources are being considered for future expansion as Beta looks to fill the need to keep appropriate offenders out of jail.

## Alpha House Recreation Program - Mick Charvat, Treatment Supervisor

The recreation program has developed over time into a diverse opportunity for the residents of Alpha House to engage in activities on and off the unit. The residents are required to complete one recreational activity and one hobby or craft their first ten weeks in the program. We provide a craft room for these events.

Now that there are numerous opportunities for the activities, several residents have signed up for these events. Some of the hobbies/crafts include:

- Leather working
- Stained glass
- Fly tying
- Stamp art
- Oil painting
- Wood burning
- Survival bracelets

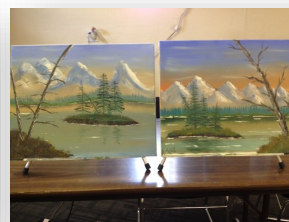
Some of the recreation events that residents have participated in include:

- Fishing
- Folf
- Golf
- Laser tag
- Football
- Hiking
- MSU-B Pow Wows



Alpha House covers the cost of all hobbies and crafts and the first recreational event up to \$20.

With this varied agenda, it is understandable why Alpha House often sees repeat requests for different events!



*Hobby/Craft Items crafted by residents of Alpha House*

## Jan Begger Named Chief Operating Officer for Alternatives, Inc. - David O. Armstrong, CEO



Jan Begger has assumed a greater role in the management of Alternatives, Inc. She retains her title as the Director of Passages but has added responsibilities as Chief Operating Officer. In this position she will direct operations of Passages and the Beta Jail Alternatives program, as well as assume duties as Alternatives' second ranking corporate officer.

Since joining Alternatives, Inc. in 1989, Jan has routinely developed new skills, added responsibilities and received promotions. She started as the Community Services Manager, has managed Beta previously, overseen the case management and treatment areas at Alpha House, and in her spare time became a Licensed Addictions Counselor. She took a brief "vacation"

from Alternatives, Inc. during which time she obtained a Masters in Management from the University of Mary before returning first as the Billings Assessment and Sanction Center (BASC) Liaison and then Director of Passages.

Under her guidance, Passages has grown to serve nearly 200 women each day. The program incorporates a pre-release center, assessment and sanction center, and a 60-90 day alcohol and drug treatment program. Passages serves as the short term care center for acute mental health issues and operates the Culinary Arts Program (CAP) which was Montana's first licensed pre-apprenticeship program.

Those who know Jan and her co-workers realize that with her assumption of new responsibilities it is not a question of "can she do it?", but rather "what's next?".

## Project ECHO - Mindy Brookshire, Lead Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor



Gina Poor, MS  
LAC/LCPC

Project ECHO is a telehealth collaboration between Billings Clinic, Rimrock Foundation and the Department of Corrections. Passages is excited to be the first participant in this first Project ECHO in Montana!

With this telehealth model, Passages clinical staff will be able to do case presentations with a professional team, which includes psychiatrists and other professionals, in an effort to provide more comprehensive mental health care to the residents at the Passages Program. Gina Poor, LAC/LCPC is the Passages Project ECHO coordinator

and will be presenting cases at a weekly web-based teleconference meeting, gaining input and hopefully also building valuable networking connections in Billings and around Montana.



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## Board of Directors

If you prefer to receive our publication via email, please contact  
Gwen Bryant at 406-294-9609 ext. 203 or [gbryant@altinc.net](mailto:gbryant@altinc.net)

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Check out our "new"  
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