

6. PUBLIC SERVICES

Richland County has an extraordinary range of community services and dedication by paid and volunteer staff. There are 293 Community-based organizations listed in the Richland County Community Database.

(http://www.richland.org/html/community_database.html)

Government

Local government consists of Richland County, and the incorporated city of Sidney and the incorporated town of Fairview. The County is a Commissioner form of government and both incorporated communities are Mayor/Council form of government.

The three local governments all have “general powers” of authority only, which means that they are limited to only those actions authorized by state law. State law does provide the option for local governments to be determined “self-governing,” which allows more flexibility. Only a few local governments in Montana are self-governing.

Law Enforcement

There is a good working relationship among the three law enforcement providers in the County—County Sheriff’s office, and the police departments of Sidney and Fairview. City of Sidney Police Department and County Sheriff’s Department occupy the same facility.

The Montana Board of Crime Control maintains records of all crimes reported in the state. The most recent data available are for 2004. Table 6.1 displays total crimes reported to the county sheriff, and Sidney and Fairview Police Departments. There were no data for the year 2002 in the state’s records for any of Richland County law enforcement, and none for Fairview Police Department in 2001 and 2004. Reports on the seven major offenses (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft) increased between 2000 and 2004, even without data from the Fairview Police Department in 2001 and 2004. Of the total 241 crimes categorized as seven major crimes in the entire county in 2004, 171 were reported to the Sidney Police Department. By comparison, at the height of the oil activity in 1980, Sidney had 337 reports of the seven major crimes. (Montana Board of Crime Control, 1983 Comprehensive Plan)

Table 6.1 Crimes Reported to Richland County Law Enforcement Agencies 1998-2004

	1998	1999	2000	2001*	2002	2003	2004*
Seven Major Offenses							
Offenses Against Persons	7	17	7	2	NR	12	16
Offenses Against Property	196	168	196	152	NR	206	225
Other Offenses	0	0	0	0	NR	0	0
Simple Assault	40	24	54	43	NR	34	28
Domestic Abuse	28	26	23	18	NR	18	16
Arson	2	1	3	0	NR	1	1
Forgery	12	2	6	8	NR	7	13
Fraud	51	56	41	46	NR	75	80
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	NR	0	0
Stolen Property	4	0	8	4	NR	13	0
Vandalism	128	154	117	115	NR	99	101
Weapon Law Violation	1	3	0	6	NR	2	4
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	NR	0	0
Sex Offense	19	12	6	14	NR	5	7
Drug Offense	34	33	36	11	NR	31	22
Gambling Offense	0	0	0	0	NR	0	0
Family Offense	3	4	8	8	NR	5	9
DUI	55	42	58	58	NR	57	39
Liquor Law Violation	121	167	142	118	NR	96	76
Disorderly Conduct	37	36	24	29	NR	34	14
Other	28	46	53	66	NR	108	98
Curfew	17	33	49	24	NR	27	19
Runaway	24	18	3	11	NR	3	1
Total All Offenses	807	842	834	733	NR	833	769

* No data was included for Fairview in 2001 and 2004

Source: Montana Board of Crime Control

Richland County Sheriff's Office

The Richland County Sheriff's Office operates the jail, dispatch center for the county, and provides law enforcement services for the communities of Crane, Lambert, and Savage and other unincorporated areas of the county.

The dispatch center is staffed by four employees who have completed the Montana Law Enforcement Academy's (MLEA) basic course in public safety communications. The dispatchers are also certified in the use of the Criminal Justice Information Network or CJIN. County dispatchers can contact fire, emergency medical, disaster and emergency services, game wardens, and highway patrol officers.

The jail is staffed by seven employees who have completed the basic course in detention at the MLEA. The employees are responsible for inmate custody, food services, and facility custodial duties. The jail can hold up to 17 inmates. Juvenile detainees can only be held temporarily--up to 24 hours. As of July 25, 2006 there were 175 outstanding warrants issued for crimes committed in the county.

Law enforcement personnel for the county consist of a sheriff, under-sheriff, and five deputies. Sheriff Brad Baisch reports that the number of calls his department responds to has been steadily increasing with the influx of energy industry workers. Current patrol staffing will not be adequate for an increase in population and criminal activity, but according to the sheriff, the dispatch and detention staffing levels will be adequate to handle some increase in activity. According to the sheriff, the types of calls he is receiving have not changed (primarily assaults, disorderly conduct, and theft), but the numbers have risen steadily. Sheriff Baisch also reports that while methamphetamine use is present, it appears to have leveled off. Manufacturing of meth seems to have moved elsewhere as evidenced by the recent reduction in the number of lab take-downs in Sidney and the county. A key difference between the current oil boom and previous booms is the fact that energy companies are now conducting drug testing of their employees. (Baisch)



The current facility is county-owned and was most recently remodeled in 1976-77. In general, the building does not comply with many existing codes or practices for this type of facility (Richland County Building Survey 2005) The jail has no natural light and no exercise yard—a

hardship for long-term inmates. Sidney currently makes a voluntary contribution to the county of \$8.50 per day for each of its inmates and pays for half of the total communications bill in lieu of rent on office space.

The county is proceeding with the design of a new law enforcement center to serve the county and Sidney. The proposed center would house up to 24 inmates. In addition to the cells, exercise area, offices for law enforcement personnel, adequate common space for squad rooms, evidence and records storage could be provided. There has been discussion of the potential for the law enforcement center to house a youth detention center (up to eight youth per week), and justice court and offices. Cost of construction is approximated at \$6-7 million, with funding coming from oil and gas tax revenues (Sidney Herald, May 31, 2006).

Sidney Police Department

The City of Sidney law enforcement staff consists of ten sworn officers and one civilian clerk. The city has a chief, assistant chief, lieutenant, sergeant, six patrol officers, a security officer, and a clerk. All officers are required to complete the 12-week basic training at the MLEA within one year of hire. The city has 24-hour protection.

Police Chief Frank DiFonzo indicates that this wave of oil development is generally quieter for law enforcement than what took place in the last boom. Most current calls are related to domestic violence and/or substance abuse. One problem for response is

the distance from one end of town to the other—the town has stretched out with various annexations, making it difficult to respond with the same number of officers that existed prior to annexations. The police department has had the same number of staff for the past 15 years. (DiFonzo) The influx of newcomers has resulted in a 33% increase in offenses, the Chief reported to the city council (Sidney Herald, June 25, 2006).

Fairview Police Department

The Fairview police department consists of four full-time sworn officers, up from two officers at the beginning of 2000. Three of the officers are paid by Fairview and the fourth officer was provided by Richland County for one year. The majority of offenses are alcohol and traffic-related. The Fairview police provide assistance to North Dakota law enforcement by responding in East Fairview and nearby area and holding suspects until North Dakota law enforcement arrive. (Sharbonno)

Fire Protection

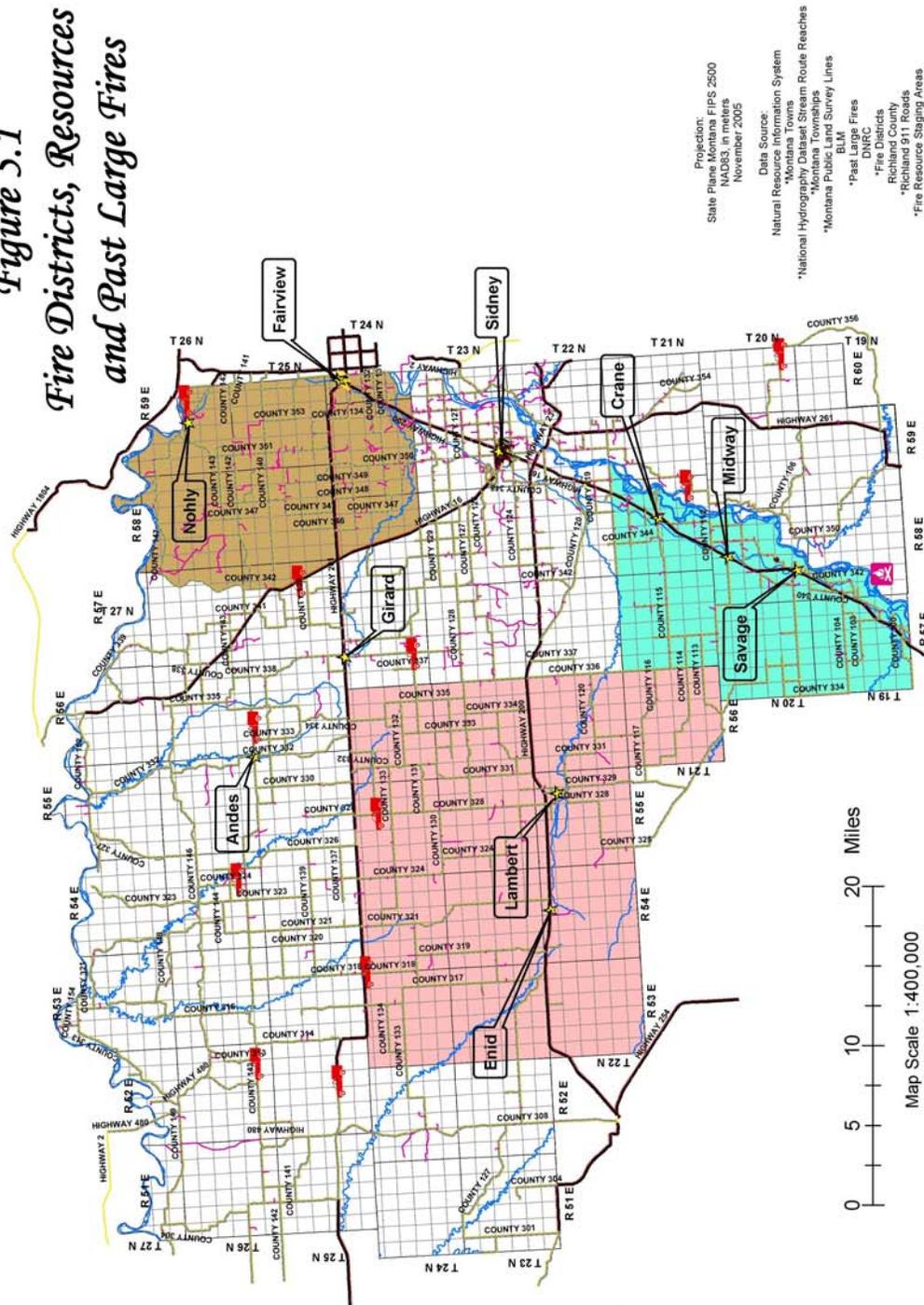
Four fire departments provide fire protection for Richland County. The fire marshal is the only full-time employee; all others are volunteer. The fire departments provide mutual aid as needed in Richland County as well as in western North Dakota. The departments have actively worked to obtain grants for equipment.

Table 6.2 Fire Departments in Richland County

	Capabilities	# Firemen	# calls per year	Equipment	Area
Sidney Fire Department	Structural, wildland, hazardous materials, and oil rig fires	32-34	95 (includes city-county fire, EMT response)	City: 3 engines; 1 equipment van County: 2 engines, 1 tanker, and 3 grass rigs	Serves both city and county areas; 13 stations located on farms/ranches across the county
Lambert Fire Department	Wildland fire	15-20	5-15	1 engine, 2 grass rigs, 1 tender truck, 1 BLM truck	Includes Lambert and Enid and surrounding areas
Savage Fire Department	Structural and wildland	28 (6 EMTs)	10-12	1 750 gallon pumper, 600 gallon pumper, 300 gallon grass rig, 600 gallon grass rig, 4,200 gallon tender truck, satellite grass rig and equipment van	Savage and surrounding area west of the Yellowstone River
Fairview Fire Department	Structural, wildland, basic life support and rescue services	19-24	40-60	3 engines, 1 tanker, 2 grass rigs, 1 multi-purpose water tanker, 1 equipment van	Fairview and surrounding area

Sources: Richland County Community Wildfire Protection and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, Richland Economic Development website, Tim Denowh

Figure 5.1
Fire Districts, Resources
and Past Large Fires



Map Legend

- ☆ Community
- Major Streams and Rivers
- Fire Resource Staging Area
- Past Large Fires
- Township / Range Boundaries
- Section Lines
- Fairview Fire District
- Lambert Fire District
- Savage Fire District
- Richland 911 Roads**
- Misc.
- State
- County
- Private

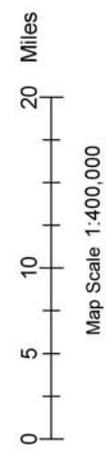
Projection:
State Plane Montana FIPS 2500
NAD83 in meters
November 2005

Data Source:
Natural Resource Information System
*Montana Towns
*National Hydrography Dataset Stream Route Reaches
*Montana Townships
*Montana Public Land Survey Lines

*Past Large Fires
DNRC

*Fire Districts
Richland County
*Richland 911 Roads
*Fire Resource Staging Areas

The map was created for fire and disaster planning only. Neither the county or the contractor will be responsible for any data inaccuracies associated herein.



The Fairview Fire Department responds to approximately 60 calls per year of which 30% are EMS Response calls, 13% are rescue, 10% are good intent or false alarms. According to Tim Denowh, Fire Chief, 60 calls per year is a high call volume for similar-size departments in eastern Montana and due in part to an increase in motor vehicle accidents. The Chief believes that the growth in oil activity, with more traffic and increased deterioration of the roads, has played a role in the rise of traffic accidents.

The Sidney Fire Department responds to fires in Sidney and throughout the county and has 13 equipment stations in various locations. The equipment at these stations is beginning to age and will need replacement. The Sidney Fire Department also needs to replace its 30-year old ladder truck. Equipment is needed to maintain the city's fire protection rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO rating). (Gilbert)

Health Care

Richland County Health Department

The Richland County Health Department provides a number of public health services. These include:

- services of the county sanitarian (septic system permits, routine inspections of food establishments and public accommodations)
 - Breast and cervical cancer screening for qualified individuals
 - Community emergency response team
 - Richland County Diabetes project
 - Family planning services
 - Immunizations
 - Tobacco Use Prevention Program
 - Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)
 - Public health home visits
- 
- Specialized Day Care Training
 - Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP)
 - Richland Health Network (collaboration among Richland County Health Department, Sidney Health Center, and Commission on Aging)
 - Health-related emergency preparedness (e.g., pandemics)

The Richland County Health Department has an extensive array of services compared to other rural counties of similar size in Montana. The Department has a staff of approximately 30 persons. (Boyer)

The County Health Department launched Communities in Action in 2005 to address health of the overall community in Richland County. The Health Department brought in

5-6 VISTA volunteers to assist on the project. Communities in Action defines health in the broadest sense possible including:

- Physical health (rates of disease, access to health care, etc.)
- Social health (strength of our community organizations, civic participation, etc.)
- Environmental well being (safety of our communities, pollution, etc.)
- Quality of life

Communities in Action was formed as a mechanism to unite local residents to ensure collaborative efforts in improving community health. There are three stages in the process:

1. Conduct a countywide assessment to determine what assets Richland County currently has and how we can build upon these assets.
2. Strategically plan how the community can best utilize assets and how to build new ones.
3. Assist Richland County in implementing a plan, developed from the assessment and the strategic plan, which will result in a healthier Richland County.

The process is intended as a continuous, sustainable cycle of assessment, planning and implementation.

As of the time the Richland County Growth Policy was prepared, the Communities in Action program had nearly completed the first phase. As part of that work, they had conducted a person-to-person survey of environmental issues, meetings in Sidney, Fairview, Lambert, Savage, and Girard, and a random sample telephone survey of residents throughout the county. Information from those surveys has been incorporated throughout this Growth Policy document. (Richland County Health Department website, Boyer, Burnett)

Hospitals, Clinics, Extended Care

The Sidney Health Center is a community-owned membership corporation. Lifetime membership in the corporation is \$100. The health center offers all the services of a full acute care hospital and has 25 beds. These services include emergency room, surgery, radiology, home care, hospice, clinic, cardiac rehabilitation, physical therapy, occupational and speech therapy, respiratory therapy. The Health Center employs 500 individuals. (www.sidneyhealth.org)

The physical plant was constructed in 1970 and has had several major remodels, in the 1980's and the mid-1990's. Major construction is planned for fall of 2006. The current construction project will provide a new emergency room and remodel the intensive care unit and patient rooms.

According to Chief Executive Officer, Rick Haraldson, the health center has the ability to care for the existing community and an increased population. Looking to the future, the biggest concern is recruiting physicians to a rural area. Due to quality of life, retention is generally not a problem once a physician elects to practice in the area. The health center is affiliated with the Miles City Community College which has a nursing program.

Nurses are able to complete their clinical practice at the health center. At present, there is no nursing shortage in Sidney, unlike many other parts of rural Montana. The MonDak clinic in Fairview is a satellite of the Sidney Health Center and was established in 1985.

Sidney Health Center and Veterans Service had a contract from 2000 to 2005 for a local Veterans (VA) clinic. When the contract expired in 2005, there was concern that the local clinic would be closed, as have many VA clinics across the nation. The next closest clinics would be in Miles City and Billings. The Montana VA office announced in April 2006 that the Sidney VA clinic would remain open but would be run by the VA instead of Sidney Health Center. (Sidney Herald, April 30, 2006)

The corporation also manages a 93-bed extended care facility and is affiliated with The Lodge at Lone Tree Creek, an assisted living facility with 33 residents.

Sunrise Manor is an assisted living facility in Savage with eight apartment units.

Senior Care

The Richland County Senior Coalition, with membership of more than 20 individuals representing local public and nonprofit organizations serving the elderly, works to address senior needs in Richland County. To this end, the Senior Coalition prepared the study, *Meeting the Needs of Richland County's Aging Population: Action Plan 2005-2010*. The plan includes more than a dozen projects from housing to companion programs.

Senior support service projects have grown considerably in Richland County. The home-maker assistance program, which provides housecleaning assistance for low income seniors increased from nine to 45 clients in the past year. (Aldren-Cutler)

Ambulance Services

The Richland County Ambulance Service is a county service operated by Sidney Health Center. What the county pays the hospital to operate this service makes up about 1/3 of the Ambulance Service's budget; the remainder comes from fees. The County buys/owns the vehicles and the hospital stocks them with all the equipment and supplies. The Ambulance Service has worked to keep newer vehicles, trying to replace them every three to five years.

Table 6.3 Ambulance Locations and Staffing

	EMTS	Ambulances	Location
Sidney	20	2 ambulances; 2006 and 2002 models	Sidney Health Center
Fairview	14	2003 model ambulance	City Garage/Shop
Savage	9	1998	Fire Department
Lambert	6	2000 ambulance	Fire Department

Sources: Renders, Richland Economic Development website

There are approximately 50 nationally registered emergency medical technicians (EMTs), all volunteers, located in Sidney, Fairview, Savage, and Lambert. Butch Renders, Ambulance Services Coordinator in June 2006, indicated that Sidney receives about 90 percent of the county's ambulance calls, Fairview receives the second most calls, followed by Savage and Lambert.

The number of ambulance calls is on the increase and is due to more trauma injuries, particularly traffic accidents and more elderly-related emergencies. Calls over the past five years averaged 460 annually.

Table 6.4 Ambulance Calls	
Year	Calls
2005	502
2004	516
2003	438
2002	382
2001	465
2000	389
1999	361
1998	349
1997	377
1996	235
1995	357
1990	333
1985	307
1981	468

Source: Renders

Renders identified several emergency-related issues of concern, including difficulties of accessing patients (e.g., condition of roads and driveways, stairwells and hallways that are too narrow or with other constraints for accessing and carrying patients to the ambulance), difficulties of recruiting volunteers, and increasing distance between where volunteers may be at home or at work and the location of the ambulance (which increases the time for response).

Disaster and Emergency Services

Richland County has a Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) Coordinator. The DES Coordinator is responsible for the Local Emergency Operations Plan and oversaw the completion of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan in 2005-2006. The DES Coordinator also worked on completion of the county's emergency 911 system, scheduled to be completed in Fall 2006. The E-911 system requires a complete rural addressing system for the county. Once the rural addressing is in place, the E-911 can provide for automated phone calls to addresses in an emergency or evacuation situation.

Education

Educational facilities in Richland County are schools with highest grade at 12. The closest college is Dawson Community College in Glendive.

Generally, student population is on the decline in Richland County. The smallest school is Brorson with eight students in the 2005-2006 school year, but the population of that school has been known to have wide fluctuations in the past. Only Rau school, of all the public schools, showed an increase in student population. This is due in part to students who leave the Sidney school system (but who remain residents of the Sidney school

district) to attend the Rau school. The decrease in students at the Sidney school and the increase in students at Rau school is therefore somewhat overstated. (Staffanson)

Table 6.5 Change in School Enrollment 1998-1999 to 2005-2006

	1998-99 Enrollment	2000-2001 Enrollment	2005-2006 Enrollment	%Change 1999-2006	Notes
Sidney					
West Side Elementary (K-2)	315	304	531		Included K-5 in 2005-2006
Central Elementary (3-6)	416	313			Facility closed for elementary in 2005-2006
Sidney Junior High (7-8)	255	238	195		Junior High was 6- 8 in 2005-2006
Total Sidney (K-8)	986	855	726	-26%	
Sidney High School (9-12)	495	458	419	-15%	
Rau School	76	54	81	+7%	5 miles SE of Sidney
Fairview Elementary (K-8)	157	159	152	-3%	
Fairview High School (9-12)	113	106	99	-12%	
Lambert	123 (total)	105 (total)	48 (K-8) 36 (9-12) 84 (total)	-39% (total)	
Savage	171	157	62 (K-8) 48 (9-12) 110 total)	-61%	
Brorson Elementary	28	28	08	-71%	Has been known to fluctuate in past
Liberty Christian (private school)	19	25	16 (K-8) 7 (9-12)	+21%	

Sources: Richland County Economic Handbook 1999, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2002, Staffanson (personal communication 2006)

Museums and Cultural Resources

There are two museums in Richland County. The Lambert Museum is located in Lambert and contains a considerable collection of pioneer artifacts. The MonDak Heritage Center and Art Gallery is located in Sidney and includes a research library, homesteader museum in with a Montana pioneer street scene, and art gallery. The Center holds six major art shows each year and provides space for musical recitals, seminars, learning opportunities.

Sidney is a member of the Northeastern Arts Network—which arranges for five events per year to come into the towns of Chinook, Malta, Sidney, and Glasgow. The Network develops a program book for the year for these five live performance events. The performances are held at Sidney Junior High. The goal is to reach the underserved. Season's tickets are \$30. The Network also arranges for performances at area schools in addition to the main performance. Candy Markwald, local representative of the

Northeastern Arts Network, indicated that the second story location of the auditorium in the junior high makes it difficult to set up stages for the performances. (Markwald)

Other major festivals and events in Richland County include the Sunrise Festival of the Arts (Sidney), Fairview Old Timer's Reunion and Festival, and the Richland County Fair.

Library

The Sidney Public Library is funded through city and county tax dollars as well as private donations, and state and federal grants. The Library is administered by a five-member Board of Trustees with representatives from both the city and county.

The existing building was completed in 1966 with an addition built in 1985. The building is owned by Richland County and also houses Civil Defense rooms, meeting room, and offices of County Disaster and Emergency Services.



The library has a collection of books, newspapers and periodicals, videos, books-on-tape, and large print materials. The library provides public access Internet terminals and computers for public use, reference services, inter-library loan, story-time, summer reading programs, literacy programs, and homebound delivery.

A high percentage of residents use the library. The library is expanding its "Every Child Ready to Read" program (birth-4) especially to daycare

facilities and is working collaboratively with other organizations on a family resource center. Many people have used the library for distance education classes. Staff helps to facilitate these classes as well as proctor for tests. (Goss)

Social Services

The following comprehensive list of social services is excerpted from the Senior Coalition's Action Plan 2005-2010. The Senior Coalition is a collaborative effort of approximately 20 different social organizations providing services to the elderly and disabled in Richland County.

Area I Agency on Aging: The AAA serve as an advocate for programs for the elderly and works with local County Councils on Aging to coordinate services such as: transportation, skilled nursing, health screening, congregate meals, home-delivered meals, etc. Direct services provided by AAA are Senior

Companion Program, information and assistance, insurance counseling and Certified Long-term Care Ombudsman.

Caring 65: Open to anyone 65 or older, who carries Medicare Part A and B insurance. Services include a coordinator to assist seniors with their medical bills, a 20% discount on Sidney Health Center inpatient services unpaid balances after all insurance has paid, free blood pressure and blood sugar testing at Sidney Health Center, free notary public service from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday.

Golden Bridge Care: Supervised geriatric day program offering meals, activities, hair care, grooming and spas.

Experience Works: Job opportunities for age 55 and up. Experience Works pays 100% of the wages.

Health Literacy: Help seniors complete Universal Health History. Patient worksheet can be found and downloaded from the Richland County web page at www.richland.org.

Home and Community Based Services: Individuals served must be Medicaid eligible. Program provides case managers to coordinate services to help individuals remain in their home, such as home modification, personal care assistance, homemaking and transportation.

Home Health: Skilled services by Registered Nurse, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist and Social Worker. Services are on an intermittent, part time basis. Services must be ordered by a physician. Medicare and Medicaid patients must be Homebound.

Home Care Services: Personal care services and housekeeping provided for individuals in their homes. Available 7 days a week. Services are reimbursed by various sources, including Medicaid and private pay. Sidney Office serves Richland, Dawson, Roosevelt and Sheridan counties.

Richland County Commission on Aging: Home delivered meals, congregate meals, transportation, legal assistance, senior centers and health promotion.

Richland Health Network/Diabetes Self-Management Program: Available for Richland County citizens age 45 or older. Provides advocacy and health education through programs promoting senior diabetic health.

R.S.V.P (Retired Senior Volunteer Program): R.S.V.P serves Richland and McCone Counties providing adults 55 and over, service opportunities in the community. Volunteering enhances social participation while matching personal interests and experience to community-based projects.

Senior Companion Program: This program offers seniors age 60 and older the opportunity to serve as companions to other adults. Senior Companions determine what services they will provide based on their levels of interest.

Sidney Health Center Extended Care: Full range of specialized geriatric services including short-term respite stays, Adult Day Care, rehabilitation, 24-hour skilled nursing care, Dementia and Hospice care. Use of Adaptive Bathing units also available.

Crestwood Support Services: Service Coordinators at Crestwood Inn provide information and assistance by linking seniors to support and/or medical services provided public agencies or private practitioners within the community to ensure the elderly and disabled remain independent.

Richland Opportunities Inc.: Provides support services to men and women with disabilities in their community, such as, community living skills, residential options, janitorial work crews, job placement, employment and vocational training through the production of goods and services, support coordination of community services, and senior day program.

Richland County Health Department: A public health department with general health information and basic public health services. The programs available to seniors may vary depending on funding availability and state mandates are as follows: Influenza Vaccination Clinics in the Fall; Pneumonia vaccine available year-round; Tetanus Diphtheria available year-round.

The Fire & Fall Prevention Program: This program allows visits to homes in Richland County to test smoke alarms and install new ones if needed for free. The program also helps people learn ways they can help prevent falls in their home.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program: This program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

The Chronic Disease Management Program: This program seeks to help people with chronic disease live the best life possible as well as to help prevent chronic diseases. Current help available includes: A 6-week Chronic Disease Self-Management class; limited home visiting nurse services for older adults; Diabetes Project; Information about local resources & support for people with chronic disease; and, Other chronic disease support, depending on current programs

Sidney Health Center Hospice Care: A specialized concept of care designed to provide comfort and support to individuals and their families when life-limiting illnesses no longer respond to cure-oriented treatments.

Sidney Health Center Respite Short Stay: This program provides a temporary (up

to five (5) consecutive days, plan for relief care of individuals (of all ages who are disabled), who are cared for at home. These services are provided at the Sidney Health Center, Extended Care and includes: Meals, Snacks, Socialization, Scheduled Activities, Relaxation, Spa Baths, Medication Assistance, Assistance with Personal Care, 24-Hour Nursing Services, Spa Bath or Shower, Hair Perm, Nail Care, and, Extra Meal for a Small Fee.

Sidney Health Center: Sidney Health Center is a succession of healthcare services, provided by a single organization, meeting the healthcare needs of the communities its serve. Sidney Health Center offers an array of healthcare services for all age groups, under all kinds of medical circumstances.

Healthworks: A fitness and wellness facility that offers a broad scope of health enhancement programs for people of all ages. These programs are provided with the professionalism and expertise only a hospital-based facility can offer. Healthworks features an indoor walking/jogging track, basketball court, racquetball courts, free weights, cybex and nautilus weight machines and aerobic floor. The cardio area includes treadmills, stair steppers, rowing machines, elliptical trainer and stationary bikes.

Montana Breast & Cervical Health Program: This program provides mammograms & pap tests for qualified women over 50, who are underinsured or have no health insurance and meet income guidelines. Services include: yearly mammograms and clinical breast exams, regular pap tests and pelvic exams, diagnostic services for abnormal tests and referral to cancer treatment program if necessary.

Eastern Montana Mental Health Center: This Center offers the following services: Outpatient Therapy — With the support of a therapist, areas of concern will be identified and responsive treatment plans established; Day Treatment is available to all persons within the Richland County area who have a serious mental illness, such as depression, schizophrenia and/or anxiety/panic disorder. Medication Management – medication assessment and management services are available to Mental Health Center clients through a Psychiatric Nurse Specialist. Case Management — Adults with emotional, behavioral and mental disorders can access available Case Management services. Among it's many programs, transportation, advocacy, crisis intervention, financial management and coordination with other facilities.

Richland County Office of Public Assistance: Improving and protecting the health, well-being and self-reliance of residents. Services include: food stamps, medical assistance, cash assistance, employment supports, emergency assistance and other related services, such as referrals for assistance with child care, child support, housing, heating/utility assistance, telephone assistance, Medicaid travel-related costs, voter registration, supplemental security incomes, vocational rehabilitation, employment services, Head Start, Montana Legal Services, Social Services.

Social Security Administration: Assistance with all Social Security programs.

Other social services include:

Richland County Food Bank

Action for Eastern Montana. Located in Glendive, this program provides housing assistance, fuel assistance, and weatherization programs.

Youth Dynamics, Inc., 421 3rd Ave. SW., Sidney

Media

There are two newspapers in Richland County-- The *Sidney Herald-Leader* and the *Roundup*. Radio Stations in Sidney include KEYZ-KYYZ-KTHC-KGCX. Television stations local to the area include KUMV-TV Williston, and KXMD-TV, Williston and PBS broadcasting out of Williston.

Conclusions and Projected Trends

Richland County has a number of leaders actively addressing a comprehensive array of service issues. The county has an impressive list of organizations and activities. The Public Health Department has taken a strong, visible lead with the Communities in Action program, which is taking a long-term approach to overall health (including environmental and quality of life issues) in the county. The Senior Coalition is moving forward with an action plan to address senior issues.

Recent expansion of oil development and related increase in non-resident workers and new residents has created some additional burden on law enforcement and emergency responders, but the clear indication from locals is that the impact is not nearly as dramatic or severe as it was in the last oil boom.

School populations are decreasing throughout the county. At the same time, schools are beneficiaries of oil and gas tax revenues amounting to millions of dollars each year. The projection is for those revenues to continue for 10-15 years into the future. This potentially creates a dilemma for the schools, which have considerable limitations for how much money can be set aside in reserve accounts for future needs.

The county has exceptional health care services. Sidney is a regional health care center providing services to patients for a broad multi-county area. Few counties with populations of 10,000 or less have full hospitals, such as the Sidney Health Center. Nationwide, it is difficult to attract and retain health care professionals in rural locations. The Sidney Health Center continues to expand facilities and services.

Health care needs are likely to increase in the future with increasing numbers of seniors and national trends for persons of all ages to have obesity-related health issues (including diabetes).