**Reaching Out: Spotlight on Laramie**

*MSW Student Amber Donais gives overview of RecoveryLaramie.org website*

**MSW Student Community Awareness Initiative Promotes Substance Abuse Recovery in Laramie**

*Reaching Out: Spotlight on Laramie*, was an MSW student initiative project held at the Albany County Library on September 13th, 2014. The event introduced a new community resource [recoverylaramie.org](http://recoverylaramie.org) sponsored by the University of Wyoming's Division of Social Work and research gathered by MSW student Amber Donais. The event was developed as an outreach for law enforcement, treatment professionals, support groups and individuals in the Laramie community to support awareness community connectedness, help identify community concerns and the negative impact from substance abuse to support recovery. Presentations were provided by, Commander Mitchell Cushman of the City of Laramie Police Department, Desi Salmons of Ivinson Hospital Behavioral and Mental Health department, Stephanie Bachtelle of University of Wyoming's Counseling Services and the Aware Program, Teresa
Jacobs-Castano of the Clinic of Mental Health and Wellness; and members from 12 step programs Alcoholics Anonymous; Al-Anon; and Narcotics Anonymous.

Areas of concern for the Laramie community were severity of alcohol abuse and more recent trends of abuse and overdose from prescription medications, marijuana and heroin. Current treatment is focused on empowering individuals and strengthening both individual and family support systems. The Reaching Out: Spotlight on Laramie event, was informative, and allowed insight to the problematic issues facing law enforcement, treatment providers and the community. The focus of the event was to embrace local agencies and organizations directly involved with individuals and families supporting positive life changes, which are necessary for individual recovery process.