Jan. 6 panel urges Trump prosecution with criminal referral

By KATHRYN HOGUHTON

A Montana addiction clinic’s plan to give people with substance use disorders as much as $1,266.50 in gift cards and vouchers to follow through on treatment programs is raising questions about the use of financial incentives with patients. The top of her overall effective but largely unregulated tool is playing out in the northwestern Montana town of Kalispell, where a local government grant is financing rewards for people who stick with treatment provided by the outpatient clinic, Chryssian.

Such incentives have gained momentum among individual health clinics and states in recent years. Since 2021, California, Washington, and Wisconsin have started incentive-based programs. Some private clinics offer their own rewards, such as giving patients gift cards for successfully passing a urinalysis.

In Montana, where Republican Gov. Greg Gianforte has made expanding behavioral health care a priority, a state pilot program offers prizes to people with addictions who stop taking drugs. Chryssian’s program, which is funded by a government grant, is separate from the pilot programs.

The allowable value of prizes that go to beneficiaries of federal health programs, like Medicaid, is a legal gray area, so totals vary from one program to the next. The federal government doesn’t have a rule limiting the size of financial awards or guidelines defining best practices, said Richard Rawson, professor emeritus in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

“People don’t know where to look to understand this method, so states and providers make it up as they go,” he said. Gianforte, who has studied such incentives for about 20 years, said in June, Montana’s Flathead County awarded the Kalispell clinic, Chryssian, a $500,000 grant funded by state alcohol tax revenue.
Bozeman Daily Chronicle

Complaint/from A1

Of that money, $360,000 is earmarked for incentives for participants to complete treatment, according to the clinic’s proposal. It proposed that over a 20-week treatment period, participants could earn as much as $1,966.50 in gift cards or vouchers. In Oxytocin’s program, a client has six citations and seeks to earn incentives by passing tests and attending treatment. The dollar amount may vary with consecutive successes. The county chose Oxytocin from among five clinics that applies that class of substance use treatment funding. By November, at least one complaint had been filed with state agencies accusing Oxytocin of committing Medicaid fraud by paying its clients — most of whom are Medicaid enrollees — through the program. -25/-50/c

MSU/from A2

“We also had a bunch of paperwork from NASA saying that it was NASA-owned property,” said LaMeres. “The worry was that it was airport security did shut the runway down and made them lose their flight.”

The research team hopes the results of the moon landing will make RadPC Normal for year 20.03

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Precipitation:

Normal month to date   0.65

We are seeing new Ice conditions. Snow

Normal to date   19.65

Normal to date   19.65

Normal year to date   19.65

Normal year to date   19.65

Normal to date   19.65

Normal to date   19.65

Normal to date   19.65

Normal to date   19.65

Normal to date   19.65

Normal high   31

Normal low   23

Normal average   29


“Programs that involve giving remuneration to encourage treatment may result in overutilization, increased costs, steering to particular providers who offer services outside of their area of expertise or without a license, and federal government covers, such as Medicare or Medicaid,” said Oxytocin’s clinical director Pamela Lic-...