

From: Faye ReidelbachSlice <PICOUT@outlook.com>
To: <jaildiversion@missoulacounty.us>
Cc:
Date: Wed, 27 Apr 2016 14:39:09 +0000
Subject: Pretrial holding for lack of bail resources

All non-violent offenders should be afforded an "Own Recognizance (OR) Release" pending disposition of charges. By keeping poor people in jail for lack of bail, this creates a burden on the community in direct jail costs for persons who would otherwise be in the community supporting themselves and their families. They would be more likely to maintain their employment, housing, family commitments, which would otherwise be impossible while incarcerated.

Pretrial holds are also a punitive measure used by the court's and county's attorney to illicit speedier plea agreements from the accused, who may only be pleading to charges in order to salvage employment, housing, families, etc.

The elimination of bail for non-violent offences would reduce jail capacity needs, save taxpayer dollars, and ensure fairness in the judicial process, which is routinely denied to poor people.

From: Jennifer Pinto <jennifer@echoechomt.com>
To: <jaildiversion@missoulacounty.us>
Cc:
Date: Fri, 29 Apr 2016 10:44:23 -0600
Subject: Jail Diversion Master Plan comment
I support this movement and here is why.

I am a parent of a person in crisis. I have observed years of human potential being wasted for lack of appropriate help. My "person" is not high-risk ... yet. However, without appropriate help, he will break. We need help now, instead of an escalating record of misdemeanors. I don't want a "get out of jail free" card, but rather, an educated cooperative system that will understand and help heal ill people.

After reading the Jail Diversion Master Plan, I have some suggestions I noticed lacking in the initiative. Here are two of them.

Allow family support. Some people want to help their person. We know that tests don't reveal everything. Family, friends and associates do have a lot to contribute to understanding the individual in crisis and the healing process. We need to figure out a way to incorporate this support group.

Incorporate the University of Montana into the plan. The University should be included and held responsible. They should become part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

Finally, If there is a place for me to help on this issue, COUNT ME IN.

J. Pinto

From: Jerry Covaul <xmyecho@bigsky.net>

To: <jaildiversion@missoulacounty.us>

Cc:

Date: Fri, 6 May 2016 12:59:49 -0600

Subject: Re: new policy

Dear Sheriff,

I support a new common sense policy for the jail over flow because it is the right thing to do. It is very timely to get on this bandwagon. This problem has been addressed in other states and there are encouraging statistics on the recidivism rate.

Since the doors of mental health facilities closed in the '80's, nothing replaced it, but rather a "gotcha" system for mentally unsteady people to trip on. It looks cheap ... "just jail them!" ... but costs alot ... WE can't afford this error ... neither financially, nor can the lives involved survive without help.

We have been enlightened by Pope Francis to "build bridges instead of walls", which is equally applicable in this situation.

A new policy needs to be defined by several groups of society. The PEOPLE, the Courts, the education community, the officers on the beat, and the University of Montana all need to participate with contributions that show understanding of the complex and serious facets of this greatly needed change. Old hard "one size fits all" rules don't cut it.

Procrastinators need to contribute their excuses for stalling, for discussion. My position is: "Be not the first on whom the new is tried, nor the last to set the old aside."

It's TIMELY ... NOW is the time. Make and implement policy to use jails for real criminals. Sort out the misdemeanor offenders for appropriate therapy and healing.

Sincerely,
Lois Covault

From: Erin Kautz <ekautz@missoulacounty.us>

To: <jaildiversion@missoulacounty.us>

Cc:

Date: Tue, 17 May 2016 09:44:36 -0600

Subject: Jail Diversion Ideas

Hi all,

Just a point of clarification, on page 22, this sentence:

Ravalli County opened "West House" in 2011, comprised of four emergency crisis mental health detention beds. Funding sources included the state and the Montana Mental Health Trust Fund

West House has 2 emergency detention beds, plus an isolation room (no bed) on the involuntary side and 4 beds on the voluntary side (not for emergency detention).

Thanks!
Erin

Erin Kautz
Grants Administrator
--HOME Program and HB 33
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[406-258-4904](tel:406-258-4904)

From: ERLYIRN 54 <erlyirn@hotmail.com>
To: <jaildiversion@missoulacounty.us>
Cc:
Date: Fri, 3 Jun 2016 12:50:48 -0600
Subject: Jail Diversion Ideas

Revolving door slap and go justice. If people know they won't have to do any jail time what is there to keep them from being repeat offenders?

“These types of offenses explored here primarily consist of property crimes, drug crimes, traffic offenses including DUIs, and crimes against public order.”

I read the Sunday crime report every week and the majority of those reported are property crimes. Smash and grab from cars, B&E from homes and various malicious property destruction. So as I understand the proposal these people will be basically put back into the public to possibly repeat again because they will not do any jail time. I feel so much safer.

I have a family member who falls into this category. For the last 20 years this person has been in drug treatment 5 times, Deer Lodge 3 times, prerelease 6 times and the pattern is usually the same each time. Theft of property, pawn or sell to friends drug use and repeat over again and again. He has stolen from me and other family members and I don't expect this to change when he gets a final release. I am seriously considering security measures at my home to protect my property in my absence after his release and in light of the jail diversion proposal this would include others like him that Missoula County would turn loose. Given the high number of property crimes I am quite surprised there hasn't been another incident like that one that happened in Grant Creek and I think it is only a matter of time before it happens again especially if this slap and go justice happens.

Greg Tollefson
136 Arrowhead
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