

1. **Please explain how and why you selected your team members for the National Summit.*** Team members were selected due to their passion and commitment to matters related to mental illness and jail diversion, and include elected officials and subject matter experts. Our selected elected officials, County Commissioners Jean Curtiss and Nicole “Cola” Rowley and Sheriff TJ McDermott, possess the authority necessary to make fiscal and policy decisions that affect the county’s interaction with the criminal justice system. Missoula County levies monies annually to support mental health services and Commissioner Curtiss is on the applicant review board for this funding. Commissioner Curtiss also sits on the accomplished Western Montana Mental Health Board. Sheriff McDermott and Commissioner Rowley took office concurrently and immediately began working together to affect positive change in the detention center and explore and enhance diversionary efforts by designating personnel, forming an advisory board and steering committee, commissioning a City/County Jail Diversion Master Plan, and receiving a feasibility study grant to address jail overcrowding.

Our team also includes subject matter experts with on-the-ground experience: the executive director of Western Montana Mental Health Center (WMMHC) Missoula Adults and Western Montana Addiction Services (WMAS), Katherine Issacson, LCPC, CMHP, as well as Deputy County Attorney Jessica Simons who is part of the Mental Health Crisis Team and works on involuntary commitments. WMMHC and Missoula County have partnered to provide mental health services in the Missoula County Detention Facility (MCDF). We feel that our team possesses the leadership, expertise, and collaborative spirit necessary to accomplish the goals for our community and detention center.

2. **Why is your team interested in attending the National Summit?*** We are interested in absorbing as much information as we can from the Summit and other attending jurisdictions as well as seeking guidance on successful implementation of initiatives. In Montana we can become somewhat isolated from the innovation and progress being made around the country, and we would like to reconnect with and draw from that national pool. While Missoula is a small jurisdiction nationally, it is large for Montana. We make every attempt to be a leader for our state and to offer help to other jurisdictions that may look to us for guidance on a successful program. In fact, WMMHC currently serves 17 counties in Montana and could build on successes realized in Missoula. Not only would attendance at the Summit provide us with valuable outside

education and direction, it would internally provide our diverse team unprecedented time to focus and collaborate on this issue.

3. **How will participation in the National Summit strengthen your county's efforts to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in your jail? Please identify one or two specific goals that your county would like to accomplish.*** As we have delved deeper into both mental health and incarceration issues, we have identified many areas of improvement for our jurisdiction. Information gathered at the Summit will help our team garner yet a deeper understanding of the issues facing communities, and help us focus and prioritize our efforts to better assist individuals with mental illness in our justice system. Our county has begun moving towards evidence and data-based practices and policy-making. This issue represents our first attempt to implement the practice with fidelity and we require the knowledge and wisdom available in the field in order to be successful. While we are still working on measurable outcomes, our goals include:

- Increase diversion from the detention center and emergency room with law enforcement training and community partnerships;
- Increase capacity for care of individuals with mental illness at the detention center;
- Reduce recidivism for individuals with mental illness;
- Implement evidence based practices;
- Involve family members in treatment;
- Establish a peer program for crisis response.

As demonstrated above and with more specifics in the following question, Missoula County has been working hard to address the issue of mental illness in our detention center. We have all the players in place and have laid a foundation, but are seeking help in focusing, prioritizing, and implementing effective, outcome-driven efforts. We aspire to attend the Summit to help our team take these crucial steps. Thank you for providing the opportunities offered through participation in the Stepping Up Initiative and for your consideration of our application.

4. **What activities (if any) has your county engaged in over the last year (or since you passed your Stepping Up resolution or proclamation) to help reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in your jail?***

Beginning in April of 2015, Missoula County partnered with Western Montana Mental Health (WMMHC) for a full-time licensed therapist to serve inmates at the detention facility. With assistance from Lt. Sheryl Ziegler, a newly appointed Jail Diversion Lieutenant, the Jail Therapist provides screening for mental health needs, individual and group therapy, suicide and risk assessments, and limited case management. The position also provides consultation for detention center officers, quarterly officer training, and is a fundamental part of jail diversion efforts. In Fiscal Year 2015, she provided services to 485 unduplicated inmates in over 2000 contacts. MCDF has also begun the use of a mental health screening tool upon booking. In December 2015, WMMHC in partnership with another local mental health center, was awarded a grant to fund a full time Case Manager and a part-time Peer Support to continue assisting mentally ill inmates during their incarceration and to provide needed support and linkage as they return to the community. Another grant was received to perform a feasibility study for emergency detention beds.

In the fall of 2014, Missoula County established a formal Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program. In October of 2015 a two day refresher was held for various law enforcement and we will have the first 40 hour workshop in April 2016. In June 2015, SAMHSA facilitated a Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) workshop addressing jail diversion for people with co-occurring disorders in Missoula. Participants included law enforcement, mental health agencies, County Commissioners, the County Attorney's office, two judges, and other stakeholders. Currently, a Jail Diversion Master Plan is in development, and agency representatives meet once a month to discuss crisis mental health jail diversion as part of the Justice Alliance for Behavioral Health as well as participating in Missoula's Local Advisory Council (LAC). These meetings help to facilitate communication among agencies and foster relationships.