

RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 171

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE JAIL DIVERSION MASTER PLAN AS A GUIDING DOCUMENT TO DETERMINE FUTURE EFFORTS THAT ADDRESS JAIL OVERCROWDING.

WHEREAS, the Missoula County Detention Facility is frequently overcapacity with respect to the number of persons incarcerated, which potentially causes undesirable strains on the facility as well as the occupants; and

WHEREAS, many incarcerated persons are in need of rehabilitation, treatment, counseling, or community support services that are difficult to offer in the Missoula County Detention Facility; and

WHEREAS, many persons incarcerated in the Missoula County Detention Facility have life status conditions or experiences that cause them to be a member of one or more potentially vulnerable populations, including poverty, homelessness, mental illnesses, chemical or alcohol dependency, childhood trauma, learning disabilities, or being a member of a racial minority group; and

WHEREAS, the Missoula City-County Jail Diversion Master Plan was drafted, proposed, and revised as part of a months-long process that included many public meetings as well as consultation with stakeholders from the criminal justice, mental health, and Native American communities; and

WHEREAS, many people arrested and incarcerated in the Missoula County Detention Facility during 2015 were booked on nonviolent offenses; and

WHEREAS, it was reported that the average number of days that an inmate spends in the Missoula County Detention Facility is increasing; and

WHEREAS, many individuals held on bond are held for nonviolent offenses and some of these individuals cannot afford to post bond and therefore remain in the Missoula County Detention Facility until disposition of their case; and

WHEREAS, maintaining individuals in the community while awaiting trial helps sustain housing, employment, and familial connections and lowers their chances of recidivating; and

WHEREAS, some of those arrested for nonviolent offenses in fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) were reported to be homeless; and

WHEREAS, some Missoula County Detention Facility inmates show signs or symptoms of serious mental illness including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and significant or major depression; and

WHEREAS, mental health treatment is best addressed through services available in the community outside of incarceration in the Missoula County Detention Facility; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Missoula City-County Jail Diversion Master Plan has been adopted by the City of Missoula; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Missoula County establishes the County's intent to work with the City of Missoula and other stakeholder entities identified in the Missoula City-County Jail Diversion Master Plan to the extent reasonably possible to implement the proposed plan, attached hereto as attachment "A"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Missoula County informs the Municipal Court, Justice Court, and District Court judges that Missoula County requests that County departments explore ways to implement the plan to the extent the plan's recommendations are reasonable and applicable to those departments and requests that departments make recommendations for funding sources to implement the Missoula City-County Jail Diversion Master Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Missoula County commits the County to including the Missoula City-County Jail Diversion Master Plan in relevant future County plans and programs pertaining to topics included in the Missoula City-County Jail Diversion Master Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 21 day of December, 2016.

ATTEST:



Tyler Gernant
Clerk and Recorder



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MISSOULA COUNTY



Nicole Rowley, Chair
Missoula County Commissioner



Jean Curtiss
Missoula County Commissioner

NOT AVAILABLE FOR SIGNATURE

Stacy Rye
Missoula County Commissioner