

The following is the CJCC Digest for the month of July 2020. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions. Please also feel free to share with anyone who may be interested in receiving this information.

1. [Jail population is increasing after COVID-19 releases in March:](#)

Our average daily population continued to climb in June to 136.1, up from our low of 106.2 in April. While our jail population remains well below pre-COVID levels, we continued to see steady growth over the month of June with a population of 132 on June 1st and climbing to 145 by June 30th. Preliminary analysis suggests this growth appears to be driven by slower turnover in our felony population in combination with a continued increase in admissions relative to releases.

Total admissions for the month exceeded total releases for the third month in a row, though they moved closer than in previous months. However, the average length of stay among released inmates this month increased to 30.4 days for pretrial defendants and 130.4 for sentenced defendants, the longest we have ever seen for both categories by a substantial margin. The top 3 charges by volume on which defendants were admitted in June were felony failure to appear (FTA), first partner or family member assault (PFMA), and petitions to revoke (PTR) for violating conditions of release. Compared to May, the volume of PFMA's remained stable, whereas there were significant increases in felony FTAs and PTRs. To a lesser extent, there were also notable increases in misdemeanor FTAs and revocations of suspended/deferred sentence relative to last month.

2. [Mobile Crisis Grant:](#)

- Grant application was submitted at the end of June.
- Our department will manage the grant but services will be rendered through an RFP process.
- If awarded, there will be \$405,000 (minus administrative fees from various granters):
 - \$75,000 from the city and county each = \$150,000
 - \$125,000 from the state for the grant award
 - \$130,000 from SAMSHA
- Program rollout anticipated for September and is for 10 months.
- We will be working on hard-funding the project for FY22, but that is not a guarantee. Data collected for the pilot project will be used to inform the hard fund ask.
- Program is modeled off [CAHOOTS](#), out of Eugene, Oregon.
- There has been a bit of misinformation about this grant, please know that the above is correct.

3. [Data sharing:](#)

- [Chemical Dependency Evaluations – Public Defender's Office:](#)

Date for this program will be shared starting next month.

- [Calibrate Diversion Program: County Attorney's Office:](#)

As a part of Missoula County's commitment to criminal justice reform, the Missoula County Attorney's Office began operations of the Calibrate Program in the fall of 2019. Soon thereafter,

Calibrate welcomed its first participant. Calibrate is a prosecution-led pretrial diversion program.

Mission Statement:

The Calibrate Pretrial Diversion Program seeks to reduce the number of individuals involved in the criminal justice system by diverting those deemed eligible at an early stage, thereby minimizing the negative impact on the participant and saving taxpayer dollars, while still providing an emphasis on community safety.

Calibrate is a formalized pretrial diversion program whose target population is first time offenders. A screening process, which includes consultation with victims, is utilized to determine who is accepted into pretrial diversion. Once accepted, participants are required to adhere to agreed-upon conditions for a set time frame. Conditions of pretrial diversion are tailored to a participant's individual needs and circumstances. Participation in Missoula County's Diversion Program is voluntary. Successful completion of the program results in dismissal of the criminal charge.

Between July 1 and May 31, 2020, 53 people were referred to the Calibrate Program. 27 of the 53 were screened for placement. 26 were not screened for reasons including: they did not meet the criteria to be screened, declined to be screened or could not be located. Of the 27 screened, 22 entered into pretrial diversion. Of the five who did not enter into diversion; two were declined due to community safety concerns related to the seriousness of the charge, one scored high risk on the assessment tool, one did not follow through with the screening process requirements and one was given the option but chose not to participate in pretrial diversion.

▪ Weekly jail population reports:

MCDF population is as follows as of July 8, 2020:

- MASC--93/144
- County--150/224
- Juvenile—12/24
- We are currently sitting at 17% DOC inmates with no local holds.

As of July 8, 2020 our population is approximately the following:

Total county inmates-150

- 92 (61%)--District Court/Felony Holds
- 26 (17%)--DOC Inmates with no local holds
- 14 (9%)--Federal Inmates
- 6 (4%)--Municipal Court Holds
- 0 (0%)--Justice Court Holds (misdemeanors)
- 12 (8%)--Inmates held for Fugitive/Out of County Holds/Commitments for M1/JP/DOC.

Please let me know if you would like to receive the weekly jail population emails.

- [For more information, please visit our Jail Data Dashboard](#)

4. [Upcoming meetings:](#)

- Law and Justice Interim Committee – July 13th from 8-5:30
 - [Click here](#) for meeting agenda, link to watch, and link to provide comments
 - Topics include:
 1. Re-entry challenges facing returning individuals
 2. Study of Sexual and Violent Offender Registries
 3. Agency Oversight: Update from the Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP) and the Department of Corrections (DOC)
 4. Agency Oversight: Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Public Safety Officer Standards and Training Council (POST Council)
 5. HJ 31 Study of the Montana Board of Crime Control
 6. HJ 36 Study of Compensation for Wrongfully Convicted Individuals
- PSA/Pretrial Meeting will be held the week of July 20th, but TBA
 - Please let me know if you are interested in attending
 - Agenda yet to be finalized

5. [Agency Spotlight – The ACLU, by Rossi:](#)

What is the focus of your agency?

We are a civil rights and civil liberties organization. We envision a Montana that is fair and equal for all. We work in the courts, the legislature, and with community members to protect and extend basic rights for everyone. We work to hold the government accountable to all who live in Montana, with a particular focus on those who have been historically (or continue to be) disenfranchised. Our top priorities are to reform the criminal justice system and uphold Indigenous justice. We also work to protect the rights of immigrants, safeguard reproductive freedom, celebrate LGBTQ people and families, ensure voting rights, protect free speech, and more.

What is the biggest misconception about your agency?

A misconception is that the ACLU is affiliated with a specific political party. In fact, the ACLU is not affiliated with any political party and we do not coordinate with any partisan organization. We regularly work across the political spectrum to advance justice and freedom for all. While the ACLU believes deeply in working in coalition with other non-profits, we have no interest in partisan coordination. Our aims are different from those of a political party, and are driven by issue-based goals.

How can our community support you?

- Sign up for emails on our website: <https://www.aclumontana.org/en>
- Follow us on social media
 - <https://www.facebook.com/aclumontana>
 - https://www.instagram.com/aclu_montana
 - <https://twitter.com/ACLUMT>
- Donate: <https://www.aclumontana.org/en/donate>