

## Angela Hubbard

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**From:** Sheilah Kennedy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016 11:02 AM  
**To:** Perry Huston  
**Subject:** FW: Martin Hall

Director,

Another letter for the record.

*Sheilah*

Sheilah Kennedy  
Okanogan County Commissioner District 1  
123-5<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.  
Okanogan, WA 98840  
509-422-7101

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**From:** Lesa Eiffert [<mailto:lesaeiffert@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016 9:39 AM  
**To:** Sheilah Kennedy <[skennedy@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:skennedy@co.okanogan.wa.us)>; Ray L. Campbell <[rcampbell@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:rcampbell@co.okanogan.wa.us)>; Jim DeTro <[jdetro@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:jdetro@co.okanogan.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Martin Hall

To:

Ray Campbell  
Sheilah Kennedy  
Jim Detro

Please accept this letter encouraging continued operations of the Okanogan Juvenile Detention Center in our county.

I believe there are multiple reasons why contracting out of the county to detain juveniles could be potentially damaging for our children and community.

I am concerned that by transferring our counties children to out of county locations we will further encourage disengagement from the community and schools and increase the likelihood of school dropouts and increase the risk of later court involvement. The National Dropout Prevention Center reports that high school dropouts face higher unemployment, poorer health, and earn substantially less. The U.S. Department of Education reports that youth that do not return to school are 3.5 times more likely than high school graduates to be arrested.

Currently students have access to community service providers while in juvenile detention through the ART program, Chemical Dependency Counselors, Mental Health Counselors, Educational Advocates, Social Workers, and other community service providers. Many of these service providers are able to provide uninterrupted services from the Detention Center to school and community. It can be difficult for children to be passed on from service provider to service provider telling their story and asking for help and building a trusting relationship in order to work toward a better future. Our community service providers as well as Juvenile Center staff are invested in our children's future and want to help them work toward building a positive future.

I realize that looking at contracting with Martin Hall is for financial reasons and I am sure that someone will look at the financial benefits, but also remember when you are looking at the benefits for our county that you do not forget that it is the children of our county that you are making a decision about. 30 years ago if a child was found under the influence of alcohol, or caught shop lifting, or trespassing, or doing other risky behaviors the parents would be called or the store owner would decide consequences or the home owner would decide the consequence. Our county has the Community Accountability Board (Diversion) through Juvenile services and it has somewhat of a similar role as the community did back then, but not all

children go through Diversion. Some children that commit these type of risky behaviors that are crimes are incarcerated. These children would be shipped out of our community and would be totally disengaged from our community, schools, and families. Think about what it might be like for a child sentenced for a minor crime to be shipped away and housed with other children with possibly more serious crimes from other areas of the state away from their family and community supports.

Please remember you are not just making a financial decision, that you are making a decision about our counties children.

Thank you very much,

Lesa Eiffert  
51 Kermel Road  
Omak, WA 98841  
(509)846-5564

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)