

Angela Hubbard

From: Sheilah Kennedy
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2016 11:04 AM
To: Perry Huston
Subject: FW: Hilderbrand letter Juvenile Detention Center

Director,

Letter for the record.

Sheilah

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

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From: Moms Ipad [<mailto:hildyjohncori@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 5:56 PM
To: Sheilah Kennedy <skennedy@co.okanogan.wa.us>; Ray L. Campbell <rcampbell@co.okanogan.wa.us>; Jim DeTro <jdetro@co.okanogan.wa.us>
Subject: Juvenile Detention Center

Regarding the possible closure of the Okanogan County Juvenile Detention Center. ..

Commissioners:

I am a parent in Oroville. The detention center serves families in Oroville which is adding another 45 minutes to the journey in Moses Lake. Aside from travel time and costs to families and those who will transport the youth there are many more important reasons to not take this away.

In times when marijuana is legalized and made to seem acceptable to many youth by the advertisement of this substance I am appalled that considering closing the center is even being considered. We know that there is a youth substance abuse problem in our area. In a time when we need to bring more services to our area we are taking them away. Keeping this open is necessary for the connections made between schools and the center. This is a hard time for youth and their families and travel and distance makes it even harder. Not that we want this to be easy but at a time when youth may want to have new beginnings with their families or those who support them, they may not be able to come for visits. We need more services not less. Please take into

consideration the families that are trying and the children who want to start new. Being in unfamiliar surroundings with unfamiliar faces is only going to intensify the pain to a level of desperation that will be harder to come out of. There is hope, we have seen successes. We must not give up. Instead of looking to get rid of the Okanogan Juvenile Detention Center you should be looking into more services for the youth. They are our priority. They are our future. They are the ones that are either going to chose to continue the cycle of destruction they are on or end it. Let's help them along the way to see the future can be bright. Bring in more services not LESS. Thanks for doing the right thing.

Respectfully,

Cori Hilderbrand