

Angela Hubbard

From: Dennis Rabidou
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 7:23 AM
To: Perry Huston
Cc: Christopher Culp; Henry Rawson
Subject: FW: OK COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION

See Below.

Dennis T. Rabidou
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Director of Juvenile Services
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From: Yvonne Bussler White [<mailto:underthestarsandmoon@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2016 8:34 AM
To: Perry Huston; Dennis Rabidou
Subject: OK COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION

Dear Okanogan County Commissioners,

I respectfully write against the proposed plan of closing the Juvenile Detention Center in Okanogan. There are numerous reasons to oppose this move:

1. Our youth need to be held accountable at home, by their own community. This will lend to resolving their barriers and learn how to overcome their choices. Sending them away to a facility in Medical Lake further removes them from our community and isolates them even more.
2. Okanogan County families already have enough struggles. Adding the cost and logistics of traveling 100+ away to address situations with youth in trouble is unnecessary stress, expense and will further deteriorate our already fragile and struggling families. This will prevent families from working together to address issues and help the youth overcome their barriers.

What about reviewing Oregon's model where the youth work in the Community to repay their debts and learn skills, investments and ownership of their communities?

Have you explored working with WIOA Job Training or DVR Youth employment programs to help with training? Have you considered mentoring programs?

3. Okanogan County already has a major problem with jobs. Throwing away the solid jobs created by the Juvenile Detention Center makes no sense. We need every job we have and then some.

4. Many communities run detention facilities at a profit, as I believe we attempt to do with our County Jail. Let's fix what may be broken in the economics of the Juvenile Detention Center and not throw away what little we have.

5. Okanogan County is in a state of rapid decline and we must do everything we can to build up the county, not tear it down and throw the pieces away. Our youth are worth more than this. Our families are worth more than this. Our economy is worth more than this.

I do understand that the County needs help. While I am critical of the plan to close the Juvenile Detention Center, I am available to help build the County up in whatever way we may be able to try. Please contact me anytime if I can be of assistance.

With very best regards,

Yvonne Bussler White