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April 6, 2015

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Senator Chip Shields, Co-Chair of Public Safety Sub-Committee  
The Honorable Representative Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair of Public Safety Sub-Committee  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capital  
900 Court Street NE  
Room H-178  
Salem, Oregon 97310-4048

Re: Information about the Implantation of HB 3194 in Wallowa County

To All Concerned Individuals,

This letter is in response to a request for information regarding the role of District Attorneys in the implementation of HB 3194 in our respective counties. The Wallowa County District Attorney's office has implemented all the sentence changes in HB 3194. In addition, we participated in the 2013-15 Justice Reinvestment Grant Program and received \$50,000.

Although this is a small rural county that does not contribute in large numbers to the Oregon prison population Wallowa County has historically had a problem with recidivism. In May of 2012, the Wallowa County LPSSC decided to address this problem by creating its own Community Corrections division of the Wallowa County Sheriff's Department. Prior to that time Wallowa County had a contract with Union County for supervision services. Factors like the 72 miles between Enterprise and LaGrande, a probation officer in Wallowa County only one day a week, and the absence of any transitional housing contributed to the failure of this partnership.

Through meetings with the Wallowa County Sheriff, a County Commissioner, the Community Corrections Director and the District Attorney a program was developed. With the additional funding from the Justice Reinvestment Grant Program we were able to implement a very successful Work Crew program that is staffed with a part time employee. This has given us an effective alternative to local jail time both for sentencing and for Community Corrections sanctions. In fact, the program has been so successful that we are looking for funding to make the employee a full time probation officer to supervise the Work Crew and take on some of the

supervision duties. We are seeking funding through the Violence Against Women Act, County Funding and the Justice Reinvestment Grant. Our efforts to abide by the legal requirements of HB 3194 as well as the spirit of this law, have led to an increased number of participants in our local community corrections program with an emphasis on treatment, employment, cognitive restructuring and accountability.

Another issue is the need for transitional housing. Although funding has not allowed for implementation of a program, we have identified a suitable location and are working with local groups, including churches, to make this a reality. It is a part of the Community Corrections 2015-2016 budget but depends, as does the Work Crew program, on receipt of Justice Reinvestment Grant funding.

Also a part of our overall program, has been the development of a strong relationship between Community Corrections and our local mental health/alcohol and drug clinic. This relationship allows for structured rates for treatment as well as evaluations when mental health is an issue.

Finally, we have an active Treatment Court (Drug and DUII) where the team includes members from the following local agencies:

- District Attorney's Office
- Circuit Court
- Mental Health Clinic/A&D Counseling
- Building Healthy Families
- Community Connection
- DHS/Child Welfare
- Department of Youth Services
- Community Corrections.

Treatment Court is currently funded through a state grant and is a valuable tool in reducing recidivism. Although this is a function of the Circuit Court, the fees paid by participants are tracked by the District Attorney's office and included in the District Attorney's budget.

As you can see, the District Attorney's office plays a crucial role in the implementation of HB 3194 and the development of programs to reduce recidivism and effect change in the behavior of those who have committed crimes in our county.

Very truly yours,



Mona K. Williams

Wallowa County District Attorney

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