

KARL F. SLOAN
Okanogan County Prosecuting Attorney
P. O. Box 1130 / 237 Fourth Avenue North

Criminal Division

Branden Platter, Chief Criminal Deputy
Joseph Caldwell, Criminal Deputy
Felecia Chandler, Juvenile Court Deputy
Kellen Wright, District Court Deputy
Leif Drangsholt, District Court Deputy

Okanogan, WA 98840
(509) 422-7280
Fax: (509) 422-7290
TTY/Voice Use 1 (800) 833-6388

Victim-Witness Assistance Program

Teresa Dumas, Victim Witness Advocate
Dava Wilson, Victim Witness Advocate

Office Administrator
Shauna Field

Civil Division

Albert Lin, Chief Civil Deputy
David Gecas, Child Support Deputy

January 7, 2016

Okanogan County Commissioners
123 5th Ave N.
Okanogan, WA 98840

Re: Martin Hall

Dear County Commissioners:

As the Okanogan County Juvenile Court Deputy Prosecutor, I am writing to provide my input regarding whether the county should retain a juvenile detention facility or contract with an out-of-county facility. I will be unable to attend the meeting currently scheduled for January 13, 2016, due to a lengthy Juvenile Court docket that afternoon. Thus, I appreciate the opportunity to present my concerns in this format.

I was present at the last meeting where the Board of County Commissioners and the Juvenile Department discussed the costs of contracting with Martin Hall, versus the costs of maintaining and operating a local detention facility. I did not see a cost benefit to the taxpayers of Okanogan County in the Martin Hall proposal. Even if there were a fiscal benefit to contracting with Martin Hall, I fear that the community as a whole will pay in other respects.

The intent of the Juvenile Justice Act of 1977 is clear. Okanogan County is required to provide for "necessary treatment, supervision and custody for juvenile offenders". RCW 13.40.010(2)(f). Okanogan County is also required to "(p)rovide for the handling of juvenile offenders by communities whenever consistent with public safety". RCW 13.40.010(2)(g). In addition, RCW 13.40.038(1) provides: "It is the policy of this state that all county juvenile detention facilities provide a humane, safe, and rehabilitative environment and that unadjudicated youth remain in the community whenever possible, consistent with public safety and the provisions of chapter 13.40 RCW."

Although the Juvenile Justice Act requires that we ensure accountability of youthful offenders, rehabilitation of these offenders is a clear priority of the Act. Incarcerated youth in Okanogan County currently receive a vast amount of services that are provided locally. These services

include, however are not limited to the following:

- (1) Functional Family Therapy (FFT);
- (2) Aggression Replacement Training (ART);
- (3) AA/NA meetings;
- (4) Theft reflection classes;
- (5) SHARP classes (Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention);
- (6) Mental Health Services with Okanogan Behavioral Healthcare;
- (7) Chemical Dependency Services (evaluation and counseling);
- (8) Individual counseling services;
- (9) GED testing and preparation;
- (10) Detention school program;
- (11) Community transition program;
- (12) Church meetings (volunteers from local churches meet with youth);
- (13) Health services (bi-weekly and emergency services at Clinic or Hospital);
- (14) Training and testing for food handler's permits;
- (15) Summer school cooking and food preparation classes;
- (16) Detention Alternative Program (DAP);
- (17) Community restitution work site;
- (18) Services with the Okanogan Support Center (establishing healthy relationships and prevention tools); and
- (19) On-site urinalysis testing (Detention staff provides testing for out of custody youth as well, which is a necessary service utilized almost daily).

Incarceration of our local youth in a facility that is 145 miles away would make it impossible to provide these key community services. It would also be impossible for probation officers to meet with youth while they are incarcerated. This is essential to assess individual treatment needs for initial community supervision and ongoing service needs throughout supervision during any follow-up incarceration on probation violations. Providing these essential community resources reduces the likelihood of recidivism, which has an obvious long-term benefit to the taxpayers of Okanogan County.

The Okanogan County Juvenile Detention Facility also provides for incarceration for our truant youth who are found in contempt of court. These youth are almost always provided an opportunity to purge out of detention by completing a court ordered assignment. It would be difficult to require our truant youth to be transported to Martin Hall given the distance and the relatively short confinement terms. It would also be difficult to allow them to purge out of detention within a reasonable amount of time if they are incarcerated outside of Okanogan County.

Incarcerating youth at Martin Hall would also impose unreasonable costs on our local law enforcement agencies who would have to travel 145 miles for routine bookings. This would put a severe strain on law enforcement resources when you consider the cost of mileage and the resources of an officer who would spend the majority of his or her shift traveling to and from Moses Lake. Parents and other family members who wish to visit with these youth would also be required to drive 2 hours and 40 minutes (according to Mapquest) for visitation.

RCW 13.40.010(2)(e) also requires that Okanogan County provide "due process for juveniles alleged to have committed an offense". Due process requires competent representation by counsel. Having competent counsel results in fewer case delays, more efficient case resolution, and avoidance of claims of ineffective assistance of counsel on appeal.

Although a transition of our incarcerated youth to Martin Hall would have no effect on my personal workload and case handling, there are severe implications to our local contracted defense attorneys and other private attorneys. It would be difficult, if not impossible, for such attorneys to provide effective services to their clients who are located 145 miles away.

“Electronic conferencing” is not a viable solution to this problem considering the vast amounts of paperwork that the defense attorneys are required to go over with their clients prior to even the most basic hearings. The inability of counsel to meet with their clients will undoubtedly delay cases and put a strain on resources when the youth will be required to be transported multiple times from Medical Lake. It would also prevent attorneys from special setting cases on the next day docket to allow for a youth who have credit for time served to adjudicate their case and be released from detention in a reasonable amount of time.

In the cost comparison and analysis of these two models, we must also consider the need for a holding facility for youth transported here from Martin Hall. It does not seem a viable option to entirely close the detention facility and release staffing if the Martin Hall option is utilized. There must be a juvenile holding facility for youth, even if only temporary, for court hearings.

We have a great responsibility to our community to ensure accountability and rehabilitation of our delinquent youth. The majority of youth we see in Okanogan County Juvenile Court, come from homes where there is very little, if any, structure and support. These youth come to us with a variety of specialized needs. These needs must be met by local resources, who not only can provide initial services during incarceration, but ongoing and consistent services throughout community supervision. Our youth rely on our community and its resources. These resources are not merely a convenience, but rather a *necessity* as demonstrated by our comparable Juvenile Court caseload numbers, which speak for themselves. Okanogan County is consistently filing DOUBLE the cases of all of our comparable counties (please see the attached Juvenile Court caseload numbers on page two). Unfortunately our filing numbers continue to increase. According to the Okanogan County Clerk’s Office, we filed 221 cases in Juvenile Court in 2015.

I hope this information is useful in your analysis and comparison of the two models. Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,



Felecia Chandler
Juvenile Court Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Superior Court & Juvenile Caseload Comparison by County

2010	Douglas		Franklin		Jefferson		Kittitas		Klickitat		Pacific		Stevens		Walla Walla		Whitman		Average	Okanogan
	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile		
Homicide	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1.3	4
Sex Crime	15	0	35	10	11	1	13	3	7	10	2	24	22	6	8	8	16.1	2.6	17	
Robbery	6	0	6	6	3	0	5	0	0	0	1	7	9	1	6	6	4.6	1.1	6	
Assault	20	4	64	18	31	5	28	28	34	24	30	47	11	4	23	2	33.4	6.1	47	
Theft/Burg	43	13	70	28	53	4	79	26	40	45	82	76	18	13	56	7	60.4	14.2	74	
Vehicle Theft	7	4	10	10	2	4	4	0	10	1	10	14	10	4	2	2	7.1	3.5	10	
Ctrl Substance	57	8	96	7	67	2	78	78	75	67	77	89	4	7	58	3	73.7	4.7	75	
Other	28	6	40	22	17	3	34	6	33	32	42	35	7	19	3	31.1	6.5	68		

2012	Douglas		Franklin		Jefferson		Kittitas		Klickitat		Pacific		Stevens		Walla Walla		Whitman		Average	Okanogan
	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile		
Homicide	2	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1.3	5	
Sex Crime	8	2	40	3	9	3	9	6	8	4	16	13	7	0	6	2	12.5	2.6	17	
Robbery	6	0	16	9	0	0	2	2	3	1	2	7	2	1	0	0	4.2	0.8	5	
Assault	18	1	116	14	41	4	31	31	32	20	29	58	7	2	16	0	40.1	4.2	58	
Theft/Burg	37	9	121	35	32	8	95	15	51	39	70	117	26	22	8	8	70.2	15	94	
Vehicle Theft	2	2	8	8	3	2	0	9	2	3	8	5	5	4	0	5	5.8	4	7	
Ctrl Substance	62	3	121	9	63	1	94	5	40	78	27	110	14	2	27	2	69.1	4.4	93	
Other	31	12	68	9	42	0	32	2	23	28	35	56	15	1	17	1	36.8	5.2	67	

2014	Douglas		Franklin		Jefferson		Kittitas		Klickitat		Pacific		Stevens		Walla Walla		Whitman		Average	Okanogan
	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile	Superior	Juvenile		
Homicide	1	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1.2	10	
Sex Crime	11	1	37	2	12	2	17	1	11	11	17	17	6	2	17	6	8	15.6	30	
Robbery	3	0	12	4	4	0	4	0	3	0	1	6	0	1	6	0	3.6	2.1	4	
Assault	20	4	109	5	48	3	42	42	28	24	25	45	4	4	22	4	40.3	3.5	73	
Theft/Burg	56	4	90	9	57	4	90	6	38	61	67	120	20	4	51	11	70	8.2	120	
Vehicle Theft	2	2	11	9	5	2	1	1	5	7	10	15	6	1	3	8	7.1	3.3	14	
Ctrl Substance	47	4	201	9	86	3	75	3	40	68	40	119	7	2	42	2	79.7	3.7	126	
Other	42	1	73	7	26	2	48	2	24	30	46	37	11	2	15	2	37.8	4	63	

*Caseload reports pulled from the WA Courts website

Case Loads	Douglas	Franklin	Jefferson	Kittitas	Klickitat	Pacific	Stevens	Walla Walla	Whitman	Average	Okanogan
Superior 2012	190	666	217	339	178	217	218	448	237	301	382
Superior 2013	213	596	257	363	211	233	261	453	254	315	437
Superior 2014	217	697	269	332	157	245	230	451	218	312	456
District 2012	1908	4267	1422	3712	1086	1811	1510	2396	2471	2287	2361
District 2013	1482	3435	1068	2468	903	1335	1328	1956	1475	1716	2683
District 2014	1249	3264	866	2203	676	1135	1235	1615	1322	1507	1606
Juvenile 2012	134	315	85	87	44	50	95	241	43	121	216
Juvenile 2013	82	224	61	54	48	55	88	219	36	96	222
Juvenile 2014	85	195	46	49	65	65	73	197	51	91	186
Population	39,804	87,809	30,228	42,522	20,861	20,561	43,650	59,844	46,827		41,290