

Angela Hubbard

From: Sandra Vaughn <sands9383@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2016 10:01 PM
To: Perry Huston
Subject: Juvenile Center

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to oppose the plan of closing the Juvenile Detention Center in Okanogan. I have worked as a registered nurse for over 30 years in the North County, and have seen the need for family and community involvement in turning troubled kid's lives around. I have numerous reasons to oppose this move:

1. These troubled children need to be held accountable at home, in their own communities. No one will care about our kids like we do. Moving them away to a facility in Medical Lake does nothing for the future of our community, nor for the future of those children.
2. Okanogan County families already have enough struggles. Adding the cost and logistics of traveling 100+ miles away to address situations with their children in trouble is unnecessary stress, expense and will further deteriorate our already fragile and struggling families.
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 these jobs in our own communities.
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 kids, our families, and our economy are all worth more than this.

I do understand that the County needs help. But this is an extremely short-sighted way of viewing county priorities. Seriously, how can this possibly be anything but a terrible idea for the children, families, and future of our communities? Please reconsider this plan.

Sincerely,

Sandra Vaughn, RN, BSN
[195 Bolster Road](#)
[Oroville, WA 98844](#)

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Best, Sandy