



**ENGAGEWINONA**

**Winona County justice programs**

**Community comments + responses**

**Pages 2-8:** March 24 listening session comments

**Pages 9-30:** Survey responses to open-ended questions

**Presented April 2021**

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# MARCH 24 LISTENING SESSION

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This represents the best efforts of community facilitators and notetakers to capture the direct comments and general sentiments of the nearly 100 participants at the March 24 listening session.

This is not a comprehensive list of comments, nor an event transcription. The intention was to focus on capturing input, comments, and ideas specific to the Winona County justice programs and the justice system.

Any identifying or personal information has been removed.

Some comments have been lightly edited for clarity.

Questions and comments left in the chat were sorted into the relevant topic area.

Multipliers (x3, x5) are rough estimates of agreement/support from others based in this circumstance on use of virtual reactions like thumbs up or clear body language. It is far from scientific; just a method we use to gauge sentiment.

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## A FUTURE FOR YOUTH

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### What do you think about the county's consideration of a juvenile facility?

- A story shared identified these problems with existing system:
  - Efforts of youth to improve not acknowledged
  - Seen and believed by everyone in town to be delinquents
  - Lack of empathy and compassion
  - Loneliness
  - Hopelessness
  - Opportunity to be a child was taken away
  - Accessible social services could solve this
  - Fearful to speak up on own behalf
  - Causes is dysregulation at home or mental health concerns
  - Trauma
- It's not just - we can't refer to it as a justice system
- Heavy handedness of how county approaches children in juvenile justice system
- Children with barriers (racism, poverty, mental health) have harsher treatment (x4)
- Children with mental health concerns should never end up in juvenile justice system (x3)
- Ask Winona County to make a commitment to 0 youth incarceration. This is not a large ask. This is something that's happening nationwide in communities of all sizes. Evidence based research shows putting children in the carceral system does not address the issues. (x3)
- There may be some kids who need a juvenile detention system. It is beneficial to have them near home. Are there any commitments that can be made to funding the programs that follow the incarceration of youth?
- This community has the ability to prioritize individuals and their agency
- Children who have been victims of sexual abuse, and are at risk for offending, especially as they become adults. Jail cannot be our only solution. We need therapeutic interventions.
- We are failing these kids if the only thing we can think of is putting kids in a cell (x2)
- Winona County has talked about the detention facility as a way of making money. But this is tax money that would be spent to build the facility. That money could be better spent.
- Fish upstream. Needs to be a complete mapping of services available before considering a juvenile justice system (x4)
- This conversation isn't about root causes. Outraged that County isn't putting time and resources into other options
- This isn't a new issue. Communities have figured out how to do this and the county can too.
- Want to see the county doing this work and research into alternative programs. Frustrated that the county is asking the community to do it. (x3)

- This question tells us a lot about the county's ideas - that this is the question and not about moving forward. (x3)
- Question: Are there commitments to be made to fund social support programs? Equal to the amount of funding that the county would commit to a building.
- Data really shows mass incarceration is connected with a big human rights cause. Not only do we incarcerate more people, even as rates go down, incarceration goes up
- There's momentum to how our current system works. It's so frustrating that the current system and momentum makes it easy to put tens of millions into infrastructure to be harsh, isolating and a system meant to be secret and punitive
- Would love to see the county doing their part in our small part of America to move toward restorative justice and funneling money into preventative measures
- I want to ask Winona County to commit to zero youth incarceration. I have a lot of faith our community can evolve and shift funding away from carcerality and into actual support
- Money toward mental health facility. Community doesn't have mental health. We have amazing organizations but the reality is wait lists - long wait lists

### **What do youth need most that they're not getting?**

- More therapeutic interventions - wait lists are a mile (years) long. Can't connect children with resources until it is too late. (x4)
- The special ed system is a failure-based model - reactive not proactive interventions (x3)
- Services are most valuable in the early stages--youth need help early. We miss out when we think about stuff at the late stage of detention.
- Lack of affordable services for children (x3)
- Our community doesn't have a department of behavioral health/medicine.
- Adequate and well-trained professionals prepared to work with the youth
- Need more help, more services, mental health services, addiction services (x12)
- The causes of delinquency in our community often include instability at home, or mental health issues. So youth need help, but the support is extremely heavy-handed.
- Youth need someone who cares, who wants them to get better, especially once kids are in the system. Then they would never have a need for detention.
- Statistics show higher rates of addiction, recidivism after youth are in the carceral system.
- What makes more sense: paying for people to be in jails or paying for them to be healthy members of society?
- Give youth and families agency on what services they receive
- You cannot talk about children without talking about their caregivers. Asking a child to be healthier than the adults in their life. We need to talk about family support services. (x6)
- Mental health system where children can spend time and be around people who bring support - rec center, YMCA, places for children to gather
- Slow down the school-to-prison pipeline

- Compassionate Schools - model out of Washington State - restorative practices - was voted on in 2018 but has never been implemented.
- Shift the restorative justice program into another space, not DOC (x3)
- Extra bus services after school and reduced/free activity fees are a good start.
- As a former school administrator, using restorative justice in school setting is powerful. Here to express what an amazing experience that has been.
- There's a lack of opportunity for age groups, for youth. Boredom is a big topic. Especially with older children. Lack of outreach programs that really met the needs.
- Want to see a project for Winona kids looking for someplace to go to provide that enrichment piece. Offer mentoring to address education gaps, understand life better
- I can't say enough good about the circle process Restorative Justice uses. Involved in circle training for restorative justice back when. Came to schools, worked with diverse groups.
- One diversion program we need has to do with with comprehensive sex ed - not just the birds and bees, but skills around social-emotional issues. De-escalation, understanding emotions.

### **Is it possible for the county to meet its needs without a juvenile detention facility? What's needed for that to become a reality?**

- Are there spaces for youth to go?
- Are there mentorship programs available -- and where are they available
- Services exist but there is not enough--and they're not affordable. (x3)
- Diversion to other services, not detention. Even up to when someone is arrested.
- Long-term thinking: Learning skills, coping mechanisms, ability to work within system, strengthening family systems
- Grants and waivers to cover services
- Refer tax money to services instead of a detention center
- Mental health care (x3)
- Students on school board, part of conversations on policies and programs (x2)
- Give agency to youth (x2)
- It's not an option for each kid to talk to their parents. Can there be more options for programs for them. Community-based.
- Adequate and well-trained professionals in this area prepared to work with youth
- When we help families, we help children - if parents do better, kids do better.
- We need a safer place for kids who can't be at home

### **Examples of communities that created new ways of working with youth?**

- Olmsted County shut down JJC, concern they would be taking children from other counties
- In Madison, WI, on the school board, there are student representatives -- we should do this with justice system too

- Take truancy off the table as an entrance point into system (x3)
- A zero youth incarceration model includes resources for families, youth centers, spaces
- New York - Closer to Home - created community-based programs and had different levels of
- secure housing based on needs, with intensive therapy - all not run by DOC.
- Another model: One such model is Treatment Foster Care Oregon, who believe “kids should live in homes, not institutions.
- The OWL program - Our Whole Lives. Program of teaching kids those skills.
- Ever been to Rochester ALC? It’s amazing. State-of-the-art equipment and programming. Showers, support systems, social workers, laundry machines, food pantries - Jobs for the kids. Raise honeybees, sell produce. Kids get that sense of worth and success.

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## PROGRAMS + SERVICES

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### Gaps:

- Upstream of justice system: mental health, poverty, trauma, substance abuse, etc. need to be addressed before we can talk about justice
- Lack of imagination about investment needed to address root causes
- What are the drivers of the upstream issues?
- Stigma around the root causes and incarceration make discussions difficult
- Behavioral health in Winona Health
- Reaching out to communities most impacted
- Lack of community resources/support upon release from incarceration
- Recognition that these systems are human made, not a natural feature=carceral systems built upon white supremacy
- Special education=threats of detention, law enforcement—feeling hopeless, worthless
- Youth space: art center, place to be that’s safe and warm (exacerbated by unwillingness to accept intersection of art/substance use (marijuana))
- Top-down decision making, not community-based decisions (e.g. going to the National Department of Corrections for advice on new jail, rather than asking the community)
- Support for kids, without resources/support for the family: Helping parents helps kids
- School behavior (mental/physical health) snowballing into criminal justice issues in Winona County, including adjudication (permanent record)
- Mindset: focus on punitive measures, rather than rehabilitation (lack of resources/mental health, unhealthy home life, support for families, substance abuse, etc.)
- Recidivism=lack of support

### Alternatives:

- Zero youth incarceration (removing law enforcement from schools a good start)

- King County, WA has a roadmap for getting to zero youth incarceration, including \$\$ needed
- Mentorship rather than tracking (school truancy)
- Connecting incarcerated people to systems/resources to provide assistance and support prior to release
- Olmsted County: closed juvenile detention centers
- New York City: created community based centers, rather than juvenile detention centers—focused on return to home, not incarceration
- Restorative Justice: community based, rather than in department of corrections
- Youth Art Center: Decorah, IA
- Oregon: keeping kids in homes, rather than institutions  
<https://www.blueprintsprograms.org/treatment-foster-care-oregon/>
- Olmsted County approach to juvenile justice (closed Juvenile Detention Center, has a mobile mental health response team, police community liaison, mental health stabilization)
- South Dakota: Lowest youth incarceration rate in nation. Community based, rehabilitation services, rather than incarceration <https://revealnews.org/podcast/juvenile-injustice/>

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## GOOD QUESTIONS

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### Policies

- Is the County willing to adopt a Zero Incarceration Policy?
- Is the County willing to end youth solitary confinement or disciplinary room time?
- The early pandemic months showed a clear change in policies. If it shows we don't need to detain as many, for as long. Can we think differently going forward?
- What is the level of research conducted from those making policy decisions in our County?
- How do we get a commitment from our elected officials to work toward finding funding for those community support programs, as opposed to detention facilities?

### Programs

- What happened to Restorative Justice for youth in Winona County?
- Would it be better to create a youth and family services coordinating council instead of focusing on criminal justice? Or can there be both?
- Has the County looked into expanding state or federal funded youth mental health services, food security, housing, etc?
- What does the County do for youth to care for them for long periods of time?
- What are the recidivism rates after using restorative justice programs? And the inverse?
- What % of kids sent to detention centers from Winona County for probation violations?
- What are rates of success in diversion program post-incarceration?
- Do we have any group homes that are not connected to the County?

- What is the County's relationship with the school districts?
- There are many youth with truancy tickets this year. How does that relate into how many youth are funneled into the system?
- Under which auspice would juvenile group homes be managed? Foster care?
- Is there a way of getting support and needed help without having a record?
- Who was the authority for Main St house? DOC?
- It sounds like there is an assessment process but then no guarantee of available services?

## Finances

- What is the financial breakdown when inmates are sent out of the county to other facilities?
- Are numbers tied to finances - meaning there's no motivation for keeping incarceration rates low? Does the jail or the juvenile center have a business agenda? A profit motive?
- What are the statistics on youth in the system over the last few years? Can it be broken down by offense/charges?
- If we have millions of dollars for a JDC then couldn't we instead use that for the various community supports that we have highlighted tonight?
- How do we get more money for (community-based programs?) Higher rates paid so that those providers have the funding to recruit, train, and retain enough staff to provide services for the many, many kids and families who could benefit from them?

## Facilities

- How does the County/City relationship around a jail facility work?
- What is the difference between a secure and non-secure facility?
- Is there a plan for not doing a youth facility? Does the County know what steps to take to support youth without a detention center or are they entrenched in the current system?
- Has there been discussion and/or a vote to NOT have a youth detention facility? Would the County or City provide data showing demand for a juvenile system?
- Why were some county jails able to shut down and we weren't?
- Can you clarify the difference between detention and "treatment?"
- As the 2019 needs assessment states: "A facility to house juveniles is badly needed in southeast Minnesota, and beds can be made available to other counties when not in use by Winona County, creating a potential revenue stream. This is worthy of further investigation." This report should tell us one thing: If they build it, they will fill it.

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# SURVEY RESPONSES

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131 unique individuals responded to the survey, which opened two weeks before the March 24 listening session and stayed open through April 1.

The intention was to hear from those unable to attend the listening session, as well as to capture input folks may not feel comfortable sharing in a public gathering.

The survey was marketed on social media, through Engage Winona and Winona County's email newsletters and communication channels, highlighted in media coverage, and shared by email through word-of-mouth and community networks. Due to COVID and the project timing we were unable to distribute a printed version.

Below are comments to the open-ended questions in the survey. Other responses - ranking, demographics - are summarized in the report.

This is not a comprehensive list of comments. The intention was to focus on critiques, comments, and ideas specifically related to Winona County justice programs and the justice system.

Any identifying or personal information has been removed.

Some comments have been lightly edited for clarity or for length, signified with the use of (...)

## **Have you or a family member had direct experience with Winona County's justice programs? Briefly describe the circumstances, outcomes:**

- Juvenile diversions. I thought the police overstep their bounds
- My child was having mental health issues. We called the police for help thinking mental health help. Deputies arrested the child for assault who happened to be truant at the time because of major diagnosed depression. As a result, was taken to Red Wing and Rochester - not ideal for a child having mental distress ... when sentenced to probation one of the stipulations for to be law-abiding or you go back to the group home or JD if no space available ... We need to look at doing away with truancy. It is a slippery slope. We are still in it. And we will probably be fine. But I worry and it has made our child even more anxious than they already are ... I see where this could go horribly wrong for very many kids with or without mental health issues.
- One brother had truancy issues due to depression. Home was toxic. He was removed for the duration of his youth up to 18. Other brother committed crimes but always was given chance after chance and not rehabilitated in any meaningful way, just slaps on wrist. I am of color. My brother is white. I firmly believe his race had everything to do with his seemingly preferential treatment.
- It took a few times, but still didn't have any good outcomes
- A friend of mine was involved with restorative justice many years ago and it turned his life around.
- My brother is not getting the help he needs
- I have a brother who when he gets drunk he threatens people doesn't physically harm them he has severe brain damage and the severe outbursts when he drinks come from it and he doesn't get the proper help he needs he just gets sent to prison for years when he should be in treatment
- If mental health county treatment is not built in a different way - there can be a very strong correlation and connection made to the justice programs. Y'all need to get to the root of the issue and stop playing games with people's lives. Dig deeper.
- My sister was in the system when she was arrested for hitting my mom. She went into foster care as a result and spent months trying to get back home and out of the system. In high school, I was threatened with truancy numerous times. I've also had multiple experiences with police through mental health welfare check, none of which have been a positive experience.
- Son was in and out of court for using, etc. After several attempts, on his own and at Teen Challenge, he finally went to New Beginnings and is now 5 years clean!!!
- I have been a part of diversion programs within restorative justice and witnessed the harmful ways the process still shames kids and stigmatizes them.

- My son w/special needs has gotten a bike from the warehouse and also respects police greatly. He thinks greeting them is a friendship. Also we have been in guardianship court. In positive ways.
- My daughter was a plaintiff in a criminal court case and the outcome was traumatic.
- Crap. They put your kids in jail instead of a forced rehab ... quit with the hard hand and start working the heat and give these young adults and young kids a chance.
- I had students involved in some of these programs, and I attended and supported students and families. At times, I requested that students be able to access restorative justice.
- Emails about my daughter's attendance at school from early intervention truancy personnel.
- We incorporated Restorative Justice Circle Process in our school - training staff & students & families - so that we could use it to resolve issues.
- I have actively participated with Treatment Court participants as well as attended graduations
- Juvenile prank met with heavy-handed response. Quite traumatic
- Truancy for juvenile grandchild
- Dealing with a misdemeanor or petty misdemeanor
- Student in high school truancy program. Spouse arrested and jailed.

**Have you or a family member had direct experience with Winona County's justice system - including court or jail? If so, briefly describe the circumstances and outcome:**

- My son has been treated badly there
- Judge was good prosecutors and police are way too aggressive
- No good outcome, not much to offer
- Petty misdemeanor for weed possession with fine. I've heard these records can be purged, but don't know how.
- I've had two family members incarcerated for short periods of time.
- Small claims court, family court
- Access to appropriate and timely, non-coercive mental health treatment is a major issue.
- Been to court for a situation I prefer not to get into detail about. It was also not a positive experience.
- (Teenage) daughter arrested for assault. taken to Rochester. Went through court, foster care. Was too much for the circumstances I would never do it again.
- I'm a transgender woman. I was arrested and forced to sit in a holding cell for several hours. Sent to an all-male juvenile detention center in Red Wing and humiliated by officers and the detention center. Forced to do a strip search before being taken to court in front of 3 male

officers who sexually harassed me while doing so. Other juveniles in the facility were confused as to why I was there. This was a PREA violation. And a traumatizing experience.

- My child was accused and ultimately charged with a crime. He had to appear in court and was issued a continuance for dismissal ... However, the whole experience has had devastating effects on his mental health, his ability to trust adults and other youth, and his motivation to do well in school. A former straight A student is now failing over half of his classes. He suffers from depression and anxiety. He avoids crowds and groups and has become fearful of being accused of other wrongdoings ... The inequality in the system is apparent and galling ... There are so many other ways that this case could have been handled that would have been more supportive of everyone involved and that would have avoided continued negative consequences for my family.
- Did the crime and did my time.
- Wouldn't know where to start.
- Establishment of guardianship at 18, adjustment to son becoming guardian of his own person at 21 and keeping shared medical and governmental decision-making with mom (me) and petition by son to restoration of capacity and termination of guardianship at 26.
- My daughter was a plaintiff in criminal court as and it seemed there was unlimited leniency for white men with jobs and no justice for anyone else.
- A bunch of fines, the public defenders are best friends with the prosecutors and police and they all take what they can.
- Juvenile probation for a family member for a crim sex case
- I have visited current students and former students in the local jail or in the former (now closed) Winona County group home for troubled teenagers.
- Juvenile - got many hours of community service, and record was not sealed. Came up several years later on a traffic ticket

**Placement options for juveniles charged with crimes and unable to remain at home is an ongoing topic of discussion in Winona County, especially as a new jail is being designed. What do you think are the best options or programs for these circumstances?**

- To redirect juveniles to alternative programs other than throw them in a cage
- Stop locking up kids. Period. Stop putting kids - any kids - in cages. We need more group homes, more foster care facilities, and less excuses to lock up children.
- Build a juvenile holding facility.
- We have to get to the kids and parents before it reaches this stage
- What I know is that jailing or detaining minors is not ideal for our communities' children. I am aware that there are situations that require a child to not living at home. I know it can

be scary and psychologically exhausting trying to get your child the right help. I truly do not know. Group home with focus on mental and physical health possibly?

- I would rather see my kid housed locally and get the help they need then be shipped across the state or country - the courts have lessened incarceration dramatically but sometimes kids can be a serious threat to themselves and others and we need these places for safety.
- They need mentors. Mentors mentors mentors. No matter where you house them. They need to feel part of a healthy living situation especially if they are already acting out bc they are starting to internalize feeling worthless because of where or what they're from.
- Why can't they remain at home, and be accountable for. Give them strict guidelines.
- Utilize family group decision making models to bring together juvenile's supports and providers in the community to develop a plan for the youth, rapid case planning conference.
- Placement in Winona County is the best option, as this will allow the child to maintain natural supports and maintain education with minimal disruption. A setting such as a home would be preferred so children do not feel they are criminals ... placing them in a setting that demonstrates they are bad would set them up for lifelong law enforcement contacts.
- Safe space for juveniles with appropriate mental health and substance abuse services available for them and their families.
- Local facility that allows for secure (and perhaps non-secure) placement of juvenile offenders. Ideally, this would have enough space to allow for local communities to house their juvenile offenders in Winona County as well.
- I think it's a very good idea to use the old jail for this purpose.
- Dedicate a portion of the jail to house juveniles.
- Redirecting funding to mental health and family supportive programs for youth and their families. Affordable housing for families, living wages.
- There should be a placement option for juveniles that have committed violent crimes. It's difficult for family and legal services to travel to support juveniles placed out of county.
- Ideally you'd have programs and supports in place to prevent juveniles from messing up. Then if they do mess up, you'd have ways for it not to be considered a "crime."
- Group homes with a level of security depending on the need for the juvenile's well-being
- Winona County should be able to house juveniles
- Sometimes it is needed
- The Mentoring program, Circles of Support, Transition Circles.
- Local shelter that provides secure and unsecured setting. Variety of programs.
- I have probably an encyclopedia of better options that would be worth discussing before moving forward with incarcerating more people that are unable to access appropriate, timely, and non-coercive affordable treatment before they become part of the incarceration system. It's time to stop doing business as usual and start creating new bottom lines of love and operating with loving energy versus greedy and needy energy ...

- Early intervention: provide youths with safe spaces and opportunities for growth and development; Restorative justice: Hold youths accountable for their actions in a non-punitive way that focuses on community oriented consequences rather than the threat of detention; expand social services to serve struggling youth who may be houseless, struggling with substances, or involved in abusive interpersonal relationships; Expand and diversify education programs and after school programs to give young people a better chance of uplifting themselves and their communities
- I think treatment and support for juveniles is what's needed, not jail or "homes" that are actually just jail. More mental health treatment, social and economic support
- Crisis response teams to de-escalate situations like the one I had with my daughter. Some time to cool off would have been an entirely different outcome. A home in Winona for kids to be placed in a temporary situation. More parenting counseling available. More youth services in high school.
- Juvenile jail space I feel needs to happen. Just like inmates in cells, juveniles should have one big cell room also. Programs should be anything that would help them to improve what they did so they don't go back to it once they are released from the juvenile cell. Then probation, community service.
- Foster home programs with involved and informed adults. Jail is not the answer.
- Refer to the Department of Human Services for a foster or respite placement vs. going through the Department of Corrections.
- Ankle bracelets, attend school and then go to juvie
- No JDC for crimes that aren't serious! This is traumatizing youth and setting them up for failure and for adult prison.
- I feel that mental health services/interventions are needed for the children and teens who tend to end up in the criminal justice system. I worked with families with children and teens for 20 years. Some of those children and teens were involved with the criminal justice system. My observations were that those children/teens were struggling with significant mental health conditions and/or family issues that contributed to their involvement in the criminal justice system. It often seemed that the CJ system did not know what to do with them and instead of getting the intensive help they needed, the children/teens were punished.
- I don't believe jail is always necessary, but maybe a location like the facility in Red Wing.
- More programs and stiffer sentences.
- Ideally small group homes, not jails.
- No jail for children. More therapists.
- Restorative justice and placement with families for a safer and responsible alternative
- I don't think that children should ever be placed in jail. There is nothing about a jail system that will help a child who is scared and isolated from their family. Indeed, continuing to refer to young people as "juveniles" dehumanizes these children. If the county wants to be

honest about what they are doing, they should use terms like child to explain what they are building-- it is a child jail or a child prison. The word juvenile is only associated with crime and the idea of criminals. I think that children should be kept with their families whenever possible. If that is absolutely not possible, they should be placed somewhere that isn't about crime and punishment. A safe space with mental health providers, comfortable quarters, resource people, etc. would actually help create an environment where a child can learn and do better in the future. They should stay in such a place for as short a time as possible.

- The justice system should ensure that juveniles stay as close to their community as possible. Winona County needs to provide at least a non-secure facility that will accommodate a large majority of juveniles needing to be confined for short periods. The benefit to those children outweighs the additional cost and is ultimately an investment in the community.
- Winona County could provide short term residential services. The young person would not be removed from their home community, school, family or supports.
- Community-based residential treatment programs
- I don't think locking them up is the answer but don't really know what the true answer is either.
- Winona needs to take responsibility for its own youth in need of out-of-home placements - for correctional, and separately for emotional, chemical, mental issues. Emancipation of minors when needed and foster care offered as well when best need. Least restrictive environment.
- There should be varying interventions to give children support before it comes to incarceration.
- We need a place where they will get treatment, food, clothing, place to sleep and help with their issues.
- Unable to remain at home for what reason? Because they want them in jail or parents don't want them home? House arrest is best ... Winona is a small town with too many cops and little crime ... Young adults 18-24 and young juveniles are learning themselves. Jail isn't the option. Don't need a big jail. So stupid. Just another reason to arrest people left and right ...
- I used to work at a youth home for kids in this exact circumstance. For the most part, these were good kids in bad situations. Helping families in trouble or in poverty can have great impacts on juvenile crimes.
- Investing in our community should include investments for community mental health, diversionary programs not run by the "justice" center, and a divestment from programs that criminalize youth.
- There will be situations where juveniles will need to be removed from the home, there needs to be a safe location for the children until other placement can be found. It takes time to make these arrangements. Children need a safe and secure place to be while these

arrangements are made. It would be in that child's (and the family's) best interest if that was local.

- I would prefer to see the money go toward a youth mental health facility. We are lacking affordable intensive programming for our children with mental illness.
- 1. Focus on preventative, proactive programming for troubled juveniles; 2. Ensure that there is enough affordable programming/therapy for troubled families/juveniles; 3. Re-establish a group home (or more) for juveniles.
- There should be a safe, separate holding area away from the adult population. For those that will have longer incarceration, should go somewhere where education programs are already established and accessible.
- The best option is to have more family preservation, education, mental health, addiction, etc., interventions available to put in place so that a lot of this need can be prevented. When needed, I think that there should be emergency foster care or medical/mental health placement facilities, so that juveniles would only be detained in a more carcerative setting when it is determined that they pose serious physical harm to others that cannot be addressed in a mental health facility.
- I worked with at-risk youth, ages 11-18, for 20 years at an alternative learning center. My experience taught me that developing trusted relationships was a key part of helping those young people learn to become the citizens I would want in my community. Main House fulfilled that role here in Winona County. The current lack of a similar facility interferes with that goal.
- Short term placements or care center. Having a local option would save time, transportation costs, and keep children closer to home.
- We need a Winona County facility for juveniles who need/require detention if ordered by the courts and is in the best interest of the juvenile offender.
- Secure and not-secure options in Winona so children do not have to be transported out of the area.
- Must be kept in our community, removing kids and then bringing them back is detrimental to their well being. Need some type of trauma-informed housing to help keep them safe.
- I think the best option is to keep the juvenile in the Winona community. The use of the jail as a facility is a good idea if the facility is remodeled so that it is less "jail-like" and more of a community. The Red Wing detention facility uses restorative justice principles and offers youth options for programming. The use of the jail could be the same and provide support and counseling to the juveniles while keeping them in the community.
- Perhaps we can envision a Venn diagram that highlights an increased investment in a wide variety of preventive programs in the least restrictive settings that would provide children and families ways to have their needs met and avoid the criminal justice system all together.

- The sad reality is there will be times when a juvenile needs to be held for their own or the safety of others. The environment for them must be clean, safe, and affirming versus punitive.
- it sounds like a local juvenile detention center in Winona County would be the second most preferable location next to placement at home. Sometimes home placement just isn't possible so it would be nice to have a local option.
- Improve family and youth services in community, i.e. mental health and addiction services, use professionals, unassociated with criminal justice system to develop safety plan with family, improve foster care resources - all services that reduce the number of youth unable to remain in the home
- Continue and enhance the current restorative justice/diversion programs to maximize the number of juvenile offenders that can take advantage of these services. Unfortunately my suggestion to continue the current system of use of existing jail beds for adult offenders has virtually eliminated the possibility to afford to build a mental health facility that could house both adult and juvenile offenders. Many of the juvenile "major" offenders have a substance abuse/mental health issue that needs to be addressed while in a "secure" facility. At this point our only option is to "ship" them out to places like the VonWald facility which is always at max capacity. We are "wasting" millions of dollars on an adult facility when resources go "unused" in neighboring counties!!
- Follow the protocols that are already in place.
- Restorative justice.
- What about "foster" overnight homes? However, this puts the burden of responsibility on the people who are in the home, however, what if an adult from the court stays with them? It's out of the box, but it might work, at least temporarily.
- Data has not been provided on what juveniles are being charged with. An argument that children are "unable to remain at home" should at the very least, have data readily available
- Some type of transitional/supervised housing but I don't know the extent of this issue. I realize that would be expensive if it wasn't regularly used.
- A juvenile detention center - all currently over 45+ miles from home - sends a lifelong message to the juvenile and family that our local community "does not care". I support a safe small state approved Winona County facility.
- A local treatment group home like the old Main House
- Local shelter/juvenile detention center
- There does need to be a place for juveniles to go when they are unable to remain in the home due to mental health concerns, chemical dependency issues and truancy problems. It would be nice to see a program that isn't so punitive and focuses more on the actual reason the juveniles are getting into trouble and not so much on the actual crime. From the county perspective as an employee and also a parent of teens myself, there needs to be a better

system in place for working directly with families that are struggling. Community Based Services was an excellent program that should not have been discontinued.

- Local shelter care, possible family like setting (therapeutic foster care) as long as it is safe
- Work with the family. The child is a part of a larger environment and that needs to be considered when looking at a child's behavior
- Keeping our youth in our city let alone county is vital
- Before juveniles are locked up, there should be screening and support for mental health, chemical dependency and other issues. It's also best if juveniles can stay in the community where they live (preferably at home) and continue their education. Another factor is providing safety for the community.
- I think short term stay at the new jail is paramount. Oftentimes juveniles are shuffled more than they should. They need space to be "held" until their court hearings/attorney meetings, etc.
- I appreciate the thorough memo outlining the process. I understand the need for a juvenile detention facility. As an educator I have struggled with "what else" can be done for a student who is out of control. How can we reach this student to help him/her be more successful at home, in school and in the community?
- I like the concept of the Main House for when an out of home placement is warranted. A local juvenile detention facility is a much better option than transporting kids out of the community.
- Increased care or home placement. Not incarceration.
- A smaller jail; more community programs.
- While I don't have expertise on juvenile behavior, I do strongly feel that combining a place for juvenile rehabilitation with a jail to be a problem.
- Something along the lines of a halfway house? I think of the girls' home on Broadway (I forget the name). While there, perhaps they need to engage in restorative justice, outward bound programs, drug treatment, ect... services that fit the crime.
- The best options are those that do not include detention. I am strongly against juvenile detention centers and believe that preventative programming, including adequate mental health initiatives would be more effective and humane. I support the use of restorative justice and alternative learning centers.
- I do not support the building of a juvenile justice facility in Winona. I believe the most effective programs are rehabilitative in nature such as restorative justice programs or mental health facilities. Juvenile justice facilities are punitive in nature and/or behavioral in focus.
- It's just going to be black and poor kids. They should stop arresting kids and putting them through all this. They should stop pretending like they care. If they did they know that families love their babies and need help with keeping them in their home.
- Mental health-based housing, community-oriented policing, formal education.

**If you could create a new justice program (or bring in a success story from a different community) to address Winona County's biggest issue, what would it be and look like?**

- Holistic programs that target mind, body, and spirit for juveniles at risk
- I would do away with truancy for a start. I don't see it as a tool to help kids stay in school. But I do see it as a tool to keep them in the system which leads to adults in the system.
- Residential secure facility in Winona to house juvenile offenders who need help
- Crime is a symptom of mental health issues, it's the fireworks going off over the Titanic as a last ditch effort before they sink. Ppl love their family but sometimes those same ppl are who make them regress. More group homes. Plenty. Where pseudo family life can take place and give these kids hope, remind them they have worth as human beings. Group homes--all over. Well staffed. Well trained--in emotional intelligence and de-escalation. We don't need more jails to fit more youth. We don't criminalize a youth's cry for help.
- Opportunities to make a change before crossing the line into jail. Whatever we can do to keep our citizens in our community rather than shipping them to a different county would be preferred.
- A safe, supervised location where children can be placed when they need services.
- JDAI - Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. I believe Winona County could benefit from the use of risk assessment instruments in dealing with early decisions for juvenile offenders.
- I remember a program where offenders were put on a project to plant gardens on the levee. I thought that was a good program because they were involved in a project that later they could point to and say "I helped create that." I think it gives them a better understanding of what it means to work for something and make things like vandalism less likely. Maybe a community food garden they could work in? Take some produce for themselves (only fair) and the rest could go to the food shelves. A sense of accomplishment can go a long way
- Early intervention in mental health and substance abuse, but particularly mental health
- It would be inclusive with trained community volunteers.
- Something similar to Willmar program and Wald shelter. Short term placement up to 6 months
- I would put more energy and resources into Winona's restorative justice program and expanding community care projects and social services, not sink more money into detention services.
- Winona needs more psychiatric care. They have never had a youth psych unit and have also gotten rid of their adult psych unit. This would offer more support for struggling youth to get adequate care where they live, should they be in a crisis needing that type of care. Second, more programs that support juveniles long-term. It's not a quick or easy fix assisting youth. A mentor program would be a great start. People like me who've had

similar experiences or painful youth years, mentoring youth would be amazing. Kids need to know they're not alone and that they matter and that they aren't being punished for being "bad" because they aren't actually bad. Often, youth are victims of the circumstances they grew up in or are currently living in. Thus more options for respite care would also be good. I think some concern, empathy, support and simply being there for youth so they know they're not alone, could go a long way in helping youth. The core issue is not the "crime" they have committed; it's depression, it's anxiety, it's feeling alone, it's being suicidal, it's feeling trapped in their life circumstances. Treat the disease or problem at the core of it, not the actions. And as a result, the actions will probably cease.

- More support systems outside of the traditional court system for individuals and families, more mental health support, education, housing, employment, child care, youth centers, and addressing racial inequities through all of these societal layers. Read: "Change at Scale Is Possible." With the right models, technical assistance, and leadership, incarcerated youth populations can be significantly downsized without negatively affecting public safety...
- Not my job to do this.
- Group homes and restorative justice sessions with youth and victims
- Zero Youth Incarceration. See King County WA.
- More group based therapy. Group homes not jail.
- Programs that seek to encourage strengths like the creativity of art or music. Promote integration through the sharing of educational opportunities - especially hands on skills and training
- The justice system right now is set up to punish people who break laws. I would rather see a system that is set up to eliminate the need to break laws, either by eliminating laws that just penalize poverty, or by setting up enough supports that the reasons for breaking a law are eliminated. If intervention is truly necessary- it should be focused on the accused getting the resources they need to be a positive part of our community. Countries like Norway have systems set up like this. The assumption in Norway is that anyone brought into the justice system will eventually be back in society, so the whole system is designed to help people get the resources they need to be good citizens-- whether that is education, counseling, health care, housing, income, family therapy, etc.
- Assistance for the re-entry when leaving jail. Housing, insurance, driver's license, job search, peer support, family reunited, etc
- Restart the Winona County CARE Program
- Emergency foster, mental health and safety placement.
- All these programs don't get to the bottom of what's going on with these kids. Do they have mental health issues. Most don't want to talk to a psychologist. But they should be forced from the beginning to go to rehab, get tested daily. Work in a jail to pay the fines. All my kids learned in jail what to do next time.
- DWI Court. Many folks with DWIs do not qualify for Treatment Court.

- I would like to see more emphasis on prevention and positive community engagement from our law enforcement. We need affordable programming that gives our youth purpose after school and engages them in their community in positive ways. Too many children are left behind because their families lack the funds and transportation to allow their kids to participate in after school activities. I also see that our children are afraid of police, the very people who are supposed to protect them. That's not okay. We lack the resources for quality wrap around services to help children and families at risk.
- I'd also like to see programming in town for children who have suffered sexual abuse and have become perpetrators as a result. I've had firsthand experience with youth in this situation and it's heartbreaking to see them jailed for perpetrating on another child when we had red flags all along that it was likely to happen. I feel the system is partially to blame for those children creating new victims of sexual abuse.
- Positive Youth Development Programming; Classroom and behavior management programs; multi-component classroom-based programs; social competence promotion curriculums; conflict resolution and violence prevention curriculums; bullying prevention programs; afterschool recreation programs; mentoring programs
- More diversionary programs for young kids in crisis, more mental health crisis response training, more emergency mental health beds, more emergency foster care beds, more equitable treatment across socioeconomic strata.
- The current programs in place appear to be in the best interest of the youth and the community, however the lack of an out-of-home option within the community staffed by trained caring professionals would interfere with the ability of youth to develop those trust relationships that enhance rehabilitation. Another Main House type situation would be an excellent addition.
- The restorative justice principles used in Woodbury where the youth offender is embraced by the community and directly hears the impact of his/her actions on the victim and then receives support from the victim in repairing the wrong has been incredibly successful.
- I highly recommend Rutger Bregman's new book, Humankind ... he describes innovative, alternative models developed in Norway, Denmark & the Netherlands that are demonstrably better, less expensive, and definitely more humane. This is very complex problem that needs to be examined from all perspectives to develop a systems change that will provide serious healing in our nation. I am so proud that Winona has the courage to have this conversation!
- Make it relationship-based - that's all I know.
- What we need is a state of the art mental health facility! Many of our current inmates are dealing with a mental health issue that is going untreated which means they will likely reoffend and end up back in jail ... This mental health facility could be modeled after a proposal in the state of Washington. This facility has a "locked unit" as offenders detox and then a less secure facility as inmate begin to continue their treatment and reintegration

back into the community. This facility would also have a juvenile unit that would be separate from the adult.

- A mentoring program connected to a job placement.
- I would place restorative justice as the first line of treatment, not as the "well, maybe as an alternative". If you are truly wanting rehabilitation, then how about doing a pilot program with all the juvenile offenders centered around the restorative process?
- One of Winona's biggest issues around these touted "justice programs" is truancy charges. There are currently hundreds of students in the district with truancy tickets or citations ... Actions by the school board and the direction the County Attorney seems to want to head are evidence of a local school-to-prison pipeline mentality. I cannot support their "tough on juveniles" approach.
- There used to be a program called Family Based Services in our county. While it didn't directly correlate to the justice programs, it did assist with adults who struggled with parenting. These individuals were knowledgeable about many resources and services throughout the area and would work alongside other providers. By increasing the parents' capabilities, coping skills, and parenting strategies, the family unit was able to better thrive. When a parent is healthy (mentally, emotionally, physically), the home life is typically healthy. While the program was costly, it was incredibly beneficial to at-risk families.
- I think that expanding and supporting restorative justice programs would be the best step toward reducing the need for incarceration or court-ordered residential placement, while also getting at some of the root causes of racial disparities in the current system.
- The program would involve having a person be assigned to the case/family and work closely with all providers in a wraparound type system. There are already so many resources available, but so many families don't know how to access them or have other reasons for not utilizing them.
- Community Based Services was a very good program with a great philosophy for working with juveniles. I know that restorative justice and juvenile probation are good programs, but there needs to be a point person assigned to each individual to make sure that services are being followed through with.
- Zumbro Valley Scattered Sites supported housing - uses Housing Support funding to both pay for housing (in the community, not congregate living) and to pay for case managers to assist the resident in being successful in that setting
- Bring wrap around back for the youth. The social workers and system is outdated and atrocious. There's no real advocate for these kids.
- Emphasize prevention--mental health, chemical dependency, poverty, housing, etc.--that might keep people out of the criminal justice system. Also, support those who are in the system so they can successfully re-enter the community with reduced chances of recidivism.

- I think this is a tricky question b/c I believe unless someone wants to change or you've hit a nerve (i.e. removal of kids) that matters to them, people won't change. It would be nice to see a program where 1st or 2nd time offenders are given one more chance & could have their plate wiped clean.
- If we have a juvenile justice facility I'd want it to be more accepting and nurturing than punitive.
- Restorative justice based in compassion and care. Definitely not carceral or punishment-based responses to behaviors or incidents that are likely related to mental health, poverty, or other issues.
- It would make attempts to stop problems prior to involvement with the justice system--fair wages, childcare, and access to mental health services. This could stop some issues before they even start.
- It would look like a community-based support system that gets those in need or crisis connected with resources that are accessible and attainable. It would look like removing barriers for support and having that support available prior to incarceration. Programs that lift people out of poverty, support harm-reduction approaches to addiction and allow for affordable, meaningful housing.
- Trauma informed community driven program which works using a comprehensive and collaborative model, including the whole family and connecting the family to supports to assist families in healing, education, reducing barriers, and assisting in getting mental health services. Similar to the wrap around model.
- Teaching juveniles on community building, social skills, ethics, as well as a formal education in fields that could be pursued for work or therapeutic self-expression.

### **Do you have any questions about the county's justice programs or justice system you would like county officials to answer?**

- Please assure me with proof that there isn't a school to jail pipeline going on for mostly students of color or of lower socioeconomic status. I was one of these kids. I saw this pipeline. Prove to me you truly believe it's real and that you are dedicated to stopping it.
- Diversity and equity efforts, breakdowns and data related to demographics to determine disparities and disproportionality amongst youth of color.
- Why does MN use a system of state-regulated, county provided services model that is only used in 8 other states?
- Why won't the county re-look at the process? Three commissioners are determined to move forward with the expanded jail project.
- What happened to all of the programs that used to be in place for juveniles?
- What ideas has the county come up with to solve the problems?

- Why are you trying to build an incarceration system when even NAMI national has begun to support and endorse models to close jails? Why are you not doing more for domestic violence issues? Or social justice issues?
- Why must juveniles accused of a crime be held? Is it because their parents are refusing to let them come home or because the state is mandating that they stay in custody?
- Can the officials please supply the public with statistics about the racial demographics of youth who enter the county's juvenile justice programs?
- How do they intend to solve the core issues these youth are facing? Incarceration is not solving it; in fact it's perpetuating it.
- Why are people who have committed crimes multiple times not once or twice but four or five times allowed bail - that's not right.
- I'd refer to the important questions that Winona's Community not Cages group has been asking, with research and sources to support their concerns and inquiries.
- What will the new jail offer for Transgender inmates. Do the officers have training now on how to handle a situation with transgender people?
- I would like to know what they think it would take to eliminate the need for a jail (for adults or for children) in our community. What does a just society look like to them? What would it take for our community to abandon the need for punishment in our justice system?
- How can Winona County come into the 2020s....? Be trained for lack of multicultural gender fair disability aware future. And how to welcome all differences ...
- Why are you more interested in punishment instead of rebuilding souls?
- Why are you not paying attention to the actual needs of the children and community and instead spending copious amounts of money to just cover up the problem versus facing and solving it?
- Why does it take so long to process papers in this small town. Why do the cops racial profile. They pull you over just because they recognize you. They did it to my son. I pulled you over because I know you and your friend. Puts his head in the car and says smells like air freshener. These cops need to know some of us parents don't take that lightly. Not ok.
- What prevention programs do we have in place at all levels and what is their impact?
- What alternatives were considered for meeting justice system needs and why were they rejected in favor of a new detention facility?
- How are these programs for immigrants?
- Why are we so quick to spend money on programs aimed at punishing offenders, instead of spending that money on diversionary programs which would result in less offenses and more productive members of society?
- How often do situations arise where juveniles need to be housed in a facility?
- It would be wonderful if they would provide a brief overview of the justice programs/justice system.

- When the need to hold someone in a jail or prison setting is required, it should be in as close proximity to their support network. Transporting juveniles or others hundreds (or even 30) miles away places undue burden and stress on those providing support. People don't like jails, I get it, but I believe it's naive to think we can eliminate them in their entirety.
- Why are we duplicating a system that is underutilized in nearby counties?
- Can you share data about the percentage of Black/Brown offenders versus the Caucasian offenders?
- Is Restorative Justice under the Dept of Corrections?
- Majority of “offenders” are dealing with mental health and chemical dependency issues. Treatment works. Jail and punishment do nothing but make the officials feel better. Cash bail needs to be done away with. The ease of individual judgement for probation revocations must be stopped.
- Why are we not expanding restorative justice approaches in all of the County's justice system?
- Why can they not have more compassion and treat the families with respect: answering their questions, alerting them to how the system works, not making people feel as though they failed, etc.
- How are you addressing the significant increase in out-of-home placement of children, such as those children who can't stay at home due to parents' drug abuse and the like? What home-visiting or similar programs exist to prevent offenses or circumstances that lead to out-of-home placement?
- I think our Commissioners could benefit from "a day in the life of a Jailer" honestly. It is the most thankless job and you really have to have a backbone and unique sense of humor to endure it. It's a necessary job and every single one of those working at the Detention Center and those inmates deserve this new jail. The current jail is outdated and unsafe and has been for a number of years. Our County Board has knowingly ignored the need for a new jail until the DOC decided to sunset the Winona County Jail. Now they're being forced to address the issue and it's a good thing.
- I would like to know why they were against looking into a smaller jail, why they declined to have a public hearing on this issue, and why they refused to set the stage for progressive ways of handling those in crisis or in pursuit of justice. I'd also like to know how they can consider a jail cell a "home".
- Why do you call it justice? It ain't justice. It's controlling people and giving them all these fines that they can't pay and then saying they're bad when they aren't.
- Is this system built around the idea that juveniles need to be punished for crime, or that they need to be rehabilitated for successful re-entry to society?

## What more do you believe needs to be done in communities to address the reasons people encounter the justice system?

- More alternative programs that can be sustainably funded by the government or the city
- Poor parenting they need support and help early on
- Race needs to be addressed. We have proportionally high incarceration rates for black adults and children. Skin color matters to cops and court.
- Young kids need guidance ... We need activities for the housing kids. They're bored. And feel left out .. they are hungry to learn. But beware. They don't trust you. There is a lot of taking accountability for how they've been treated and that you as people in power recognize the damage and are committed to changing the way it is. Then, maybe - you can get them to put down the proverbial weapons and their guard enough to truly impact their lives, their futures, their self-worth.
- More money put towards basic needs, addressing systemic issues that leads to affordable housing, healthcare, education outcomes, etc.
- Mental health connections - Crisis stabilization - Detox center - Prevention /developing healthy relationships in our youth so they feel supported
- Earlier intervention and family support.
- Increased consequences for violent crimes.
- Focus on eliminating poverty, support economic development programs that provide jobs with living wages, prioritize affordable housing, provide affordable and accessible mental health services
- More childcare assistance and psychiatry.
- Mental and behavioral health support. Restorative justice instead of carceral solutions.
- Kids need mentors, need role models. I'm not sure what form this takes.
- Follow through for treatment programs so they have the opportunity to succeed.
- Address juvenile poverty.
- Stronger family bonds. More activities for teens to young adults.
- There is much to be done to end the school to prison pipeline. And the mental health system needs to be reorganized and reshaped in much more accessible ways. Especially during a national mental health crisis. Decriminalize and decolonize mental health.
- Expanded social services - investment on restorative justice programs - spreading anti-racism training in all professions and public places - diverting money away from police and prisons
- Blend people into their communities instead of gathering them together at the westend housing. More sports at economically feasible cost for lower income families.
- Mental health responders. Juvenile specific officers who are trained to work with teens.
- There needs to be more preventative programs for young families who are high risk.

- I was brought up to respect the authorities. And I believe there is a fair share of today's problems that start at home.
- Keep drugs off the streets
- Invest the millions of dollars into preventative solutions that help us all, housing, education, youth centers, family support. Non-coercive mental health services.
- More rec centers, more mentors.
- Providing equal opportunity in housing and more importantly educational opportunities
- I think that there needs to be a dramatic reorientation around the reasons and the purpose for policing and our justice system. There is a narrative that policing and courts make us safer, but what danger is being eliminated when children are pitted against one another in court? What danger is being eliminated when police across the country have been recorded engaging in violence against citizens? There has been plenty of research done on punishment, and generally, increased penalties, new laws, harsher sentences do not prevent people from engaging in behaviors labeled as "criminal." The police are not keeping anyone safer, they simply are engaging in punishment after harm has already been done. It is harm on top of harm on top of harm. We need to think differently about our neighbors, our peers, and our children.
- Early intervention. Identify children and families who would benefit from support services. Provide academic, behavioral, mental health, and financial counseling services as soon as needs are identified. Ask a first grade teacher to guess which of their students are most likely to enter the juvenile justice system at some point. It shouldn't be a shock to know the signs are often already apparent.
- More prevention resources— youth/community center (especially on the west side of Winona), family/youth mental health, school support programs, early intervention for families, stable affordable housing, rehab current deficient housing, health services...
- Early childhood intervention and family resources/supports
- Don't know, more police maybe.
- Skating rinks, volunteering like FFA, humane societies, apprenticeships, ride alongs, high college credit transferable, free tuition income based, construction trades of 3 bedroom homes for 100 grand, youth radio station, funding for youth as wise contributors, youth on all boards and advisories, financial literacy in high school ... bring new farmers in from metros with rural youth teaching and staffing said family farms. Return to, incent, and refurbish family farms, create a MN model.
- Problems normally start in the homes. Many homes have one parent and some basically have none. Schools chase God out of everything. So what do you expect? Kids that have little or no guidance. Industrial Arts and Home Ec classes are not taught any more so children leave school with what kind of mentality? Children need direction and need to be taught to be creative and exposed to trades schools and other forms of being valuable and needed. We need to see our children to be successful in life. Handouts aren't the answer.

- Continue programs that offer options after time is served to reenter society. Housing and jobs are most challenging I believe.
- More programs to help the homeless ... more addiction treatment programs...and welcoming and treating people of color fairly especially black people...
- More community networking and mentoring at the schools to help them at these younger stages in life so they can better cope as they get older and to identify issues and help them deal with them before it's all they know how to do to survive. We need to teach them about life skills and succeeding at thriving versus surviving. We can do this through mentoring, counseling and having a safe space available if home life is unsustainable for them.
- Everyone needs the basics of food, shelter and clothes. After those needs are met then you can move into the higher levels of need.
- Start in the schools. My son was smoking weed since 7th grade. Who knew. I say to all parents that think their kids don't smoke - test them ... So it just stems from there they become addicted and everyone suffers.
- Often poverty and crime go hand in hand. People need their basic needs met. When that doesn't happen, it can force people into desperation.
- What do we do for the folks that do not want or refuse resources/services in our communities? Many of the services that would deter folks from ending up in the justice system are all voluntary .. Many people in the justice system sign up and go to treatment only to walk out the same day to continue use. Many times this happens multiple times; what do we do when this happens?
- Access to resources-quality housing, food, transportation, and decent jobs with hours that allow parents to be home for their children after school. Access to parenting resources and safe spaces for parents to be vulnerable and get help when they find they are lacking parenting skills.
- Drug decriminalization. Affordable and timely access to mental health services/substance abuse services. more availability of jobs with livable wages. Education support and advocacy for students of color. Affordable, safe housing.
- We need far more preventative measures. I have worked in the educational system, and there are few if any. Parents beg for help for their children, and many can't find affordable interventions. It starts in school where students are treated like criminals for tardies/truancies, for minor misbehaviors, where police with guns and uniforms roam the lunch rooms/halls. It happens where children are bullied and see no end. It occurs when children have unmet needs and are punished for not being able to articulate them. We do not look for the function of the behavior; instead, adults respond punitively.
- Easy access to mental, physical health treatment for families, economic assistance to support families under financial stress, educational programs for families.
- Offer programs like Restorative Justice and community service. The root of the problem can be addressed by group therapy, caring counselors, living environments that are supportive

- Instead of asking why they used or sold drugs, what happened to make them do this?
- We need to do a better job connecting as a community, address mental health issues, and address drug use. A lot of the youth encountering the juvenile justice system have horrible home lives and we need to provide options for the youth outside of the home to see positive role models if the parent(s) are unable to do so (because of mental health issues, drug use, etc). Unfortunately, the child protection system is overwrought with cases and is unable to thoroughly investigate a lot of reports. They only "act" on the most egregious circumstances, leaving so many children stuck in a very unhealthy environment with no positive support network.
- This is a huge question that needs a huge answer. Lift up all voices. Provide safe spaces where voices are respected & valued. Nurture all learners to develop their own empowerment. Be certain basic needs are met. Inclusiveness. Build a stronger sense of community. And sooo much more!
- Poverty alleviation. systemic changes that address structural inequalities
- Keep doing things like this - listening.
- We need mental health treatment facilities!
- The problems contributing to offending are complicated and complex. Having a variety of approaches to these issues can be more helpful than harmful.
- Truancy is often misrepresented as criminal. The court system should have nothing to do with schools.
- Change the way the world works in general? Wow, this is such a HUGE question....it means shifting the paradigm of how we treat people who get in trouble with the law. Because of what? Hunger? No money to pay the bills? Homelessness? Angry drunk parents? Improper nutrition? I could go on, but you get the point, I hope. I believe this question is so broad, that it is unanswerable.
- Offer accessible support services.
- Prevention and treatment
- more mental health providers; easier access to supportive services -- the waitlists for mental health services are too long; closer working relationships amongst the providers in the community and Winona County (particularly CPS)
- Addressing economic needs (for instance, raising minimum wage) and housing needs (increased housing subsidies and options for those without shelter).
- Taking a more proactive approach to at-risk families/children
- Recruit more landlords to offer housing to people with less than ideal rental histories; less stigmatization of mental health issues, easier access to services, a connected network where case managers (people who assist people with social services type issues) can connect with each other to share resources and ideas
- Communication. Education. Dealing with families having issues in addictions, lack of education, culture, racial, etc. Oftentimes people have asked for assistance and are ignored.

There's a lack of respect or trust for the system - the system is judgmental - why would you reach out to them for help. It's a vicious circle of distrust from both sides of the issue.

- As a society we need to address poverty, provide livable wages, safe and affordable housing, and early prevention programming
- Issues related to poverty, drug use, physical abuse, and racism all need to be addressed. How can we empower people within our community to form supportive, safe environments for students? How can we educate residents on the issues in a non threatening way? Our Voices is an example of a supportive group in the community. I'd love to see positive activities/ groups in Hidden Valley for adults and kids. How can we empower the residents at Belleview East to create a positive safe neighborhood?
- Intervention and prevention on a basic level. Most people do not commit crimes because they want to; there is often a need not being met. We need to address those needs first before we just punish and lock people away.
- Preventative measures like knowing your neighbor could be helpful. At the risk of sounding naive, if someone feels cared for and connected (if their needs are being met) I believe they are less likely to commit crimes. It's a dreamy perspective. Practically speaking, it would take a shift in culture.
- I believe those in crisis need to be treated with dignity, compassion and understanding ... We need preventative mental healthcare that is accessible prior to encountering the justice system. Restorative justice needs to be the norm and incorporated in more justice-seeking experiences. We also need to support the parents and guardians of minors that are likely to encounter the justice system. This could look like assistance with childcare, education on parenting as well as harm reduction methods that prevent the removal of children from their homes.
- More communication between the system and the community on options and action