



Montana Association of Counties

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MEETING MINUTES

MACo JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom | September 30, 2020

Members

Laura Obert, Chair, Broadwater

Kevin Krausz, Vice Chair, Custer

Bill Barron, Lake

Randy Brodehl, Flathead

Mike DesRosier, Glacier

Chris Hoffman, Ravalli

Andy Hunthausen, L&C

Ed Joiner, Rosebud

Tom Kuka, Pondera

Scott McFarlane, Gallatin

James Moody, Sweet Grass

Mark Peterson, Hill

Daren Schuster, Chouteau

Dennis Shupak, Stillwater

Duane Simons, Mineral

Alan Stempel, McCone

Juanita Vero, Missoula

Mike Watkins, Carter

Joette Woods, Liberty

Roman Zylawy, Mineral

Leo Gallagher, Co. Attorneys

Brian Gootkin, MSPOA

1. Roll Call & Introductions

Vice Chair Krausz called the meeting to order, and Jason Rittal, MACo Deputy Director, conducted roll call.

Guests: Mandi Bird Kennerly, Glacier County Clerk & Recorder; Ann Hughes, Missoula County Chief Operating Officer; Chris Lounsbury, Missoula County Chief Administrative Officer; Rebecca Myers, Northbound Public Affairs; Casey Collins, Congressman Gianforte's Office

2. Review Assigned Resolutions

NOTE: Resolutions become legislation and policy statements guide staff regarding MACo's action on other legislation. The Committee was tasked with reviewing their assigned resolution and making a recommendation to drop (do not pass), amend, carry forward as is (do pass), or incorporate into policy statements (do not pass; incorporate into policy).

The committee discussed their three assigned resolutions and made recommendations to the membership:

- Allow for 72 Hours of Temporary Detention, sponsored by Gallatin County (District 9)

Eric Bryson, MACo Executive Director, clarified the purpose and the original "Do Not Pass" recommendation: The resolution was not presented to the Resolutions & Legislative Committee in a way that explained the intent of the resolution. This resolution is in no way intended to incarcerate those with mental health issues. It's about custodial care 72-hours prior to the formal petition process and precommitment diversion opportunities, and it's intended to be optional.

Committee Recommendation: Do Pass

NOTE: This resolution was also assigned to the Health & Human Services Committee for review. The committee recommended that Staff draft amendments to reflect the intent—it could then be segregated and presented for discussion at the membership meeting.

- Physical Presence in Involuntary Commitment Proceedings, sponsored by Gallatin County (District 9)

Purpose: To amend laws pertaining to the involuntary commitment of individuals in mental health crises to allow two-way audio-video appearances by all parties because it can avoid unnecessary

transport of individuals in mental health crises, protecting the health and safety of law enforcement officers and individual respondents.

Committee Recommendation: Do Pass

- Setting Deputy Sheriff Salaries, sponsored by Missoula County (District 11)

Purpose: To allow local governments more freedom to set salaries for deputy sheriffs covered by collective bargaining agreements.

Committee Recommendation: Do Not Pass; Incorporate into Policy Statements (see #22 below).

3. Review/Approve Committee Policy Statements

The Committee amended several of their policy statements:

#2 – MACo believes that DETENTION CENTER reimbursement rates should reflect actual costs for services.

#3 – MACo believes mental evaluations should be conducted in locally mental health treatment facilities, when available.

#13 – ~~MACo supports a permanent and stable governance structure and funding for the administration of the public safety communications system in Montana.~~

#14 – ~~MACo supports the statewide public safety communications system being based on current federal and state communications standards in which local, tribal, state, and Federal public safety and emergency management representatives can operate autonomously and transition seamlessly, to communicate effectively in an all-hazard emergency mission role.~~

#15 – ~~MACo supports the statewide public safety communications system as a voluntary coalition of participating county governments, tribal nations and state agencies.~~

#18 – ~~MACo supports the state's funding of additional resources for the crime labs.~~

#19 – MACO SUPPORTS THE STATE'S FUNDING OF DIVERSION PROGRAMS, SPECIFICALLY FAMILY COURTS, DRUG COURTS, PRETRIAL SERVICES, AND YOUTH COURTS.

#20 – MACO SUPPORTS THE STATE'S FUNDING OF DRUG TASK FORCES.

#21 – MACO SUPPORTS THE STATE'S FUNDING OF VICTIM ADVOCACY PROGRAMS.

#22 – MACO SUPPORTS ALLOWING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MORE FREEDOM TO SET SALARIES FOR DEPUTY SHERIFFS.

4. Other Business

The committee had no further business.

5. Adjourn

There being no further business, the committee adjourned.