

Vigo County 2018 Jail & Justice System Assessment & Action Planning Project
Participant Survey Responses from First Community Forum
March 20, 2018 - 6pm-8pm - North Terre Haute High School

Approximately 138 Vigo County community members participated in the first community forum held on March 20, 2018, from 6pm to 8pm at the North Terre Haute High School.

The survey asked participants to respond to the following two issues:

- 1) *"Please list important outcomes you believe should come from incarcerating people in the Vigo County Jail."*
- 2) *"Have you, a loved one, or friend ever been incarcerated?"*

Forty-four or 32% of participants submitted surveys, providing 227 responses to what outcomes they believe should come from incarcerating people in the Vigo County Jail. Responses seem to speak directly and indirectly to important jail and criminal justice system outcomes and practices. Regarding question number 2, nine (20%) of the participants did not answer the question, 15 (34%) of the participants marked "no", and 20 (45%) mark "yes".

The following statements are the participants' responses to what important outcomes they believe should come from incarcerating people in the Vigo County Jail:

1. Detention of dangerous people
2. Release of non-violent low-level offenders
3. Implementation of speedier movement through the system
4. Replacement of cash bonds
5. Use of evidence-based risk assessments for pre-trial release
6. Triage of arrestees for mental health and addiction treatment
7. Equity in incarceration for the poor and minorities
8. Less incarceration
9. Shorter lengths of stay
10. Greater use of alternatives, such as home detention and community corrections
11. A commitment to maintain the facility
12. Don't spend so much on a jail; community needs many other things besides a big jail
13. Locate jail near courts for convenience
14. Safe and secure environment
15. Economically feasible
16. Keep close to courts for security and cost effectiveness
17. OR some misdemeanors to family members
18. Inmate security
19. Impress on the inmates the desire not to come back
20. Effective movement of inmates in and out of the facility
21. Safety for staff
22. Drug addiction treatment
23. Assessment and treatment of mental health issues
24. Swift trial and verdict
25. Options for homeless post-incarceration
26. Halfway houses or other post incarceration options to reduce recidivism

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27. Inmates leave with a positive attitude and a desire to change
28. Provide life skills, employability and social skills
29. Improve inmate literacy, if needed
30. Keep dangerous people off the streets
31. Help those in situations that perpetuate crime
32. Provide mental health support
33. Provide drug rehabilitation
34. Incarcerate those who violate the laws, hold the accountable
35. Safety and security for staff
36. Control costs
37. Responsible use of public funds
38. Speedy release of low risk offenders
39. Compliance with state and federal responsibilities
40. Programs for rehabilitation
41. Reduce recidivism
42. Transparency of operations and budgets
43. Make incarceration data available to the community
44. Transition to safe and crime-free housing
45. Transition into workplace to have a crime-free income
46. Only incarcerate dangerous people
47. Don't incarcerate petty crimes
48. Make alternatives affordable to offenders
49. Don't incarcerate people just because they can't afford to pay
50. Humane treatment of the incarcerated
51. Community reintegration programs
52. Don't incarcerate the homeless
53. Jails should not a be substitute for dealing with the homeless, mental health and healthcare
54. Speedy trials
55. Minimize length of stay
56. Incarcerate only dangerous people
57. Increase community corrections to reduce incarceration
58. Use alternative to incarceration
59. Address mental health problems outside of jail
60. Constitutional treatment of inmates
61. Low-risk classification should not be incarcerated
62. Alternatives to just slamming a jail door on non-violent offenders
63. Assistance to find a path toward productive living
64. Rehabilitate the mentally ill and drug addicted
65. Separate and classify violent from non-violent inmates
66. More programs for rehabilitation and fewer beds
67. Revision of bail system and more use of ankle surveillance
68. Humane treatment of the incarcerated
69. Limit confinement to at-risk inmates, flight or dangerous
70. Jails should not be for the indigent, needy, or those needing dental or medical care
71. Use alternatives to incarceration for most offenses

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72. Incarcerate only serious violent felons
73. Treat mental health and substance abuse issues
74. Use pretrial house incarceration
75. Use community corrections as intended, such as work release
76. Jobs need to be available to those on work release
77. Incarceration should be safe and secure
78. Jail should operate efficiently
79. Psychiatric evaluations for inmates
80. Drug addiction treatment
81. Job skills training and employment guidance for inmates
82. Move long term prisoners to state prison
83. Allow family visits
84. Don't use jail for non-violent first-time offenders
85. Protection of the innocent
86. Keep violent offenders away from the population
87. Use jail for most dangerous offenders
88. One bed day or less for low-level offenses
89. Safety for jail staff, offenders and community
90. Community leaders should implement best practices to reduce crime
91. County resources used prudently and responsibly
92. Rehabilitation of offenders to prevent future incarceration
93. Satisfactory treatment of inmates
94. Adequate facility for inmates and security staff
95. Efficient handling of criminal cases
96. Avoid incarceration whenever possible
97. Recognize inmate health and other issues
98. Provide necessary treatment for health issues
99. Appropriate penalties for dangerous and destructive inmate behavior
100. Consideration of inmate families and employment continuity
101. Speedy resolution of criminal cases
102. Brief incarceration for non-serious offenses
103. Humane treatment of the incarcerated
104. Appropriately sized jail facility
105. Alternatives to incarceration for non-serious offenses
106. Risk assessment at time of booking to reduce length of stay
107. Better and more productive person who is released from jail
108. Keep the really bad out of society
109. Provide education and training to inmates
110. Provide counseling to inmates according to individual needs
111. Forgiveness by society when released for second chance at life
112. Inmate safety
113. Efficient and responsible use of public resources
114. Make jail a positive benefit using rehabilitation, not just punishment
115. Change root causes of incarceration, such as poverty, drug use, etc.
116. Change the criminal justice system, such as roles and power of prosecutors, bond system

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117. Safety, security and dignity of staff and inmates
118. Alternatives to incarceration, such as expanding community service and home detention
119. Rehabilitation and job training
120. Reduce the number of incarcerated with economic and unemployment problems
121. Provide mental health care
122. Ensure constitutional care and custody of inmates
123. Speedy trial for everyone; add more judges for trials
124. Responsible cost to the county
125. More options to the prisoner to complete their time
126. Alternatives to incarceration for drug use offenses
127. Speed up hearings and trials
128. Use electronic monitoring for less serious offenses
129. Efficient jail design
130. Minimize incarceration of people not a threat to self or others
131. Community safety, staff safety, inmate safety
132. Rehabilitate inmates for return to society
133. Limit use of out-of-county beds
134. Release inmates with the resources to do better in society
135. Focus taxpayer's funds on incarceration to improve conditions of confinement
136. Provide mental health and drug abuse treatment
137. Reduce length of stay by speeding up the criminal justice process
138. Reduce cost of inmate phone calls and commissary for inmate families
139. The jail, the smaller the better
140. Provide mental health care for mentally ill inmates
141. Provide rehabilitation for drug abuse
142. Provide housing for the homeless
143. Reform the bail system for those who cannot make bail
144. Seek best practices for incarceration, for example: Denmark, Norway, Finland, Netherlands
145. Protect the civil rights of inmates
146. Thorough training for all jail personnel
147. Educate the community on how the jail is working toward compliance
148. Provide post-release programs
149. Use alternatives to jail
150. Provide professional care of mentally ill outside of the jail
151. Provide professional treatment for drug abuse
152. Provide options for the poor who cannot pay bail
153. Enlarge community corrections for people with jobs so they can continue to work
154. Reform laws to improve justice
155. Provide pre-release programs
156. Provide help after release
157. Reform the bail system
158. Provide drug abuse treatment
159. Remove the mentally ill from the jail into a proper facility
160. Stop sending inmates to other counties for housing

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161. Provide adequate program and social space in the jail for inmates
162. Conduct tours of the jail
163. Use alternatives to incarceration
164. Reform the bail system
165. Drug treatment facilities not connected to the jail?
166. Mental health facilities not connected to the jail?
167. Provide rehabilitation programs for re-entry into the community
168. Safe and humane treatment of inmates
169. Provide educational opportunities for inmates
170. Public safety by keeping serious offenders from the public
171. Inmate personal and health safety
172. Occupational and social training for inmate re-entry into the community
173. Early releases or alternative sentences for non-violent offenders
174. Minimal conditions for reasonable expense for a jail
175. Money is also needed for parks, schools, etc.
176. The criminal justice system should work together
177. Criminal justice system should be in one location
178. Put a courtroom in the jail to lessen transportation issues
179. Jail conditions are humane so as not to embitter inmates
180. Safe environment for jail staff
181. Efficient movement of inmates through the legal system
182. Steer drug abuse offenders to appropriate resources
183. Control jail costs to spend public resources elsewhere
184. Help felons get jobs after release
185. Change legislation to reduce the severity of punishment
186. Use pilot programs to lessen incarceration
187. Separate long and short-term offenders
188. Provide programs for inmates to deal with their violations
189. Do not prolong court cases
190. Sheriff Ewing should work on this project throughout
191. Inmates should be taught to change, not forced
192. Allow people to return something to society for their crime (restitution)
193. Safe and clean institution for inmates
194. Understand why some people become deviant
195. Respect for low income citizens to stay out of poverty
196. Freeze income for county jail employees until efficiency is achieved
197. Decrease recidivism
198. Lower jail cost to the public
199. Create a positive change in inmate attitudes
200. Provide job training
201. Teach offenders respect for public and private property
202. Adequate mental health services
203. Adequate services for alcoholism
204. A person's economic status should not determine if they can get out of jail
205. Early implementation of criminal rule #26

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206. Speedy release of low-level nonviolent offenders from jail who cannot afford bail
207. Establish a criminal justice committee that is more than advisory in scope, that is informed and unbiased, and that is not formed or appointed by local politicians
208. A robust program for re-entry into the community
209. Mental health treatment in lower security settings
210. Mental health not treated as a crime
211. Drug and alcohol treatment instead of criminality
212. Rehabilitation and recovery opportunities in lieu of incarceration
213. Don't incarcerate people locally for more than 1 year
214. Diversion for mentally ill and drug abuse conditions
215. Provide education to inmates
216. 350-400 maximum in bed capacity
217. Reform programs outside jail setting
218. Use the New Life Reform Program
219. Reduce time waiting for hearings and trials
220. Racial disparities in arrest, sentencing and incarceration
221. Should invest in community development and jobs
222. Ensure effective mental health care
223. Incarcerate fewer people using alternatives such as electronic monitoring
224. More families should keep their children instead of foster care
225. Lower bail
226. Don't transport inmates to out-of-county jails because of long distances to go to court or families have to use a lot of gas for visits
227. Less prison rapes and other crimes in prison