

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