

Leo J. Gallagher, County Attorney
K. Paul Stahl, Deputy
Lisa Leckie, Deputy
Tara Harris, Deputy
Melissa Broch, Deputy
Jeff Sealey, Deputy
Luke Berger, Deputy
Katie Jerstad, Deputy
Jeremy Gersovitz, Deputy
Anne Peterson, Deputy
Ann Penner, Deputy



Lewis and Clark County
Courthouse
228 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601
Telephone 406-447-8221
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Lewis and Clark County

June 24, 2014

Children, Health and Human Services Interim Committee
Montana Legislature
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Committee Members:

My schedule does not permit me to be present for your meeting on the 25th, however, I would like to reiterate the message I delivered when I appeared before you several months ago.

Communities are crying for services. The situation in Lewis and Clark County is dire and I doubt we are a rarity. We feel some optimism in the fact that we have a mental health crisis facility in the wings, but funding its operation is a concern. I am asking you to reaffirm your preliminary decisions to support additional funding for the three 130 bills. As a community, we have taken the risk but we need to know that we will have a good state partner to keep our program viable.

Whereas 132 never has been funded, I think you've heard anecdotally that some folks have used a variety of other funding sources to give individuals the opportunity for shorter term community treatment as opposed to an involuntary commitment to the State Hospital. Recently, my office successfully used this approach for an individual who had private insurance. I want you to know that it works and it could work a lot more often if 132 were funded, as I understand you are contemplating. Yes, it's definitely less expensive than the traditional involuntary commitment but the therapeutic value of giving someone the opportunity to be treated at home is immeasurable.

Thank you for your work on these important issues. It is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leo Gallagher".

LEO GALLAGHER
Lewis and Clark County Attorney

CHILDREN & FAMILIES
June 25, 2014
Exhibit 28

**Office Of
RICHLAND COUNTY ATTORNEY
300 12th Avenue N.W., Ste. 7
Sidney, Montana 59270
(406) 433-2505 -- FAX (406) 433-9989**

June 24, 2014

**Children, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
Montana Legislature
Capital Station
Helena, MT 59620**

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for your consideration of positive remedies for community mental health in Montana. I understand you have made some preliminary recommendations regarding crisis services. It is my intention to reinforce the need and to urge you to continue down the path you have taken.

In eastern Montana we are in desperate need of the kinds of services you have been discussing. Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin and Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman are so grateful for the crisis services in their counties. Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Leo Dutton anxiously awaits the day when the crisis program in his county will be operational. I know that they happened because those communities recognized the need, came together as communities to make it happen, and were able to avail themselves of funds that were appropriated by the Montana Legislature to close the loop.

I respectfully request that you recommend additional crisis funds for more communities like mine so that we might better serve our eastern Montana residents. With the distance that we face in transporting these patients to the state hospital in Warm Springs for treatment, it is critical that we try to find ways to serve them in our own communities and find ways for them to regain their health at home.

I pledge my involvement on this end to help make it happen.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Sincerely,



**MIKE WEBER
RICHLAND COUNTY ATTORNEY**

MW/aw

June 24, 2014

Children, Health and Human Services Interim Committee

Montana Legislature

Capital Station

Helena, MT 59620

Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for your positive support for community mental health in Montana. It is my hope to stress the need for crisis services, especially in rural areas of eastern Montana.

Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center serves 17 counties in eastern Montana. A majority of our areas are in desperate need of the kind of services that have already been implemented in the Western part of the state. Many of our counties have been greatly affected by the Bakken oilfield boom. Our staff is experiencing higher crisis situations than they have in the past, and these crises are more severe in nature.

I feel a coordinated training of all community partners would help alleviate many of the current issues we are facing. It is important that all community members come together to help solve this problem. I pledge our center's involvement to help make this process work.

Thank you for your continued support.

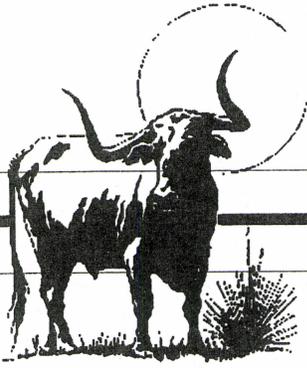
Sincerely,

Jeff Regan

Easter Montana Community Mental Health Center

Custer County Sheriff's Office

Miles City, Montana



Tony Harbaugh, Sheriff Pat Roos, Undersheriff

1010 Main

Custer County

(406) 874-3320

Fax 406-874-3444

Miles City, Montana 59301

June 19, 2014

Children, Health and Human Services Interim Committee
Montana Legislature
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for your consideration of positive remedies for community mental health in Montana. I understand you have made some preliminary recommendations regarding crisis services. It is my intention to reinforce the need and to urge you to continue down the path you have taken.

In eastern Montana we are in desperate need of the kinds of services you have been discussing. Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin and Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman are so grateful for the crisis services in their counties. Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Leo Dutton anxiously awaits the day when the crisis program in his county will be operational. I know that they happened because those communities recognized the need, came together as communities to make it happen, and were able to avail themselves of funds that were appropriated by the Montana Legislature to close the loop.

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I pledge my involvement on this end to help make it happen.

Thank you in advance for your continue support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Harbaugh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

TONY HARBAUGH
Custer County Sheriff