

December 2011
Law and Justice Interim Committee
Summary of Recommendations
Capt. Dennis McCave, CJM, MSPOA Board Member

The *Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officers Association* is committed to the continuation, updating, growth and development of the *Montana Jail Standards* and the *Jail Peer Review Process*, that it initiated, developed and has maintained over the last, almost, 40 years, for all Sheriff's and Counties in Montana. In the challenge of addressing the issue of Jail suicides in the State of Montana, the MSPOA would support and welcome the collaborative and cooperative efforts of a State "standardized" suicide screening form supported with a Statewide, central, "Call Center/Help Line" for support and assistance in addressing potentially suicidal prisoners/inmates. For meaningful results from such a program, there would need to be appropriate funding for "resources" available, or accessible, throughout the State as well as training and appropriate equipment available to all agencies within the State.

The MSPOA and its member Sheriff's and Counties are already committed with support and funding to the Standards and Review process and would welcome collaborating with any State agency in incorporating and establishing such a State wide program.

The MSPOA would support and encourage the Law and Justice Committee to consider developing a Committee Bill directing and funding an appropriate State agency to establish such a statewide, comprehensive program to reduce the potential for jail suicides throughout the State.