

MOSES SAYS “NO” TO NEW JAIL AND “YES” TO REDUCING INCARCERATION

MOSES JAIL TASK FORCE has these 3 primary goals:

1. Stop all unnecessary incarceration
 - A. End racial disparities
 - B. Treatment instead of jail for people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, or addictions
2. Improve jail conditions for those inside
3. Ensure that any facility changes promote goals 1 and 2

MOSES’ goals are ambitious and involve multiple complicated systems. But other municipalities have already succeeded with similar goals, using evidence-based strategies. **JOIN US!**

MOSES JAIL TASK FORCE

Meets 3rd Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Optional orientation for newcomers 6:00

(Sub-committee work teams have additional meetings)

St. Mark’s Church (in basement)

605 Spruce St., Madison (Off So Park St.)

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Background: In July, a consultant firm (hired by the County Board) recommended that Dane County build a new jail estimated to cost \$135 - \$141 million. A MOSES team immediately formed to decide MOSES’ position. We studied the consultants’ 600-page report and began to attend and testify at county committee meetings.

MOSES determined that the proposal assumed a continuation of already outdated incarceration practices. We discerned that many people are in jail **unnecessarily**—meaning that they are not a risk to the public and are in jail only because they are waiting for a court or DOC hearing, or cannot pay fines or bail (often \$500 or less). We also found racial disparities in jail alternative programs (e.g., only 16% of those released from jail on home monitoring are people of color, compared to 51% of those in jail).

MOSES rejected the new jail proposal in a position statement we released on August 25th. We presented this at a NAMI public forum, at numerous County criminal justice meetings, and to stakeholders and media. MOSES celebrated an advocacy win October 1st when the County Executive removed the jail proposal from the budget; but our work has just begun.

MOSES

Meets 1st Saturdays, 10A – 12N

See www.mosesmadison.org for location

(Except January meeting is on 1/10)



PEOPLE INCARCERATED IN DANE COUNTY JAIL

ADP = Average Daily Population (2012 actual or 2013 estimated); LOS = Length of stay (in days)

People in Dane County Jail	% of ADP	LOS days	Proposed Alternatives to Reduce Jail Time
People who cannot post their bail bond of: ≤\$500 \$501 to \$1,000 \$1,001 to \$5,000 <i>Effect: Jail functions as a Poor House</i>	33.8% 8% 7%	84 125 134	Do these people need to be in jail? Establish bail payment fund, sliding scale bail, or ROR Assist into FoodShares & other job training programs Implement Pre-Trial Services Program Community service in lieu of bail
People in jail who could be released for Huber privileges (to work or school) Note: No racial data provided in report. Note: Some Dane Co. Huber participants return to jail nights & weekends	23.6%		If these people are safe enough for Huber, why aren't they completely out on supervision? Did they ever need to be in jail? Huber participants should be on home electronic monitoring, not in jail Need racial data and eligibility policy to ensure equity
People with DOC holds, many with rule violations, not new crime. Note: 40% of holds are dropped; see next row. Note: Malfunctioning DOC bracelet/GPS equipment causes thousands of jail days	19.4%	25.1	Why so long? What systems changes could reduce or eliminate jail time?
People with mental illness <i>(Note: Estimates in the jail plan report vary widely)</i>	2.9% to 18.4%	31 to 43	Treatment, alternatives, diversions Create Mental Health Court (Medicaid funds) Prohibit solitary confinement for person with mental illness (except emergency segregation pending transfer to treatment facility) Transfer to mental health treatment facility Release to community with Medicaid services
People with admission type "amended"	6.4%	67.5	Need clarification of what this "amended" admission type means and whether there are potential alternatives to jail for people in this category.
People who are released by signature bond or ROR (Release on Recognizance)	4.1%	4.6	Why does this take 3 to 5 days? What systems/policy changes could reduce this?
People released after "hold" dropped	3.5%	10.1	Need clarification of what these "holds" are: Does it include DOC holds, and/or other types of holds?
People who are later released on cash bail	3.3%	3.3	Why does this take 3 to 5 days? What systems/policy changes could reduce this?
People in jail for 24 to 72 hours • Initial court hearings occur only Mon-Fri • Bail hearings occur only twice/week	2.3%	1 to 3	Video court sessions 7days/week If safe in community, release ROR, or w/ supervision More staff in District Attorney's office
Youth—16 and 17 year olds	1.9%		Youth court, restorative justice, treatment, etc. MOSES/WISDOM is working on legislation to reassign 16/17 year olds to juvenile justice system.
People in jail for less than 24 hours	1.7%	<1	What systems/policy changes could avoid this? (e.g., diversion from arrest; diversion from prosecution; District Attorney's policies]
Low-level drug offenses			Treatment instead of jail, and/or release ROR or on supervision
Arrests on old warrants			Erase old warrants (Hoover Family Foundation work)
Reduce Recidivism			Assist people with access to benefits (BadgerCare, FoodShare, job programs, etc.) before release ¹

See also: Dane County Criminal Justice System Assessment Follow Up Review, ILPP, 2011. Available at http://pdf.countyofdane.com/coboard/Dane_Follow_Up_Final.pdf

¹ The Hoover Family Foundation (a MOSES partner) has trained MOSES volunteers to help people apply for benefits, and has offered funding for other ways (e.g., bail fund) to stop unnecessary incarceration. HFF is also working on a bail loan program and other initiatives. Together HFF and MJTF seek to reduce Dane County jail population by half in 2015.