

Smith, Patrick

From: Ralston, Kathy
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 7:52 AM
To: Smith, Patrick
Cc: Bright,Carolynn; Daugherty, John
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment - Protect incarcerated people

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Pat,

Another email for the PIB.

Kathy

KATHY RALSTON

SR. PROJECT MANAGER

Administrative Services Division | Project Management Office | [REDACTED]
Office: [REDACTED] | 5 S. Last Chance Gulch
PO Box 201301 | Helena, MT 59620



From: E A [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 2:08 PM
To: Ralston, Kathy [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment - Protect incarcerated people

Kathy and the DOC,

I'm emailing to raise my voice and demand that the Montana Department of Corrections immediately take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in prisons and protect incarcerated people.

Specifically, I am asking that the DOC:

- Provide hygiene and sanitation products for incarcerated people free of charge;
- Install proper ventilation in inmates' quarters;
- Provide access to COVID-19 testing and quality medical care free of charge; and
- Enable the immediate release of people eligible for parole in the next year.

COVID-19 numbers continue to dramatically increase across Montana and we *know* that the current realities of our prisons will enable the rapid spread of COVID-19 among incarcerated people. Incarcerated people are still people. Condemning incarcerated people to contract and possibly/likely die by COVID is inhumane.

This is what we need to do to ensure the reduced risk of COVID-19 spread in prison facilities.

This is what we need to do to show we care.

Please take immediate action toward these steps.

Erin

Missoula, MT - 59802

--

Erin Austin

She / Her (*Why pronouns matter [mypronouns.org]*)

[REDACTED]

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Smith, Patrick

From: Ralston, Kathy
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 7:53 AM
To: Smith, Patrick
Cc: Bright,Carolynn; Daugherty, John
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for the MT DOC Board Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Pat,

Comments for the PIB meeting.

Kathy

KATHY RALSTON

SR. PROJECT MANAGER

Administrative Services Division | Project Management Office | [REDACTED]
Office: [REDACTED] 5 S. Last Chance Gulch
PO Box 201301 | Helena, MT 59620



From: Clara Moser [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 2:12 PM
To: Ralston, Kathy [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for the MT DOC Board Meeting

Dear Kathy,

I am writing to provide public comment at the MT DOC Public Issues Board Meeting.

As a Missoula resident who works with youth that are often labeled "at-risk" and who have experienced incarceration, I am asking that the DOC immediately take steps to ensure the safety of all inmates at risk during the pandemic, including our youth serving time in juvenile detention.

The MT DOC has waited far too long to take action in the face of immediate danger as COVID-19 spread in prisons is rapid and deadly.

Montana residents are calling on you to do the following:

1. Provide hygiene and sanitation products to all inmates in adult and juvenile detention facilities.
2. Provide proper ventilation in inmates quarters (I'm sure that air purifiers could be purchased for this purpose, and could be installed in common areas such as classrooms where youth are gathering)
3. To provide incarcerated youth with masks.
4. To provide testing and medical care to all inmates.
5. To immediately release people eligible for parole in the next year.

Thank you for your time and for listening to these requests. I hope to see the DOC work to make sure that all receive the safety and care that is necessary during the on-going pandemic.

Sincerely,
Clara Moser

Smith, Patrick

From: Ralston, Kathy
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 7:55 AM
To: Smith, Patrick
Cc: Bright,Carolynn; Daugherty, John
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re: Prison Issues Board Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Pat,

Comments for the PIB meeting.

Kathy

KATHY RALSTON

SR. PROJECT MANAGER

Administrative Services Division | Project Management Office | [REDACTED]
Office: [REDACTED] S. Last Chance Gulch
PO Box 201301 | Helena, MT 59620



From: Zoie Koostra [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Ralston, Kathy [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re: Prison Issues Board Meeting

Kathy,

I'm writing to you to demand that the DOC take steps to prevent the infection of prisoners with COVID-19 in our Montana prisons.

I think this should be accomplished by, most of all, the release of all prisoners eligible for parole in the next year, the release of any non-violent or prisoners with additional health factors that make them more at risk. In addition, prisoners who remain should be provided with proper hygiene and sanitation products, proper ventilation and social distancing in their quarters and access to COVID-19 testing and medical care.

The punishment for committing a crime is going to prison, it is not dying in prison of a preventable disease. If the state of Montana continues to ignore the health and safety of its inmates this way, it will be a serious and grave violation of their rights as human beings and citizens in our state. How can you claim to represent justice when we are putting people at risk of sickness and death each day they remain in prison without additional precautions and resources??

Release prisoners now. Provide prisoners with the space, resources and care they need to remain healthy. It is your duty to our state.

--

Zoie Koostra

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Smith, Patrick

From: Ralston, Kathy
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 7:57 AM
To: Smith, Patrick
Cc: Bright,Carolynn; Daugherty, John
Subject: FW: Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi Pat,

Alex will not be attending the meeting but wanted to express his concerns to the PIB.

Kathy

KATHY RALSTON

SR. PROJECT MANAGER

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Office: [REDACTED] S. Last Chance Gulch
PO Box 201301 | Helena, MT 59620



From: Alex Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 2:31 PM
To: Ralston, Kathy [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments

Hi Kathy,
I hope your Friday is going well.

I cannot make the meeting concerning the Prison Issues Board, though I do have concerns I would like to comment in this email.

Ultimately, I would like to see the department of corrections provide prisoners with hygiene and sanitation materials to prevent illness. I see this as especially important with COVID-19 in mind. Relatedly, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in correctional facilities, I think it is only right that incarcerated citizens eligible for parole next year be released. This could help ease transmission risks while simultaneously giving rehabilitated citizens an early start on their second chance.

Thank you for reading my email, and enjoy the weekend.

All the best,

Smith, Patrick

From: Ralston, Kathy
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 8:28 AM
To: Smith, Patrick
Cc: Bright,Carolynn
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] 9/22 Meeting

Hi Pat,

Another comment I missed for the PIB meeting.

Kathy

KATHY RALSTON

SR. PROJECT MANAGER

Administrative Services Division | Project Management Office [REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED] 5 S. Last Chance Gulch

PO Box 201301 | Helena, MT 59620



From: Ashley Moon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 3:04 PM
To: Ralston, Kathy [REDACTED] >
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 9/22 Meeting

Hi Kathy,

I would like to tune into Monday's Prison Issues Board Zoom meeting.

I'd also like to submit comment via email. Please see below.

Thanks!

Ashley Moon

Dear Department of Corrections (DOC),

People in Montana's prisons and other DOC facilities across the state are testing positive for COVID-19 and contributing to community spread. Please know that when you are not acting urgently on this inhumane situation, you are allowing people to die in the hands of your department.

As a concerned person who would like to support your department's accountability to the public and to support the lives and families of those who are incarcerated or detained in your facilities, I'd appreciate your leadership to protect those who are in your hands.

We need you and the DOC to support a mandate on the following:

- **End needless arrests and detention** - Avoid the overcrowding and stop issuing warrants for revocations from supervision, failure to appear, or for unpaid fines or fees.
- **Reduce incarcerated and detained populations** - Please release those who are immunocompromised, over the age of 60 years, those eligible for parole within the next year, and those being held pre-trial who are not "deemed a threat" to the community
- **Probation and Parole requirements waived** - Those who have been granted parole are being denied release because of requirements related to treatment, pre-release, and other processes.
- **Adequate, safe, and accessible PPE** - Ensure that proper health protections, like masks and hygiene products, are provided for those who are incarcerated or detained
- **Immediate information and care to those who are in your facilities** - Staff need to provide consistent and accurate information to incarcerated and detained people about COVID-19. Swift care should be provided to those who are sick in order not to spread this deadly disease.
- **Increase transparency of infection rates and death in your facilities** - I understand that there are over 100 'reported' positive cases in at least five county jails, as well as cases in pre-release centers, multiple DOC facilities, and state mental health facilities, as of 8/31. Please provide timely update on infection rates, testing procedures, deaths, and preventative measures
- **Halt transfers immediately** - This ensure that COVID-19 is not spread between facilities

In short, I ask that the DOC provide hygiene & sanitation products, proper ventilation in inmate quarters, access to appropriate COVID-19 testing and medical care, and the immediate release of people eligible for parole in the next year.

Time is so precious. Please take the necessary steps to ensure that everyone in Montana's DOC facilities are protected from COVID-19, including you and your family.

Smith, Patrick

From: Ralston, Kathy
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 8:04 AM
To: Smith, Patrick
Cc: Bright,Carolynn; Daugherty, John
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment: Violations of Federal laws and procedures related to U.S. Census 2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi Pat,

Below is an email for the Prison Issues Board.

Kathy

KATHY RALSTON

SR. PROJECT MANAGER

Administrative Services Division | Project Management Office | [REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED] | 5 S. Last Chance Gulch

PO Box 201301 | Helena, MT 59620



From: Laurie Little Dog <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 5:00 PM
To: Ralston, Kathy <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment: Violations of Federal laws and procedures related to U.S. Census 2020

Dear Prison Issues Board,

I am writing to provide information about the continually unresolved matters relating to the United States Census. I do caution you that a lot of time has been wasted in not doing what is required of the DOC to do in order to allow individuals to provide Census information to the bureau in order to correct the Department of Corrections omissions of data on their behalf.

I will be speaking about this critical Census matter in person at the Prison Issues Board on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. This is provided in addition to the numerous emails that have been addressed to Director Reg Michael, Deputy Director Cynthia Wolken and Governor Bullock.

What you do need to know something that I have repeated to the DOC and the local Census people time and time again. The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the United States Code. Census information is to be between the individual and the Census exclusively. The Census Bureau has one of the strongest confidentiality agreements in the federal government. Census information is protected information and it is privileged information. What an individual chooses to disclose to the United States Census is not to be reviewed or tampered with or copied by the

Department of Corrections prior to its submission to the United States Census Processing Center. I will be discussing in person further on this matter.

If the Department of Corrections insists on incarcerated persons sending **their** data *electronically* to the Census Bureau, then it is the DOC's burden to inform each inmate (all inmates- not just those you perceive to be Native American) of their Census ID number/code and allow them to access the census via electronic tablets. This way all individuals can self-submit their own clarified information directly to the U.S. Census Bureau in the confidential manner required by federal law.

Your obligation is to give all inmates access to the census, either electronically or paper forms so that they can submit that information directly to the United States Census processing center prior to the deadline.

It is in violation of federal law not to do so. It is also in violation of the United States Constitution Article IV section to the supremacy clause, as this is a state agency interfering in a federal process and is a violation of treaty which is indeed the supreme law of the land.

Laurie Little Dog

Smith, Patrick

From: Ralston, Kathy
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 8:05 AM
To: Smith, Patrick
Cc: Bright,Carolynn; Daugherty, John
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Comments for the September 22nd Prison Issues Board Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi Pat,

Laurel will not be able to attend the PIB meeting but wanted to send in comments.

Kathy

KATHY RALSTON

SR. PROJECT MANAGER

Administrative Services Division | Project Management Office | [REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED], 5 S. Last Chance Gulch

PO Box 201301 | Helena, MT 59620



From: laurel hesse <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Ralston, Kathy <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments for the September 22nd Prison Issues Board Meeting

Hello,

I am reaching out to submit my public comment for the upcoming Prison Issues Board meeting. I am unable to comment during the meeting and will appreciate your sharing my written comment with members.

Chair and members of the Prison Issues Board:

I am writing to express my concerns about the health and well-being of individuals in our state's prison system. Many of the largest COVID-19 outbreaks in the country are in prisons and more must be done to protect incarcerated people and the staff who work at correctional facilities.

According to your website, this body has the ability to, "adjust, change, or create policies; and communicate among wardens and facility administrators." I urge you to use your power and influence to ensure that individuals in your facilities receive or have access to adequate sanitation and hygiene products, personal protective gear, living areas that have proper ventilation, regular testing for Covid-19, and ongoing medical treatment.

Additionally, I urge you to follow in the footsteps of states like New Jersey and Oregon by supporting the release of all individuals who are eligible for parole in the next year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurel Hesse

Smith, Patrick

From: Ralston, Kathy
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 8:07 AM
To: Smith, Patrick
Cc: Bright,Carolynn; Daugherty, John
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: Public Comment for Prison Issues Board Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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KATHY RALSTON

SR. PROJECT MANAGER

Administrative Services Division | Project Management Office | [REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED] | 5 S. Last Chance Gulch

PO Box 201301 | Helena, MT 59620



From: Margaret De Bona [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 4:35 PM
To: Ralston, Kathy [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Public Comment for Prison Issues Board Meeting

Dear Kathy,

Please share the following public comment with the Board. Thank you so much!

To whom it may concern,

I am very concerned about vulnerable Montana's who are incarcerated during this public health crisis. We need to work to reduce the prison population to protect everyone's health, including those who are incarcerated. Incarcerated Montanas should not face the potential of contracting a deadly disease away from their families. They should not be handed down a possible death sentence.

Please work to protect us all by releasing as many folks as possible and not jailing those with misdemeanors.

Thank you for your time,
Margaret DeBona

--

Smith, Patrick

From: Ralston, Kathy
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 8:07 AM
To: Smith, Patrick
Cc: Bright, Carolynn; Daugherty, John
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Prison Issues Board Meeting Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

KATHY RALSTON

SR. PROJECT MANAGER

Administrative Services Division | Project Management Office | [REDACTED]
Office: [REDACTED] | 5 S. Last Chance Gulch
PO Box 201301 | Helena, MT 59620



From: Tucker Day [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Ralston, Kathy [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Prison Issues Board Meeting Comment

This comment is addressed to those present at the Prison Issues Board Meeting:

It is imperative that the DOC provides imprisoned people with PPE as well as ventilation and access to Covid testing and care. Additionally anyone who can be released, including those eligible for parole in the next year, should be released immediately.

Thank you,
Tucker Day

224 E Pine St
Missoula, MT 59802

Smith, Patrick

From: Ralston, Kathy
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 8:10 AM
To: Smith, Patrick
Cc: Bright,Carolynn; Daugherty, John
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for Prison Issues Board Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Pat,

I think this is the last email for the Public Comment for the PIB meeting. I am checking to see who is planning on attending the meeting, I will send you the list as soon as I hear back from everyone.

Let me know if you have any questions,
Kathy

KATHY RALSTON

SR. PROJECT MANAGER

Administrative Services Division | Project Management Office | [REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED] | 5 S. Last Chance Gulch

PO Box 201301 | Helena, MT 59620



From: Courtney VonLindern [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 3:18 PM
To: Ralston, Kathy [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for Prison Issues Board Meeting

Greetings Kathy,

My name is Courtney VonLindern and I am a resident of Missoula, MT. I am emailing you to communicate my concerns for sufficient access to hygiene products and adequate sanitation for inmates. It is imperative that the DOC provide hygiene & sanitation products, proper ventilation in inmates quarters, access to COVID-19 testing & medical care, and immediate release of people eligible for parole in the next year. This is all necessary to ensure a reduced risk of COVID in prison facilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Courtney VonLindern
Missoula, MT