

Questionnaire for 2016 MA Candidates for Sheriff

1. What is your corrections philosophy?

To identify inmate needs and offer opportunities for self-improvement and rehabilitation through education, counseling, and training in order that the inmate can successfully re-enter and reintegrate into the community and ultimately reduce recidivism.

2. What are your views on expanding the existing HOC or jail?

There are no plans to expand the facility.

3. Please share your views on transparency. Do you issue annual reports that include information on public accreditation findings, Prison Rape Elimination Act audits, suicides, and lawsuits filed against the sheriff's department (whether by inmates, employees, attorneys, or family members)? If so, how might the public view these reports? If not, do you have plans to do so?

We do not share reports with the public, however, all reports are public information and can be obtained upon request. Information on lawsuits is shared with the Attorney General's Office. Compliance with PREA and other audit information is shared with the State Department of Corrections.

4. Impact of legislation or statewide administrative policies:

- a. Do you support legislation or policy changes that could result in fewer people sentenced to incarceration at your county HOC? If so, please give examples.

YES...I support community sanctions and community based supervision. I have been working with the County Opioid Task Force to divert addicts to treatment before they get involved with the Criminal Justice System.

- b. Do you support legislation or policy changes that could result in fewer people held pre-trial at your county jail? If so, please give examples.

YES...I support an electronic monitoring option for pretrial detainees and support legislation that would allow pretrial detainees to be supervised by community corrections centers.

- c. Do you support legislation or policy changes that could result in more people sentenced to incarceration at your county HOC? If so, please give examples.

Only insofar as prolonged sobriety can only be achieved through incarceration and exposure to our treatment may have long-lasting effect.

- d. Do you support legislation or policy changes that could result in more people held pre-trial at your county jail? If so, please give examples.

NO

5. Your views on the basics of incarceration:

- a. How do you think pre-trial and sentenced prisoners should primarily spend their time?

Engaged in treatment and/or educational programs.

- b. What educational opportunities currently exist at your county HOC? At the jail? Are there waiting lists to participate? Do you support increasing or decreasing those opportunities?

We provide basic GED classes, as well as math classes, to help inmates pass the entrance tests for local manufacturers. We also have several college credit classes provided by Greenfield Community College. No waiting lists. We are always looking at ways to expand education.

- c. What employment/job training opportunities exist at your county HOC? At the jail? Are there waiting lists to participate? Do you support increasing or decreasing those opportunities?

We have several vocational job-skills programs, ie: painting, carpentry, landscape, cooking, print shop, farming, auto detailing and mechanic. Again, with no waiting list. The only thing holding us back is our size. We do not have enough space or people to expand.

- d. What mental health/substance use disorder services exist at your county HOC? At the jail? Are there waiting lists to participate? Do you support increasing or decreasing those services?

We do have a full-time mental health provider on staff, but our whole treatment program is trauma-informed/dual-diagnosis treatment.

- e. What personal growth programs (parenting, anti-violence, etc.) exist at your county HOC? At the jail? Are there waiting lists to participate? Do you support increasing or decreasing these opportunities?

We provide yoga, meditation, guitar lessons, fatherhood classes, anger management, and religious services.

- f. How often are people allowed outside at your county HOC? At the jail? What outdoor recreational opportunities currently exist at your county HOC? At the jail? Do you support increasing or decreasing those opportunities?

We provide outdoor recreation for the treatment unit and minimum security unit. This jail was not designed to expand outdoor recreation.

6. Do people who have not been convicted of an offense (i.e., pre-trial) have access at your jail have to drug and alcohol treatment? If so, are there waiting lists? Do you think it is more appropriate to provide treatment at a county HOC than to send people to community-based healthcare facility? Why or why not?

Our ability to provide treatment to pretrial detainees is very limited. We can barely afford the treatment we provide for the sentenced population. Many pretrial would be better off in community treatment.

7. What are your views on isolating prisoners (sometimes called solitary confinement) as punishment for violating HOC/jail rules? Does your facility track the use of isolation?

We do not isolate, but we do separate. Prisoners with behavior problems or are violent are kept separated from each other and let out only when the others are locked in.

8. Your views on re-entry and recidivism:

- a. If elected/re-elected, how would you ensure that prisoners leaving your county HOC have the best chance for successfully returning to their communities?

Over the past two years, we have implemented a new treatment and reentry program with an evidence-based model at its core. We will continue and expand upon this treatment model.

- b. What is the current rate of recidivism for prisoners leaving your county HOC? What are you doing to reduce that rate?

Current recidivism rate is 45%. We will continue to fully implement our new reentry program to reduce this.

9. Your views on incarcerated women:

(N/A as we do not incarcerate women).

- a. Should gender-specific medical care and education be provided?
- b. Should women be required to buy their own feminine hygiene products or should HOCs/jails provide them?
- c. Should the HOC/jail promote or facilitate meaningful contact with a woman's children? If so, how?

10. Your views on pregnant/post-partum women prisoners:

(N/A as we do not incarcerate women).

- a. Are you familiar with the 2014 legislation on pregnant and post-partum prisoners (M.G.L. chapter 127, section 118)?
- b. Is your county HOC/jail in compliance with that law?
- c. Do you support House bill, H.3679, "An Act to Ensure Compliance with the Anti-Shackling Law for Pregnant Incarcerated Women"?

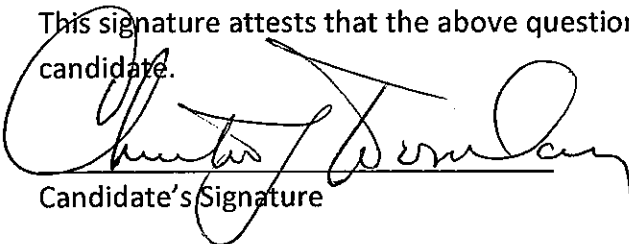
11. What are your views on videotaping strip searches of prisoners?

Although a longstanding and often necessary element of security, I find the practice to be demoralizing and working to minimize the practice in the future.

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AUTHORIZATION

This signature attests that the above questionnaire answers accurately represent the views of the candidate.


Candidate's Signature

8-4-16
Date

Candidate's name: print or type: Christopher J. Donelan

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