



Eastern Washington Rural Jails Research and Policy Network

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Who are we?

- Jennifer Sherman – (WSU Sociology) Expert in rural poverty
 - Conducts in-depth interviews and participant observation of rural communities and families in the Northwest (*Those Who Work, Those Who Don't*; forthcoming *Dividing Paradise*).
- Jennifer Schwartz – (WSU Soc/Crim) Expert in Crime and Punishment
 - Statistical analyses of crime patterns and trends. Funded by National Institutes of Justice, National Institutes of Health. Published in *Criminology*, *Addictive Behaviors*, *Homicide Studies*.
- Clay Mosher – (WSU-Vancouver Sociology) Expert in Crime Policy
 - Research evaluates crime and justice policies. Works with local and state jurisdictions on crime policies and law enforcement practices. Author of books, articles, reports on crime and public policy.

Why are we here?

- WSU is a public research university committed to its Land-Grant Mission:
 - Mandate for openess, accessibility, and service.
 - Apply knowledge to improve quality of life for communities across WA State.
 - Provide support in meeting needs, understanding of what makes rural E. Washington unique.
 - Extension office in all 39 counties.

GO COUGS

Why are we here?

- Pilot grant opportunity to establish a rural jails research and policy network among 5-10 jurisdictions.
 - ~1 year pilot (start: January 2020).
 - Two Hub sites nationally, chosen by advisory board from ~50 applicants.
 - Vera Institute of Justice, a national nonpartisan, nonprofit center for justice and policy research
- Goals of Establishing a Rural Jails Network:
 - Build knowledge about causes of local jail incarceration in **rural** jurisdictions.
 - Build capacity for data-driven policy changes.

Why a Rural Jails Research & Policy Network?

- Initial conversations with local jurisdictions suggested a local need:
 - Rural jurisdictions' specific needs tend to be poorly understood.
 - Washington State is urban-dominated; rural issues are easily ignored.
 - Concerns for rural jurisdictions: rising costs, lack of sufficient funding to meet state mandates, increasing and/or diversified incarcerated populations, and growing inmate health needs.

Why partner with us?

- Opportunity to:
 - Better understand drivers of your local jail population.
 - Engage in discussions with fellow law enforcement in neighboring jurisdictions, academics, social service and other community providers.
 - Advocate collectively to meet local needs of rural places.

What benefits does joining the Rural Jails Network provide?

- Data reports for your county on drivers of the local jail population:
 - Fact Sheets for participating counties on local jail population.
 - Analysis of high-rate offender populations and unmet county needs.
- Networking Opportunities:
 - Training sessions, tailored to the Network's needs and interests.
 - Roundtable discussions, opportunities to collaborate and problem-solve.
- Policy briefs:
 - Tailored to rural Eastern Washington's needs as established by the Network.
 - Briefings with policymakers at conclusion of pilot program.

What other opportunities does Network participation provide?

- Work together to identify solutions to shared problems and advocate for positive change.
- Examine local resources and potential partnerships.
- Facilitate new partnerships to address needs.
- Develop collaborative policies and programs that solve local issues.
- Support for future advocacy and grant writing, including data reports.

What is your obligation as part of the Network?

- Share administrative jail data confidentially with WSU researchers. This may, but need not, also include providing access to inmates for voluntary confidential interviews.
 - Memorandum of Understanding between WSU/Sheriffs Dept
- Attend three meetings/trainings at WSU with us and the Vera team, (expenses paid for 2 people/county, 3x).
- Collaborate with other Network partners in discussing ongoing issues, potential partnerships, and workable solutions.

What our team will do for the Network:

- Facilitate open communication across and within jurisdictions.
- Pay attention to each county's unique needs and experiences.
- Respond to your collective concerns and preferences.
- Help bridge Washington's urban-rural divide and create opportunities for understanding.
- Amplify your voice in the larger state context.
- Support you in your missions to improve safety, security, and quality of life for all residents of your counties.

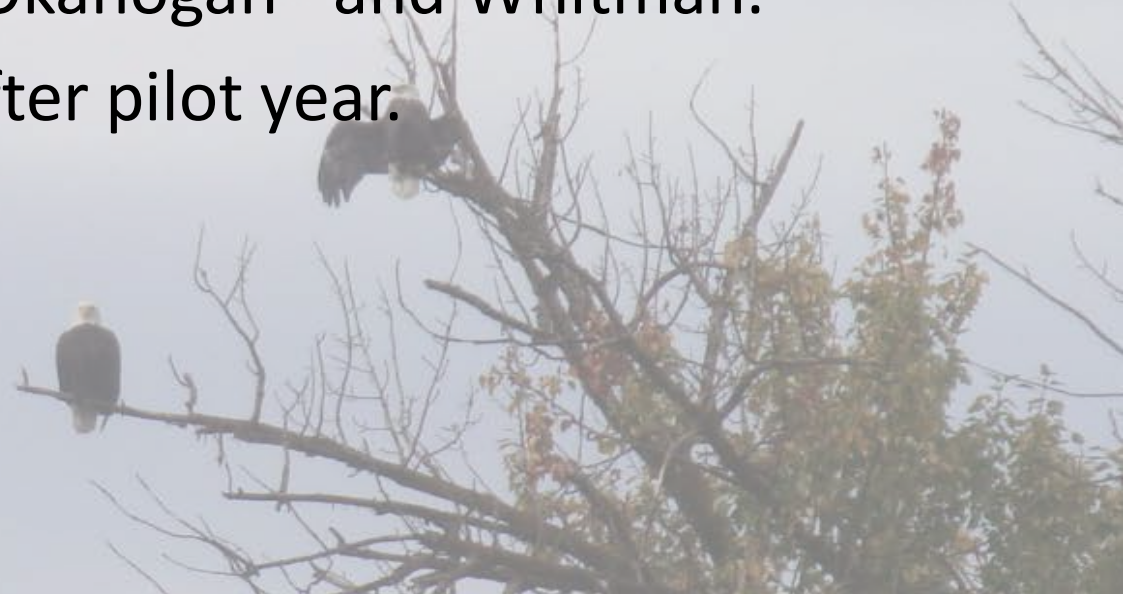
What our team will **NOT** do:

- Dictate top-down solutions.
- Create lots of extra work for your personnel.
 - Data requests will be negotiated to minimize work for your office; we will work directly with Spillman to help extract needed information
- Lobbying or partisanship.

Next Steps: How to Get Involved

- Interested rural Eastern WA jurisdictions should:
 - Sign a collaboration agreement indicating intent to join.
 - Next, work toward establishing MOU with WSU.
- Especially interested in working with Eastern WA counties defined as “rural” by the Census: Adams, Asotin*, Colville Confederated Tribes, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan* and Whitman.*
- Plans to sustain and expand Network after pilot year.

*Network Member



Thank you!

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