

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Tuesday, February 27 ~ 9:30 – 10:30 am

Facilitator: Sheriff Tom Dalbec and Sheriff Dean Roland

State Prisoners in the Douglas County Jail

Douglas County would like to thank the Department of Corrections for housing state prisoners in the Douglas County Jail during the past year. Douglas County, up to this date, has received about one million dollars in revenue from state prisoners. We are requesting that the Department of Corrections continue to evaluate the possibility of using the modern, well-staffed and equipped Douglas County Jail in housing state prisoners.

For further information contact:

Douglas Finn, Douglas County Board Chair

Phone: (715) 395-1493

Email: dgfinn@douglascountywi.org

Leah's Law

The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:

- **That the Department of Corrections add violent felony offenders to the notification process in the State Criminal Code.**

On January 17, 2006, Leah Gustafson's life was taken by a neighbor who had an extreme criminal past.

Leah's family, friends, and citizens have banded together to seek changes in our State Criminal Code. Just like violent sexual offender notification is the law in Wisconsin, we are seeking to add violent felony offenders to the notification process. Neighbors should know when a violent repeat offender is in their neighborhood. We are also calling for stricter jail sentences for repetitive violent offenses.

A public notification system will alert residents in writing when a violent repeat offender lives in the neighborhood. Notification would include a photo of the offender, address, and the previous offenses committed.

For further information contact:

Mayor Dave Ross, City of Superior

Phone: (715) 395-7212

Email: mayor@ci.superior.wi.us

Sharon Gustafson, Leah's Mother

Phone: (715) 394-3071

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Increased Treatment Alternatives & Diversions (TAD) Funding

The Citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:

- **Increased funding for the Office of Justice Assistance TAD program, which makes funds available for locally controlled alternative to incarceration programs. We're requesting that \$750,000.00 be earmarked for the eight county region of Northwest Wisconsin.**

The creation of the TAD program in 2005 gave Wisconsin counties the opportunity to implement or enhance alternative to incarceration, (ATI) programs in order to better serve non-violent, low level offenders with community based treatment. There are currently criminal justice councils, drug courts, and other ATI's operating in at least seven of the eight northwest Wisconsin counties, and yet only Washburn and Burnett counties have received any TAD funding (at approximately 60% of what was requested).

The granting of the requested funding will:

- Ease the burden of current out of county incarceration budgets
- Relieve the potential tax burden of jail construction/expansion referenda
- Help expand the capacity of existing community based treatment for non-violent low level offenders with alcohol and drug or mental health issues
- Help return individuals to the community as productive citizens

The dollar amount of the request is based on numbers drawn from existing programs and unfunded TAD requests, which indicate that there is strong regional support for an increase in TAD funding.

For further information contact:

- Steve Carlson, Northern Wisconsin Justice Alliance Director
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- Dean Roland, Burnett County Sheriff
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- Julie Yaekel-Black Elk, Burnett County Therapist
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