



*Program Coordinator
Lewis and Clark County
24/7 Sobriety Program*

Jolene Peavey was admittedly wary of the 24/7 Sobriety Pilot Program when it came to Lewis and Clark County in the summer of 2010. It wasn't that Peavey, program coordinator of Lewis and Clark County's ground-breaking 24/7 program, thought the concept would fail. But it had

never been done in Montana before. And Peavey was an accountant technician; she wasn't hired to administer any program, much less a new, untried one.

¶ A year of trial and error later and Peavey has her system down to a science. The Lewis and Clark program has been an enormous success, so much so that the 2011 Legislature voted in big bipartisan margins to take the program state-wide, beginning this fall. A lot of that success is owed to Peavey.

¶ Peavey knows 24/7 from the ground up and here she answers the kind of practical questions you may be facing as put your own program together for the first time.

Q: Where do you do your tests?

A: Some are tested here (at the Lewis and Clark County Detention Center) and some at the Helena Pre-Release Center.

Q: At the jail, do you have a special room set aside?

A: No. We do our testing right outside our detention center, right in the public area where people would wait to be booked. There's not a specific room and it's been working fine.

Q: Are there ever lines?

A: Yes. From what I've seen we've probably had six or seven (maximum) at a time waiting for a test. Most of the lines are because we have detention officers doing the testing and booking (new detention center residents) takes precedence.

Q: How do you handle the lines?

A: It's a good idea to have somebody else trained to do the testing if the (regular testers) get backed up. We haven't had many problems with our officers getting backed up, but if they get too overwhelmed I work right outside the jail door and I can help.

Q&A continued

Q: Why are the tests administered at the jail?

A: Lewis and Clark officers were already testing some people once-a-day, so we already had testing in place. Plus, if (a 24/7 enrollee) blows hot, they're already right here in the jail. (Designers of the program also chose to administer some tests at the Helena Pre-Release Center because center has ample parking, is on a bus route and is closer to East Helena.)

Q: Have you ever had a problem with behavior of 24/7 enrollees?

A: No. They're pleasant.

Q: When do you test and how did you pick those hours?

A: We test from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and again from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Peavey also said that the Lewis and Clark program can be modified as needs arise. They are currently considering changing the times the tests are offered to better accommodate the detention center's schedule.)

Q: Do you ever have any trouble with parking?

A: Not at first, but it has started to be a problem. (Some days) we hardly have any parking for ourselves. (This is complicated by the seven to nine schedule, Peavey said, another factor in possibly changing the hours the county does its testing.)

Q: How long does it take to process one person through the test?

A: Just a couple of minutes. We have a little envelope where they fill out their name and the date and the amount of money they've given us. The test itself takes probably 10 seconds. You enter that into the (computer) program, hit "send" and you're done.

In lieu of twice-daily breath testing, some participants may be ordered to wear an alcohol monitoring ankle bracelet. Peavey said some people prefer the bracelets.

Q: Are you available for questions if I run into problems.

A: Absolutely. I'm at **447-8234**. I'm glad to help.

{ Good Luck! }