

## **WGTE PUBLIC MEDIA LAUNCHES RETHINKING JAILS + JUSTICE RADIO SERIES ON FM 91**

*The “Rethinking Jails + Justice” project is in collaboration with The Board of Lucas County Commissioners and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Safety + Justice Challenge*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TOLEDO, OHIO – April 26, 2024** – WGTE Public Media’s “Rethinking Jails + Justice”, in collaboration with The Board of Lucas County Commissioners and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Safety + Justice Challenge, is set to launch the latest phase of the project on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. This 5-part radio series hosted by Jerry Anderson discusses the community’s most pressing questions from the Rethinking Jails + Justice live Town Hall event held in January 2024. Each episode will launch on the last Tuesday of each month, April through August. These episodes will be available online following the broadcasts at [www.wgte.org/rjj](http://www.wgte.org/rjj)

#### **Radio Series Episode Topics and Airdates:**

- *Life After Jail + Wrongfully Accused* - Tuesday, April 30 at 7 p.m.
- *Youth, Crime + Gangs* - Tuesday, May 28 at 7 p.m.
- *Treating Mental Health + Addiction in Jail* - Tuesday, June 25 at 7 p.m.
- *Police Reform, Gun Violence + DNA Testing* - Tuesday, July 30 at 7 p.m.
- *Trusting in our Justice System* - Tuesday, August 27 at 7 p.m.

The “Rethinking Jails + Justice” project launched in January 2024 to examine and challenge conventional thinking about over-incarceration that adversely and disproportionately affects racial and ethnic minorities.

It kicked off with a live, public town hall event at the downtown Main Branch Library where over 100 community members attended to listen and contribute to the

conversation. Audience and viewer questions were collected during the discussion and those that were not able to be answered that evening are catalysts for the chosen radio series topics. A recording of the livestreamed town hall event is available at [wgte.org/rjj](http://wgte.org/rjj).

Jerry Anderson also emceed the town hall event and guided the following panels through the conversation:

***System Change vs. Community Change?***

Sean McNulty, Chief Public Defender: Toledo Legal Aid Society

Scott Sylak, Executive Director: Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

Holly Matthews, Executive Director: Toledo-Lucas County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Carol Contrada, Former Lucas County Commissioner

Malcolm Cunningham, Director: Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

Commissioner Pete Gerken, Lucas County Board of County Commissioners

***Reform vs. Safety***

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, City of Toledo

Chief Michael Troendle, Toledo Police Department

Judge Gene Zmuda, Sixth District Court of Appeals and Former Lucas County Common Pleas Judge

Judge Tim Kuhlman, Toledo Municipal Court

Commissioner Lisa Sobecki, Lucas County Board of County Commissioners

Bud Hite, Executive Director: Lucas County Correctional Treatment Facility

Visit [www.wgte.org/rjj](http://www.wgte.org/rjj) for more information on WGTE's "Rethinking Jails + Justice."

For more information on the Lucas County Safety + Justice Challenge, visit [www.lucascountycjcc.org/SJC](http://www.lucascountycjcc.org/SJC)

Project and event video promo: [youtu.be/mGF38JkOWYw](https://youtu.be/mGF38JkOWYw)

Rethinking Jails + Justice Town Hall Livestream: [www.wgte.org/rjj](http://www.wgte.org/rjj)

**About WGTE**

WGTE Public Media, licensed and operated by The Public Broadcasting Foundation of Northwest Ohio, is a non-profit, noncommercial, educational TV and radio broadcaster

and center of learning for northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. WGTE is proud to be a PBS and NPR member station. It was founded as a low-power educational television broadcaster in 1953. Education remains at the heart of what we do every day. From our entertaining, informative and educational programs that air on WGTE TV, FM 91, and [www.knowledgestream.org](http://www.knowledgestream.org) to our professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers and preschool daycare providers and community engagement activities, WGTE makes northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan a better place to live. For more information, visit [www.wgte.org](http://www.wgte.org).

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