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Mapping Justice in Whatcom County

Whatcom County, Washington

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Investigating the Problem(s)

- Move from broad priority areas to specific challenges
- To reduce your average daily jail population:
 - Admissions
 - Length of Stay
- Learn deeply about causes of the challenges
- Resist the urge to jump straight to solutions
 - Value in gaining deep understanding of facts and data behind a problem *before* reaching for solutions

Challenge Statements

- Should be defined as a *specific problem*, not in a way that presumes a solution:
 - “*County X needs a special warrant recall docket*” is not an appropriate challenge statement.
 - In contrast: “*The high rate of outstanding warrants in County X increases mandatory arrests.*”

Next Steps

- With a list of challenges defined, learn as much as you can about:
 - The causes
 - What, if anything, is being done today to address them
 - What is working and what isn't
 - Whether and how other jurisdictions have made progress
- Narrow your list and prioritize

Contact Information

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