

**From:** [Cathy Halka](#)  
**To:** [Safford, Bertha H. MD](#)  
**Cc:** [SAC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Question regarding IPRTF meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 15, 2022 10:38:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hello Dr. Safford,

I am not sure where you saw a 500 bed jail information, which is not accurate.

The main jail was originally built to hold 148 offenders. With some limited remodeling, the operational capacity of the main jail should be 212. The absolute capacity of the Work Center is 150 beds. County Corrections also manages alternative sentencing which includes home detention, work crew and work release as alternatives to incarceration.

As of June 13, 2022, there are a total of **332** offenders under supervision

- 181 are housed in the downtown jail
- 109 are housed at the work center
- 16 are on Electronic Home Detention (an additional 29 people are on the District Court Electronic Equipment Program, which is facilitated by the EHD Deputy)

On June 14<sup>th</sup> Sheriff Elfo announced changes to jail booking restrictions:

<https://whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/67633/2022--06-13-Sheriff-Elfo>

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Best,  
Cathy

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**Cathy B. Halka, AICP** *(she/her)*

**Legislative Analyst**

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*Work Schedule: Tuesday through Friday*

*This email is subject to disclosure through the Public Records Act.*



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**From:** Safford, Bertha H. MD  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2022 10:06 AM  
**To:** Cathy Halka <CHalka@co.whatcom.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Question regarding IPRTF meeting

Dear Cathy,

Thank you for your previous answers to my questions. I have another.  
Can you please help me understand the reasons behind the critical shortage of jail availability in Whatcom County when the website describes it as a 500 bed facility and the daily census is well under that? I think this is important to help the public get behind the urgent need for a new facility.

Thank you.

*Berdi*

Bertha H. Safford MD  
Retired, Ferndale Family Medical Center, Family Care Network