

**From:** [Brel Froebe](#)  
**To:** [SAC](#)  
**Subject:** more feedback from 7/14 SAC meeting  
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One reflection I have from our last meeting on 7/14 that synthesizes Sheriff Elfo and Michael Lilliquist's comments:

I believe it's important to be honest about the purpose of the jail: it is not a site of effective rehabilitation, but a place to incarcerate people in the criminal legal system. If it is not an appropriate space to rehabilitate, to provide the services needed to reduce the likelihood of recidivism, and to support people in getting at the root causes of why they did something harmful, then we should take that into account when we look at where we want to invest resources. As Lilliquist said, perhaps we should be making sure that we focus on what happens before and after incarceration as far as where we will see the highest return on our investment, if our goal is "incarceration prevention and reduction."

Some additional comments on the Needs Recommendation Chart:

Community behavioral health:

2) Is this requesting funding for building/staffing additional inpatient SUD/MH facilities?  
3) if the goal of these recommendations is to recommend "the highest priority actions to take for reducing the census of people with mental health and substance use disorders in the jail," I'd love to learn more about how this intervention will accomplish this goal. Does the BHGAT think that this intervention would reduce arrests/incarceration, or is more of an additional support system to help facilitate a better/more "humane" process when dealing with arrest/incarceration?

Housing Services for At Risk Populations:

4) I'd still love more clarity on how the "affordable housing across income spectrum..." would be achieved? Is there a policy solution to require that more affordable housing is built in future development within Whatcom County/Bellingham? Or is this requesting funding to provide more dedicated affordable housing for folks post incarceration? Or both?

Reentry Services:

I want to uplift/combine comments made by Arlene, Eve, and myself: having navigators that can help people with reentry, building community within housing, and behavioral health peer support should be a priority. Navigators may be most effective if they are folks who have been legal system-involved themselves at one point in their life. Having a program that provides meaningful and high quality training to peer navigators would be so beneficial and empowering. There are models out there that are effective, and also provide economic opportunities for formerly incarcerated people.

Thanks,  
Brel