

From: [Lilliquist, Michael W.](#)
To: [SAC](#)
Subject: Facilities questions
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Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Fellow SAC members,

Here are some questions/thoughts that came to mind during today's presentations on facilities.

- We heard a great deal about the shortcomings of the present jail facilities. Is there anything worth saving? Would it be best to tear them down, to redevelop to meet other County facilities needs? To house community/social services/justice needs?
- We saw data on jail stay duration, but those numbers were not broken down by type of charges or case the inmates had. It is increasingly clear to me that we have at least two types of inmates, or maybe two ends to a spectrum of inmate types. On the one hand are short term stays, people who are arraigned and released after booking, maybe on bail or personal recognizance or through diversion such as home monitoring. How much capacity is needed to accommodate this kind of inmate, and what services are needed for them, either in jail or upon community release? On the other hand are the longer term inmates, usually facing more serious charges, with multiple charges, and with or without serious other issues with mental health, competency for trial, and/or addiction. Same question: How much capacity is needed to accommodate this second kind of inmate, and what services are needed for them?
(As on observation, some people in the community are concerned that we over-incarcerate, while other folks are concerned that crime rates are up because we are not holding people that should be in jail. Might this concern the two different kinds of inmates, generally speaking? Maybe we want to drive down the numbers for the former, so we have capacity for the latter, right?)
- With regard to services, do we have good reason to believe that services will reduce the likelihood of new offenses and/or new troubles with the criminal legal system? If so, then funding services is a valid means of improving public safety and lowering crime, as well as reducing the demand on the jail.
- Also with regard to services, can we create more capacity and facilities that can accept released inmates, either while awaiting trial or after sentencing, that are located in the community. If better

services are provided in jail, then we have a perverse incentive for inmates to remain in jail or to be brought into custody. Can community-based services be directly linked and integrated with in-jail services – same providers, same programs, to create continuity of care?

Thanks for hearing my thoughts.

Best regards,

Michael Lilliquist
Bellingham City Council
Representative, Ward 6

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