



VISION, VALUES, & GOALS

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) for the Justice Project created draft vision, values, and goals statements to guide their work in the Needs Assessment report.

Tell the SAC if you agree with these statements and if anything is missing.

DRAFT VISION

The Vision presents the big picture of what we envision for our community. The vision is not what is currently true, but describes the ideal state toward which we aspire.

Whatcom County is a model for community safety, health, and justice by reducing the need for incarceration through early intervention and long-term investments in people and programs that support prevention, rehabilitation, and accountability in the community and within the criminal legal system.

PREVENTION: We invest in children and families and address social, educational, economic, and racial disparities that are known risk factors for involvement with the criminal legal system and can lead to incarceration and re-incarceration.

REHABILITATION: We devote sufficient resources to a variety of evidence based behavioral health, housing, and re-entry support services that will minimize future interactions with the criminal legal and crisis systems and reduce crime.

ACCOUNTABILITY: To protect public safety, we utilize a range of alternatives to incarceration for low-risk offenders that require personal accountability; and when incarceration is called for, we operate facilities that are humane, well-equipped, well-maintained, and adequately staffed to promote health and safety.

DRAFT VALUES

The core principles that guide decision-making and investments of time and resources.

1. Protect public health and safety.
2. Prioritize timely and early interventions to save lives, improve outcomes, and save money over the long term.
3. Use measurable goals and reliable data to evaluate the success of interventions and innovations, and drive decision-making.
4. Facilitate public engagement in transparent decision-making processes that reflect community priorities.
5. Openly and actively address inequities and discrimination.
6. Honor the humanity of all parties involved in the criminal legal system.
7. Identify, implement, and expand evidence-based best practices.
8. Ensure systems, services, and facilities are adaptable to changing circumstances and needs.

Email the SAC at sac@co.whatcom.wa.us with your feedback.

DRAFT GOALS

The goals statements describe what we hope to achieve and how we will achieve it.

SERVICE GOALS

1. Community and jail-based services (e.g., treatment for mental health & SUD, affordable supported housing) support healing, and make measurable differences in reducing crimes of poverty and repeat offenses.
2. Low-risk offenders are safely and effectively diverted from a Whatcom County Jail sentence and provided with support to help them succeed.
3. Adequate funding, staffing, resources, & service capacity are available at all points of contact so that people involved in the criminal legal system are assured of a speedy and fair resolution of legal issues and have opportunities to build productive lives thereafter.
4. People released from jail have immediate access to BH & medical care, housing, employment, & support systems to avoid re-incarceration.
5. People working within and alongside our criminal legal system (e.g., advocates, navigators, legal counsels, jail staff, providers) are valued, fairly paid, and representative of the members of our community.
6. Coordinated services and programs effectively close the gaps between community, legal, & jail-based services at all points of contact in the criminal legal system.
7. Legislative & policy tools are used to safely limit and reduce the jail population.

FACILITIES GOALS

1. Facilities are designed and operated to meet the health, safety, & welfare needs of those incarcerated and the people who work & visit there.
2. Facilities are designed to be versatile to adapt to changing needs.
3. Incarceration facilities balance compassion with accountability to promote safety, health, rehabilitation, and recovery.
4. Facilities adequately serve the whole county, including cities and tribal jurisdictions.

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