

From: [RB Tewksbury](#)
To: [SAC](#)
Cc: [Cathy Halka](#)
Subject: Re: Feedback on Draft Report by Dec 6 - Justice Project
Date: Saturday, December 3, 2022 12:06:42 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

"The Vera Institute found pretrial defendants comprised nearly 60% of the jail population in 2016. Currently, an estimated 98% of the jail population is not fully sentenced and is awaiting trial on any given day. Sixty-four percent of the respondents to the Jail Inmate Survey indicated their time in jail was longer because they were unable to pay bail. With expanded options for pretrial defendants and/or bail reform, the size of this group could be safely reduced." Source: Page 26 of SAC's [Draft Needs Assessment Report](#).

I respectfully request the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Justice Project add to the SAC's final recommendations The Vera Institute's bail reform recommendation for *"Risk-based assessment of pretrial defendants as an alternative to bail."* Specifically, *"Whatcom County should shift from a cash-based to risk-based pretrial justice system that provides for individualized release decisions informed by a validated risk assessment instrument and a range of pretrial release and supervision options. This is considered best practice in the field."* Source: Page 41 of November [2017 Report to Whatcom County Stakeholders on Jail Reduction Strategies](#).

RB Tewksbury

On Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 5:58 PM Cathy Halka <CHalka@co.whatcom.wa.us> wrote:

Dear Stakeholder Advisory Committee Members,

We are now at the stage in our process of reviewing the **attached DRAFT Needs Assessment** as a whole, and **refining** the Assessment in light of additional data and input that can help inform our work. That includes the input from the [Town Hall Meeting](#), and the results of the **Surveys of Jail Inmates and Jail Staff** (attached).

Also attached is information about **Re-entry Services** which Jackie Mitchell put together for us in response to the questions people asked at our November SAC Meeting.

Our hope is that SAC Members review these documents and provide initial feedback on the DRAFT Needs Assessment **by end of day Dec. 6th** (*we've extended the timeline*). When you read through the DRAFT Needs Assessment, consider **what is missing or inaccurate**. Please pay special attention to the Needs & Recommendations charts, which have been

reorganized and revised to reflect your input. Email any comments to: sac@co.whatcom.wa.us.

Thank you!

The SAC Planning Team

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

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