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Subject: Needs Assessment Comments Monday,
December 5, 2022 5:45:18 PM
Date:
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[oledata.mso](#)

p.24 – Drug Court does not serve juveniles

p.26 – “An exception to this is sex offenders, who are required to be taken into custody immediately without the possibility of bail.” *Incorrect.*

People accused of sex crimes are entitled to bail pretrial. Some sex offenses require remand to custody after conviction while awaiting a Pre-Sentence Investigation report by DOC. That statute gives DOC 60 days to submit the PSI.

p.27 – “Similarly, sex offenders tend to be in jail longer before sentencing as they await evaluations that can take weeks to complete.” DOC gets 60 days to complete their PSI.

p.29 – Individual Risk Factors – add “unhoused” and move poverty and unhoused above “criminogenic factors”.

p.39 – Need/Gap – additional training for jail staff: motivational interviewing and mental health first aid

p.41 – “The creation of GRACE, LEAD, Community Paramedic, and MCOT programs, the new Anne Deacon Center for Hope (Crisis Stabilization Center), and the Alternative Response Team have been welcome additions to the array of diversion options.” I think it is disingenuous to suggest these are “diversion options” and that there is an “array” they have been added to. These programs provide services, but do not divert people out of the criminal legal system.

p. 42- *Limited* SUD assessments are provided in the jail – and the CJTA funds are not to be used for pretrial defendants, per recent emails from the Health Department. I think that the extremely limited number of people that PACT programs can serve should be articulated – something like 3-5 people a month and that is for the whole programs, including people who are not incarcerated.

p.44 – Jail Based Population – I do *not* believe that the jail has any community services or support groups at this time – no AA, NA, support group for dv or sexual violence survivors, or faith based groups.

Respectfully,

Maialisa Vanyo

Chief Deputy
she/her/hers

Whatcom County Public Defender Office

We listen. We care. We fight.

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