

**From:** [Kendra Cook](#)  
**To:** [SAC](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Needs Assessment  
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The SAC Planning Team,

I read in the Draft Needs Assessment. My opinion is not positive. This Draft is very biased.

**If I were to read this as a voter, I would vote against it.**

**Reason:**

The first 14 pages is far left wing liberal speak with radical ideology using political correctness and rhetoric instead of middle of the road wording to include names of resources and provide full transparency.

**EXAMPLE of left wing speak vs. middle of the road speak: Using Page 8, Paragraph 2:**

**Left Wing Speak (as it currently is worded):** Public safety systems are now being reexamined. An over-reliance on incarceration is costly and not ultimately result in improved public safety over time. It has become clear that jails are being used not only for public safety purposes but also to fill gaps in broken systems. They have evolved for example, into housing and behavioral health treatment facilities of last resort.

**Middle of the Road Speak (if it were reworded):** Examining public safety systems show an over-reliance on incarceration does not result in improved public safety. At times, Jails have been used as housing and behavioral health treatment facilities due to the broken systems.

Hear the difference? Brevity, no distractions, straight to the point, reduce filler words...

(Later in the Draft, on the chart page 52 it pushes for houses and behavioral health treatment...even though the Draft mentions above that it's costly to do so. Inconsistencies throughout this Draft cause a red flag.)

**HERE'S ANOTHER EXAMPLE:**

**EX: Page 8, last paragraph on the left: left wing liberal speak with radical ideology using political correctness and rhetoric:**

"In Whatcom County, the pendulum is swinging towards a point of balance. A growing number of community members and leaders have called for reforms to reduce incarceration rates and prevent criminal legal system involvement."

- \* *What balance?*
- \* *Who are these people?*
- \* *What leaders?*
- \* *Why can't I look up their information to see their credibility?*

\* *Where's the transparency?*

\* *Why should I believe random unnamed people in unnamed groups?*

**THE ONE SENTENCE THAT WILL KILL THE VOTE:** Page 8, last sentence of 1st paragraph.

**"Striving to make a jail a one-time occurrence for those who are incarcerated improves lives and saves taxpayers money."**

*\*Ideology does not back up with facts. If a person suddenly doesn't need jail, then why would a new jail need to be built, and why can't that be done now? "...saves taxpayers money" is thrown in without context and out of place as an awkward attempt to target middle of the road to right leaning voters yet has no credibility.*

**Page 38-39 System Needs & Recommendations: Critical Race Theory (ideology) will lose voters.**

**1C Needs/Gaps**

**"People of color are disproportionately incarcerated due to racism in our society and biases within law enforcement practices."**

This is a "talking point" of the far left wing radical groups. This also implies law enforcement is racist and biased. Our law enforcement is not what this chart makes our local law enforcement out to be. This chart is offensive to our local law enforcement. *I will not be associated with nor tolerate any draft or stakeholders group that pushes the false narrative that our local law enforcement is racist or biased.*

Everyone is biased. Everyone. This entire Draft is more biased than police. Police, in particular, are trained to try their best to not be like everyone else and reduce that bias to the lowest form than any other human.

**Page 52-54: Facilities Needs & Recommendations:**

Needs/Gaps on page 52 & 54 are all categories that nonprofits currently fund such as Opportunity Council, Catholic Community Services, Light House Mission and their BaseCamp... The jail does not need to reinvent the wheel of established nonprofit resources.

**Didn't we SAC members all agree this was not part of the new jail: "Break the law, get a house" was not a favorable idea since many law abiding people, of no fault of their own, need housing and can't get it?**

This seems a bit sneaky to be in the draft....but it fits the agenda of The Vera Institute...

**3c. Reflects a small part of Tyler Byrd's work and facility needs and needs to have ALL his work. Tyler did an INCREDIBLE job. More of his work needs to be included.**

I am disappointed.

It seems there was an agenda from the outset and the SAC meetings were used to cherry-pick information to fit the needs of the agenda.

**How can the Draft improve?**

- Get rid of the Far Left Wing Ideology Talking Points
- Stick to what was presented in the SAC Meetings.
- Professionals in the field should write the content where their topic is discussed.
- Do not mislead, only provide truth.

Thank you,  
Kendra Cook.

[LinkedIn](#)

*"Life is to be lived. Live life." - Kendra Cook (in memory of Benn Banks)*