

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL  
Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.



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COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
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(360) 778-5010

## WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

December 8, 2021

Eli Wainman  
2929 Northwest Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Sent to: [eli.wainman@gmail.com](mailto:eli.wainman@gmail.com)

Dear Eli Wainman,

Thank you for your application to serve on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Justice Project (Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facility Needs Assessment) representing the position of *Citizen: Criminal Justice Advocate*. The Whatcom County Council voted on December 7, 2021 to appoint you to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

The Justice Project will focus on planning for a criminal justice system that is built to address the root causes of incarceration and designed with rehabilitation as the goal. It will prioritize community-based preventative services, invest in behavioral health services, maximize successful re-entry, and minimize recidivism. More information is available at [www.whatcomcounty.us/justice](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/justice).

Enclosed is an information sheet on the roles and responsibilities of SAC members. The SAC includes 36 members who will guide the development of the project, act as liaisons to their communities, and help develop community support. There will be approximately five (5) SAC meetings over the next five months, with additional activities to be completed independently outside of SAC Meetings.

The first SAC meeting will be held (virtually/remotely via Zoom) on Thursday, January 20, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and more details, including zoom join link and agenda, will be provided soon.

Please contact Cathy Halka, Legislative Analyst, at [chalka@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:chalka@co.whatcom.wa.us) or 360-778-5019 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your willingness to participate in this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry Buchanan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barry Buchanan  
Council Chair

C: Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council  
AB2021-704

Encl. SAC Information Sheet

## STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) FOR THE JUSTICE PROJECT (PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND JUSTICE FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT)

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) is to guide the development of the Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facility Needs Assessment. SAC members will act as **liaisons** to the communities or agencies they represent. They will **share information** about the study, **bring feedback** to the SAC meetings, and **help build a plan** that is reflective of community values. Through engaging communities and agencies they represent, SAC members will help **develop community support** for the recommendations in the Needs Assessment. SAC members will actively participate in developing the Needs Assessment.

### MEMBERSHIP

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee will consist of 36 voting members as follows:

1. Whatcom County Council Member
2. Whatcom County Administration
3. Bellingham City Councilmember
4. Bellingham Administration
5. Tribal Nations (2)
6. Small Cities (2)
7. Behavioral Health and Social Service Providers (4) \*  
May include but not limited to:
  - Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
  - Housing Specialists
  - Domestic Violence Prevention
  - Re-entry Job Training
  - Philanthropic Specialists
8. Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (acting as the Law and Justice Council) (4)
9. Bellingham Police
10. Whatcom County Sheriff
11. Whatcom County Health Department
12. Citizen - Behavioral Health (mental health and substance use disorder (SUD)) Advocate\*
13. Citizen - Criminal Justice Advocate (9)\*
14. Individual with lived experience in the criminal justice system (5)\*
15. Jail Resources/Service Providers\*
16. Teamsters Local 231 Whatcom County Corrections Business Unit

*\*Members marked with an asterisk are appointed by the Whatcom County Council.*

### MEETINGS

- The SAC will meet five times over the next five months, via an online virtual meeting platform such as Zoom, with additional meetings as needed. Members can expect each meeting to include elements such as a presentation, moderated discussion of ideas among the full membership, and other activities designed to generate feedback. Meetings will be approximately 2 hours.
- SAC Members will be expected to dedicate additional time outside of scheduled SAC meetings to review materials and engage and promote participation from the broader community.
- The SAC will elect a chairperson from among its members.
- Meetings will be open to the public.
- Audio recordings and written summaries of meetings will be available online.
- The SAC may develop subcommittees as needed to accomplish their goals.

For more information, please visit: [www.whatcomcounty.us/justice](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/justice)