

Services Enrollment for Whatcom Triage Clients 2015

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Avg
% Enrolled in New Service	39	40	41	40
%MH	83	79	73	78
%CD	25	36	27	29
% Existing Services	65	43	56	54

Whatcom County Triage Referral/Admission for 2015

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Avg
Referred	unavailable	21	52	42	41	44	51	57	58	59	pending	52
Admitted	18	15	18	19	19	28	25	31	35	27	pending	20
Denied									8	16	pending	
Denied d/t no bed									5	10	pending	

% Admitted	71	35	45	46	64	49	54	60	46	pending	52
% Denied								14	27	pending	20
% Denied d/t no beds								63	63	pending	63

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Local offender housing blocked by county

By Mark Reimers
news@ferndalerecord.com

CUSTER — Concerns from Custer residents regarding a proposed community living space for sex offenders on Stein Road were put to rest in late December after state and county agencies rejected it.

Circulated reports on social media regarding the proposed housing, sought at the deadend 9300 block of the road, gained steam as various Custer-area residents declared their opinions that the area was a bad match for sex offenders.

On Monday, Dec. 22, Whatcom County Sheriff Bill Elfo informed the Ferndale Record by email that the person pursuing the site had been planning on 14 offenders occupying a manufactured home on the property or being campers there.

Elfo said he only learned of the plan after neighbors contacted his office and those of other county and state officials. State law, he said, doesn't require those planning this type of housing to contact the sheriff's office.

See **Housing** on A2

Housing: A no-go

Continued from A1

Since some of the offenders would have received housing vouchers for rent payments from the State Department of Corrections, Elfo said, the sheriff's office brought its concerns to DOC which concluded that 14 offenders housed at the Stein Road location "was not prudent."

"They decided not to fund vouchers for that location," Elfo said. In addition, Whatcom County Planning and Development Services and the Health Department also decided the proposed use ran afoul of various codes and shouldn't be permitted.

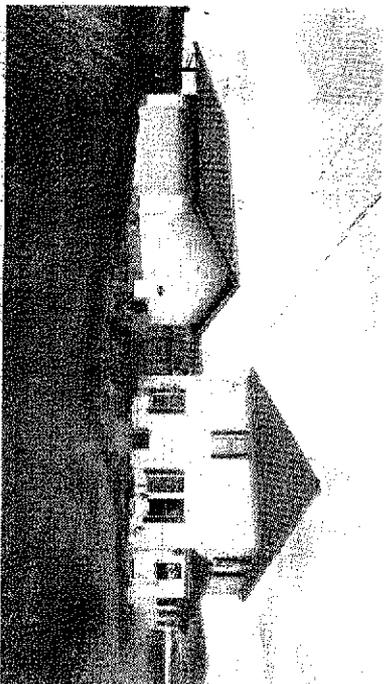
Elfo said it appears that the property purchase then fell through. However, he later learned from residents in the Lenhart Road area — off Rock Road east of Sumas — that the

same person is now considering the purchase of a site for people being released from prison, potentially including sex offenders. However, county planning staff again determined that the proposed Lenhart Road site use is not consistent with county codes.

Elfo said his office has notified Corrections about the new apparent planned use and its possible inconsistency with county codes.

Elfo stressed said that while his office registers and has some authority to monitor sex offenders, it has no authority under state law to require they live or not live at any specific location.

"State law even permits the most egregious of sex offenders to register as 'homeless,'" Elfo said, while noting that Planning and Development code requirements still have to be met.



This property at 9801 Lenhart Rd. east of Sumas was pursued, unsuccessfully, to take ex-prisoners.

This is an e-mail between Judge Charles Snyder and the Task Force Co-Chairs. The national statistics cited are from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Additional information can be found at this website: <http://www.nadcp.org/learn/facts-and-figures>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Charles Snyder** <csnyder@co.whatcom.wa.us>

Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2015 at 10:55 AM

Subject: RE: One more time

To: Jill Bernstein <jbernstein020@gmail.com>

Cc: Jack Hovenier <jack@nicetiger.com>

Jill,

Here is the latest from the national research:

Nationwide, for every \$1.00 invested in Drug Court, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs alone.

When considering other cost offsets such as savings from reduced victimization and healthcare service utilization, studies have shown benefits range up to \$27 for every \$1 invested.

Drug Courts produce cost savings ranging from \$3,000 to \$13,000 per client. These cost savings reflect reduced prison costs, reduced revolving-door arrests and trials, and reduced victimization.

In 2007, for every Federal dollar invested in Drug Court, \$9.00 was leveraged in state funding. In our case, that is primarily treatment funds.

Locally, it costs \$80.00 per day, \$560.00 per week, to house someone in our jail. We spend \$6.10 per UA test, the frequency of which vary by client and phase, but certainly not every day for anyone. Some may be tested 4 or 5 times per week regularly, others once per week or so. The total annual budget for the program is just over \$539,000 (which is offset by the funds received to provide treatment), I believe, and each client pays \$15.00 per week to participate (those fees aren't always paid each week, but must be paid to phase up).

The actual cost savings over jail is, therefore, dependent on the person, case, and how much time they might have spent in jail if not in drug court. Those numbers are difficult to quantify without a great deal of additional research.

I wish it was a simpler formula, but I can say that the nationwide numbers are consistent with what was found by earlier Washington State research.

I hope that helps, let me know if I can be of further assistance. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

RCW 10.31.110

Arrest—Individuals with mental disorders. (Effective April 1, 2016.)

(1) When a police officer has reasonable cause to believe that the individual has committed acts constituting a nonfelony crime that is not a serious offense as identified in RCW 10.77.092 and the individual is known by history or consultation with the behavioral health organization to suffer from a mental disorder, the arresting officer may:

(a) Take the individual to a crisis stabilization unit as defined in RCW 71.05.020(6). Individuals delivered to a crisis stabilization unit pursuant to this section may be held by the facility for a period of up to twelve hours. The individual must be examined by a mental health professional within three hours of arrival;

(b) Take the individual to a triage facility as defined in RCW 71.05.020. An individual delivered to a triage facility which has elected to operate as an involuntary facility may be held up to a period of twelve hours. The individual must be examined by a mental health professional within three hours of arrival;

(c) Refer the individual to a mental health professional for evaluation for initial detention and proceeding under chapter 71.05 RCW; or

(d) Release the individual upon agreement to voluntary participation in outpatient treatment.

(2) If the individual is released to the community, the mental health provider shall inform the arresting officer of the release within a reasonable period of time after the release if the arresting officer has specifically requested notification and provided contact information to the provider.

(3) In deciding whether to refer the individual to treatment under this section, the police officer shall be guided by standards mutually agreed upon with the prosecuting authority, which address, at a minimum, the length, seriousness, and recency of the known criminal history of the individual, the mental health history of the individual, where available, and the circumstances surrounding the commission of the alleged offense.

(4) Any agreement to participate in treatment shall not require individuals to stipulate to any of the alleged facts regarding the criminal activity as a prerequisite to participation in a mental health treatment alternative. The agreement is inadmissible in any criminal or civil proceeding. The agreement does not create immunity from prosecution for the alleged criminal activity.

(5) If an individual violates such agreement and the mental health treatment alternative is no longer appropriate:

(a) The mental health provider shall inform the referring law enforcement agency of the violation; and

(b) The original charges may be filed or referred to the prosecutor, as appropriate, and the matter may proceed accordingly.

(6) The police officer is immune from liability for any good faith conduct under this section.