

## Angela Hubbard

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**From:** Jason Neely <iydneelyscout@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 9:02 PM  
**To:** Perry Huston  
**Subject:** Closing Juvenile Center

I hope that this message is not too late as I saw that preliminary reviews of comments were to occur today.

Mr. Burchard responded to a post I made and encouraged that I share my opinion.

My name is Jason Neely and I currently work as a Unit Supervisor at the Monroe Correctional Complex. Additionally I have served as a Mental Health Counselor and as the facilities re-entry specialist as a Psychiatric Social Worker. My current position calls for the supervision of the states only Intensive Treatment Unit for adult male offenders who suffer from Serious Mental Illness. This is a Maximum Security setting.

I write as a long time resident of Okanogan, having been born and raised there.

My post started out sarcastically talking about how Martin Hall always seems to come calling when they need money, or bodies in beds. That their bond is closing out supports such rhetoric. I've long kept an eye on Okanogan's detention center. Having once resided there (thanks to Jack-I just hope he's in the room), due to immaturity and my own poor choices. I am aware of the benefits of proximity to family in a time of need, despair, and loss. That of my parents and my own.

My position as release planner allowed for me to see a bigger picture and Washington continues to lead from the front in prison reform and the management/ treatment of offenders. I participated in the King Co.-DOC Re-Entry Project, where we performed gap analysis of services and analyzed current research in rehabilitation and in particular re-entry. Our efforts were to qualify for a Second Chance Act Grant. We succeeded. Currently the department is unveiling a new way of approaching corrections, dubbed Advanced Corrections. We have partnered with Washington State University and the department is committed to Evidence Based Practices, Research Based Practices, and as we know "Best Practices" will grow into the prior to with time and assessment.

Next up in my post was about the wealth of information and research that would suggest a move to Martin Hall is contraindicated, at best. That research talks about community engagement, local partnerships with stakeholders as it relates to recovery, recidivism, and re-entry. DOC's own research and that of the University of Cincinnati's shows poor results when lower risk offenders are exposed to those that may be higher risk. And in a greater concentration? While disenfranchised from family?.

I tapped into my Social Work Values and thought of the Dignity and Worth of Human Beings and thought of that long ride. Not necessary. Then I thought of the Importance of Human Relationships and being separated from family, supports, resources. I thought about Social Justice and how Mr. Hutsell says his goal is: "To have a first class facility with the lowest rate possible." Really that's the goal? Not what's best for the child?

I then encouraged community activation of resources. Studies also show that communities will get behind rehabilitative efforts over incarceration efforts as it applies to youth. Meaning that they will

contribute more resources and yes, funds, towards those efforts. I advocated for the engagement of cultural/ traditional approaches in addressing problematic behavior, which further garners stakeholders buy-in.

I concluded with what I might say was a personal vignette as I wrote: "The detention center offers good interventions and allows for appropriate and individualized approaches." And it is the mission statement: **Partnering With Our Community, Strengthening Our Youth: Our Future**

Thank you for your time.  
Jason Neely, MSW