

Okanogan County Justice Complex

The Okanogan County Justice Complex is to serve the community by providing safe, secure, and adequate facility space for county departments and courts that serve the public.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
Project Justification	3
Existing Conditions/Programs and Services/Issues	
Juvenile Detention	3
Courts	10
Other County Departments	14
Priority Needs Assessment	18
Proposed Solution	19
Benefits to the Community	22
Benefits to the Region	23
Risks	23
Funding Options	25
Summary	26
Contacts	27

PROPOSAL FOR OKANOGAN COUNTY JUSTICE COMPLEX

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Problem Statement:

The facilities of Okanogan County were established to deliver services and programs to the public in a safe and efficient manner. Over time, existing facilities have become inadequate in the County's ability to efficiently address growing legislative mandates and increasing needs within the community. Upgraded infrastructure is essential in the County's ability to provide needed services and programs in a safe, secure, and efficient environment.

Summary of Issues:

The issues can be summarized into three main categories: infrastructure, security, and space. 1) County facilities are old and have major deficiencies. The plumbing, electrical, fire, and HVAC systems are outdated. The facilities themselves have structural flaws that are a concern for public and employee safety. 2) Security is non-existent in most facilities and security is must for public safety. Citizens expect to be safe when conducting business with the county. Currently, facilities are not designed to handle increased operational security needs. Many members of the public become intertwined with emotionally charged people involved with the criminal justice system. 3) Current facilities do not have adequate space to deliver efficient services. Demand for services has increased, but space to deliver them has not. Many offices are overcrowded and have gone beyond the ability to keep up with current legislative changes. File storage space is a big concern in many offices.

Priority of Needs:

1. Improve public safety- Design and build a facility that will address the counties multiple security needs. Major emphasis in on the detention center and courts.
2. Improve access to public services- Design and build a facility that will decrease congestion and centralized services for the public.
3. Provide a functional and safe work environment for employees- Design and build a facility that will make service delivery more efficient for the public.

Project Objective:

The objective of the project is to design and build a facility that will improve the county's service delivery capabilities.

Goals:

- To provide a project that will bring jobs to our local community.
- To build a facility that is safer, securer, and more efficient for county operations.
- To build a facility that will not increase staffing levels.

Project Phases:

Phase I- Project Initiation

Phase II- Pre-Design and Architectural Study

Phase III- Program and Budget Development

Phase IV- Final Design: Working Documents/Bid Documents

Phase V- Request for Bids and Bids Award

Phase VI- Construction

Phase VII- Occupancy and Commissioning

Project Cost: The Justice Complex project is approximately \$19.5M.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

PROBLEM RE-STATEMENT

The facilities of Okanogan County were established to deliver services and programs to the public in a safe and efficient manner. Over time, existing facilities have become inadequate in the County's ability to efficiently address growing legislative mandates and increasing needs within the community. Upgraded infrastructure is essential in the County's ability to provide needed services and programs in a safe, secure, and efficient environment.

EXISTING CONDITIONS/FACILITIES

JUVENILE DETENTION

The Okanogan County Juvenile Corrections Center was completed in 1974 and has not received any renovation, major repair or upgrading in nearly 38 years of operation. Only minor cosmetic changes and repairs have occurred. In contrast, other counties throughout the state have completed extensive remodels or have constructed new facilities. Looking at immediate and long range solutions so that it can continue to serve the needs of juveniles and families in Okanogan County is long overdue. The facility protects the community by temporarily housing juvenile offenders and non-offenders. The detention center is a focal point for providing crucial services to the most vulnerable and troubled youths in our community. This is the only such facility serving the communities within the geographical boundaries of Okanogan County.

Current Programming and Services

Twenty-four Hour Care and Counseling. Experienced corrections counselors, trained to deal with emotions and behaviors of 8-18 year old youth, provide individual daily life counseling as needed on a 24 hour basis. Correction counselors are certified with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission after completion of a two week intensive training and passing a comprehensive exam at the Justice Commission Center in Seattle. New and part-time staff are further supervised and trained by experienced employees. Senior correction staff have first level supervision certification and some staff have received career level certification for supervision. Specialized training in other areas include verbal and physical de-escalation of aggressive and violent behaviors, assessment, screening, and appropriate interaction with youth who have mental health issues. A behavior management program, using a situational

leadership model, was integrated into the detention center's behavior management, or level program. Developed by a team of juvenile administrators, managers, and correction line staff, the program has proven to be very successful in supporting and encouraging cooperative changing behaviors in the youth.

Medical Care. A facility nurse provides routine care and screening for all detained youth. Corrections staff are Red Cross First Aid Certified. They are trained to identify medical emergencies, arrange for emergency transport, facilitate medical insurance for emergencies, and stabilize youth waiting for transport. Staff are also trained in HIV/AIDS and how to deal with intoxicated youth. Corrections staff transport youth to medical appointments at local clinics and provide emotional support at medical appointments.

Suicide Risk Assessment. This screening tool is used routinely when booking youth into detention. Staff are trained on how to deal with suicidal youth.

Tutoring. Corrections staff provide assistance to youth who request help with homework for school and for purge conditions.

NA Panel. A group of people from Narcotics Anonymous come to the detention center weekly to give inmates information on how they can stay clean and sober through NA.

AA Panel. A group of people from Alcoholics Anonymous come to the detention center weekly to give inmates information on how they can stay clean and sober through AA.

Substance Abuse Evaluations. An assessment is completed by certified Chemical Dependency Counselors on site to determine a diagnostic level of substance use and recommend services.

ADEC. Alcohol Drug Education Class, a four hour class, is offered monthly, serving both detention and outpatient youth who have not been identified with a substance abuse problem but have experimented enough to warrant the need for information. They can hopefully change the direction they are headed with the information the class provides.

Inpatient Substance Abuse Services. If a youth is incarcerated and has been diagnosed with a drug/alcohol problem, they are seen by juvenile department staff, who are certified chemical dependency counselors, for one to one sessions and/or weekly groups while they are detained and unable to see their primary counselors.

CDDA Evaluations. Youth are assessed while in detention to determine if a Chemical Dependency Disposition Alternative should be given instead of regular detention.

Risk Assessments. Okanogan County Juvenile, along with the other Juvenile Courts in Washington State, has committed to a case management model, based on research by the University of Washington. This includes a full risk assessment which identifies risk and protective factors that affect recidivism. Our court services officers identify the risk domains for each youth and work with them to facilitate appropriate services and to support risk reduction behavior. While our youth are in detention, our court services officers meet with them intensely. With our large county, travel time is dear and the opportunity to work with the youth in an efficient manner increases the likelihood of progress in their change behavior.

Detention School. This is a self-contained, individualized curriculum through Okanogan School district. One on one instruction, interactive group discussions, and educational planning are provided in a secure facility. The curriculum is adjusted to meet each student's needs and is coordinated with the site schools, which may include public, private, and alternative or outreach schools. Coordination of services includes working with the Colville Confederated Tribes and other juvenile courts. Particular care is given to support transition from school to school and to maintain consistency in education. Academic assessments are completed on each new student for placement, special needs, and goal setting. Some students have been identified as having needs not previously identified. Flexibility is offered with coordination of educational programming between detention school and site schools, which may include continuing existing curriculum or providing alternative school performance-based credits. High school credits are given. Individual Educational Plans for special education students are maintained, as state mandated. All transcripts are gathered and compiled to assess graduation requirements and to use for vocational and educational planning. Alternative educational planning is explored with the student. Students may prepare for GED tests, explore options such as Job Corps, Work Source, or military training. Guest speakers are invited to speak to youth about vocational offerings. Students may study for Driver's Education. A complete curriculum is offered with materials ranging from first grade to college level. The school district contracts out for mandated HIV/AIDS education for these youth. Health issues are identified and referrals are made for free health insurance under DSHS's Healthy Kids Now Program for eligible youth under age 19.

Spiritual Group. A spiritual advisor and assistant come to the detention center weekly to offer spiritual guidance to any youth who may want to seek another way to live.

GED Testing. In 2011 the Detention Center became an official testing center for youth wishing to earn their GED. In partnership with the Detention School, teachers and juvenile staff work together to prepare and test students toward GED completion.

Aggression Replacement Training. This is an evidence based program which has been found to reduce recidivism in moderate to high risk youth. Referrals derive from risk assessments done in house. Youth attending this curriculum who are detained are escorted to class, so continuity and consistency in this program is maintained. This 10 week curriculum gives practical experience in a group setting with life streaming, anger control training, and moral reasoning training. Court services officers have been trained as transfer coaches and help youth to continue to practice skills while back in the community.

Functional Family Therapy. This is an evidence based program which has been found to reduce recidivism in moderate to high risk youth. Again, referrals derive from risk assessments done in house. This program is family-based intervention provided by specially trained FFT therapists. The process is focused on helping troubled youth and their families by repairing family bonds, changing family interactions, and improving relationships. It offers a comprehensive foundation for understanding adolescent behavior problems that is quite unique and provides a context for integrating and linking behavioral and cognitive intervention strategies to the specific familial and ecological characteristics of the family.

Individual Counseling from Colville Tribal Mental Health and Okanogan Behavioral Health. This is available as needed or in an emergency.

Sex Education/Family Planning. Educators from Family Planning come to the detention center to teach detention youth sex education including information about HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and birth control issues, and information about healthy relationships.

Facility Tours. Detention tours are an annual event for elementary through high school students from all nine community school districts, for educational purposes. Individual tours are given to first time truancy youth or upon request.

Community Service Program – Corrections counselors supervise both in-custody and out-of-custody youth to perform community service work that has been ordered by the court. In-custody youth can also perform community service work on a voluntary basis.

Current Facility Issues

Issue 1: Structural Integrity

The structure of the detention center itself is showing signs of its age. The facility has never been remodeled or expanded in any fashion since being constructed in 1974. The facility walls have cracks and structural damage in need of attention. A recent structural analysis determined that a major crack was most likely caused by recent seismic activity. The engineer states that the beam can support any gravity loads imposed on it, but a determination of its response to greater seismic forces would require further analysis. Additionally, the engineer's investigation revealed that original construction of the facility in 1973 did not meet the minimum reinforcing requirements of the building code for control of cracking. (see complete analysis in Appendix 1) Okanogan County was the only county in the state that did not remodel, expand or construct new or improved juvenile detention facilities in response to the dramatic expansion of juvenile crimes and detention populations during the 1990's and the facility stands alone today as the oldest, smallest, and most obsolete juvenile corrections facility in the State of Washington.

The existing fire alarm and control systems in the detention center are obsolete and unreliable. Some days it operates and others it does not. We must have system that is 100% reliable and functional when we are operating a facility that incarcerates youth against their will. There is no current sprinkler system which makes the detention center non-compliant with current codes.

The electronic locking system and audio monitoring system in our control center are worn out and breaking down. Kruse Electric has been called in numerous times in the past year to repair the system and to replace the panels as they are just piecing them together now and they will not last. The current system has been repaired and had portions replaced over the years on many occasions. The system is now so old and obsolete that maintenance has a difficult time obtaining parts to perform reliable repairs. Several if not all of our cell doors will pop open if a youth decides to kick them hard enough. Additionally, the doors were not properly installed during the original construction. Current cell doors open inward to the cell. This is problematic because the doors can be jammed or blocked preventing staff from being able to respond to an emergency within the cell room.

Plumbing in the detention center is also in need of constant repair. The current fixtures are the originals that were installed 38 years ago when the facility was first built and occupied. They have been maintained and repaired over the years as needed, but plumbing experts have indicated that they are no longer repairable and must be replaced.

Operational limitations are due to the facility being built in 1974. The current facility has 10 secure cells and original design capacity was for 10 medium risk offenders. An increase in population over time has caused the detention center to add another bunk per cell. This increased the facilities capabilities to house 20 offenders. Additionally, the youth today are committing far more serious crimes than in the past. The detention center was not designed to handle difficult kids that have severe mental health and substance abuse issues. There are no specialty rooms in the current facility that can accommodate the safest environment for the youth with the greatest need for services.

Issue 2: PREA Mandates – Prison Rape Elimination Act (P.L. 108-79)

Over the past seven years our average daily population has been 14.96 youth. Out of that population, there is an average of approximately four female youth and eleven male youth. Currently our detention has ten rooms that are equipped to hold two individuals for a maximum population of twenty youth under ideal circumstances. On several occasions through the last seven years more than twenty youth have been housed in detention. The population has reached as high as 32.

Ideal circumstances seldom occur at the detention center because of many factors ranging from gangs, crimes, gender, sexual orientation, and behavioral issues. The main concern is to provide a safe and secure environment for staff and the juveniles in custody. There are many situations in detention that make it hard if not impossible to house more than one youth per room. When these situations occur there is no option but to put up to four youth in a room to accommodate the youth that cannot have roommates. A great example of these types of situations occurred most recently when four youths were housed on different sexual crimes; none of them could have roommates. At the same time there were two youths who committed crimes together and could not room together either. This becomes compounded along with dealing with routine behavioral issues of other youth.

The PREA of 2003 requires agencies to comply with national standards to eliminate sexual abuse in confinement. Mandates require that we commit to a zero tolerance policy of sexual abuse. We are mandated by PREA to demonstrate a zero tolerance not merely by words and written policy, but by actions, including what we do to prevent sexual abuse. The final standards for PREA are expected to take effect in April 2012. Agencies will have a one year compliance period to meet all required standards.

When determining housing, bed, program, education and arrangements for the youth, corrections staff must take into account a resident's age; the nature of his or her offense; any mental or physical disability or mental illness; any history of sexual victimization or engaging in sexual abuse; his or her level of emotional and cognitive development; his or her identification as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender; and any other information obtained about the resident. With an increase prevalence of youth committing sexual crimes and youth that are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender many detention centers have gone to single bunk rooms. Our detention center is one of the few that still have all rooms committed as double bunk cells which increase our concerns that a violation under the PREA may occur even with our current practices and policies in place.

Issue 3: HB2298 - Limiting the Use of Restraints on Juveniles

For the past two years child advocacy groups have actively engaged state legislatures and this year introduced HB2298 that would require a change in detention practices increasing the liability risks to local counties. The Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators (WAJCA) along with the Superior Court Judges Association (SCJA) have aggressively opposed this bill and as a result a substitute bill has been introduced. Major areas of concern have been addressed in the substitute bill in regards to transporting youth which caused a fiscal note to the bill of at least \$1.4M.

Currently, the detention center has to transport youth on a daily basis to court. Doing so requires that the youth be transported outside of the secure facility to another location for court appearances. HB2298 as originally written mandated that restraints may not be placed on a juvenile during the court appearance or during transportation to or from the hearing. Even with the success of the substitute bill, there are still many arguments and discussions to be had regarding HB2298.

Transporting youth outside of the secure facility has always been an area of concern. It creates a risk to public safety with the potential for offenders to escape; it compromises the safety of the youth and staff to threats from retaliatory victims or coconspirators. Most detention centers are now built with court rooms integral to the detention center so that offenders never leave the confines of a secure facility.

Issue 4: HB2536- Concerning the use of Evidence-Based Practices for the Delivery of Services to Children and Juveniles.

This Bill requires agencies that deliver prevention and intervention services for children's mental health, child welfare, and juvenile justice to meet graduated requirements for increasing the percentage of funds expended on evidence-based programs for those services. Agencies responsible for delivering services to children and juveniles must initiate or continue their review of sound, promising, and research-based practices with the goal of identifying and expanding the number of evidence-based practices that are cost beneficial and effective. Currently, our department delivers evidence based ART and FFT services, but will be looking to expand more EBP's in the future as mandated by the Bill. It is important that we have the adequate space to deliver these services appropriately.

COUNTY COURTS

Superior Court

The Superior Court has jurisdiction over felony matters, civil actions, dissolutions, probate/guardianships, paternity/adoptions, mental health, dependency/truancy and delinquency matters. Superior Court and District Court work together to handle many preliminary matters as well. In September of this year, a second Superior Court Judge has been appointed for Okanogan County.

Current Programming and Services

- Criminal calendars and special set hearings
- Criminal jury trials
- Drug court
- Civil calendars and special set hearings

- Civil jury and non-jury trials
- Court Facilitator Program to assist pro se litigants in family law matters
- Interpreter services
- Dependency/Truancy. (Juvenile)
- Juvenile delinquencies
- Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) Services

Current Facility Issues with Superior Court

Issue 1: Security

Security is at the top of the list, especially with Superior Court family law matters which can be the most dangerous. Tensions rise and judgment can be obscured when litigants are having their children taken away or their divorce case becomes contentious. Currently, there is no security for screening litigants prior to hearings.

The Superior and District Court Judges' offices open directly into the hallway where the public can be waiting for court. A judge could walk out of his office and encounter a person he has sentenced. This places not only the judges at risk, but also the court staff and general public.

Issue 2: Limited Court Space

As of September 1, 2011, Okanogan County has two Superior Court Judges. Unfortunately, there is only one Superior Courtroom. With the cooperation of District Court, Superior Court is able to hold hearings two days a week in the District Courtrooms. There is no holding area for jurors. In Superior Court, when a jury is in the courtroom and no other courtroom is available, the judge will hold a pretrial hearing in chambers with the door open to comply with the "open court" requirement. For juvenile court matters a courtroom was constructed in the middle of a functioning department. This creates many issues with security, functionality, and efficiency.

There are also no areas where attorneys may meet with clients. During criminal jury trials, defendants will meet with their attorney in the bailiff's office. District Court is in a building that was built in 1913 and Superior Court is in the "annex" that was built in 1948. The original design is no longer functional and cannot accommodate the increased caseload and court functionality.

District Court

District Court has criminal jurisdiction concurrent with the Superior Court over misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors. It also may conduct preliminary hearings in felony cases. The District Court has jurisdiction over traffic infraction cases under RCW 46.63 and over civil actions involving amounts which do not exceed \$75,000.

The chart below represents a snapshot of the court activity for the calendar year of 2011 for District Court cases filed. The data is summarized by the three main categories of court work (Criminal, Infractions and Civil). The significant message that this date represents is that although criminal case filings represent 28% of our case filings, they take up nearly 80% of the court time.

Criminal: (Countywide)

Misdemeanor Criminal and Traffic
Gross Misdemeanor Criminal and Traffic

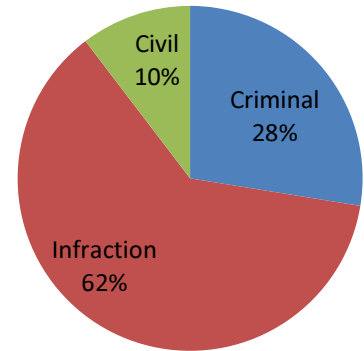
Infraction: (State/County, four Cities by contract)

Traffic Infractions
Non-Traffic Infractions
Parking (Including Discovery Pass)

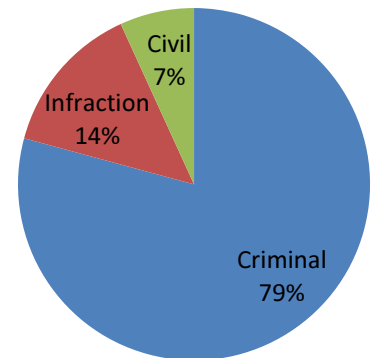
Civil: (Countywide)

Civil Claims less than \$75,000
Small Claims up to \$5,000
Name Change
Civil Protection Orders
Domestic Violence
Anti-Harassment
Sexual Assault
Vehicle Impound Hearings

Cases Filed



Hearings Held



Current Programming and Services

- Criminal Misdemeanor and Gross Misdemeanor cases
- Traffic Infractions
- Civil \$75,000 or less
- Small Claims \$5,000 or less
- Domestic Violence Protection Orders
- Anti-Harassment Protection Orders
- Sexual Assault Protection Orders
- Name Change Petitions
- Vehicle Impound

Current Facility Issues

Issue 1: Security

Security screening is not in place in the courthouse. Other courthouses that have metal detectors and screening stations routinely find weapons and other potentially dangerous items. One can only assume that among the many District Court participants in Okanogan County, these items are in the courtrooms, hallways, and other public areas and are in pockets, back packs, purses, etc. The judge's, court staff, court participants, and the public are at risk.

In addition to the overall lack of space (see below) the current layout of the courthouse adds to security concerns. Some of the concerns include:

- Judges access their chambers through public hallways, in some cases blindly. They also park and exit the building through public hallways and doors. After making decisions that create hostility among litigants, the judges are exposed to potential threat as they traverse the hallways.
- General public conducting everyday business (court and non-court) must at times maneuver through crowded hallways. Court calendar cases can number in the hundreds; defendants attorneys and other court participants spill into the hallways and at times in the stairways. While participants wait for court, the public areas become loud and are disruptive to staff.

Issue 2: Limited Space

- Jury rooms and jury sections of courtrooms are not handicapped accessible. The two current jury rooms are extremely small and neither have space for a wheel chair or have restrooms sufficient for wheelchair access. When there are jurors in wheelchairs, however, special arrangements must be made for seating and restroom breaks, which can become awkward for juror and staff.
- District Court staff occupy a very small area. A recent remodel adding systems furniture has improved the working conditions, however the size remains the same.
- Inadequate waiting space for jurors. Jurors checking in for service (approx. 20-30) must wait in the public hallways for 30 to 60 minutes because there is not an assembling space if the courtrooms are being used. There is inadequate seating in the hallways and many are forced to stand waiting in the hall. A high priority is to create a space where jurors can check in and have a comfortable place to wait while pre-trial matters are addressed.
- Improper segregation of victims, witnesses and defendants. The public hallways are used for all waiting, so there are risks and vulnerabilities when victims, witnesses and defendants have opportunities to encounter each other while waiting.
- No private attorney-client areas. Attorneys and their clients must meet in the public hallways before trial. Not only do these meetings lack of privacy, but they add to the crowded and noisy conditions in the public areas.

OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

Superior Court Clerk's Office

The County Clerk's office is the official record keeper for the Superior Court. It keeps records indefinitely and makes them accessible to the public at all times. The Clerk's office also provides direct support to the Superior Court by providing clerks for recording court proceedings.

Current Programming and Services Provided

Maintenance of records for numerous types of cases which include:

- Felony criminal matters.
- Civil suit actions.
- Dissolution and Domestic cases.

- Probate/Guardianships.
- Paternity/Adoptions.
- Mental Health.
- Dependency/Truancy. (Juvenile)
- Juvenile delinquencies.
- Water rights and judgments and trust accounts
- Passport services

Current Facility Issues

Issue 1: Lack of Modern Infrastructure

Technological upgrades have resulted an increased demand for electrical power and power outlets. Without a major electrical upgrade, the office cannot add any more equipment. Electrical cords cross the work area and if not monitored regularly may cause safety concerns for employees. The courthouse does not have a central heating and cooling system. In the winter heating is inadequate; in the summer fans are used.

Issue 2: Security

Public safety is of concern. Staff must weave in and out of people standing in the hallway waiting for court in order to get to the judges, the bailiff, or court administrator. There is always the need to pull a file and run it to them for viewing or review. While checking in jurors for trials, there is the possibility of jurors being contaminated for service as the Judge's chamber door must remain open for pre-trial matters. Attorneys have no place to confer with clients and are often allowed into the Clerk's Office with clients in order to meet somewhat privately and out of view of another party to the case.

Issue 3: File Storage

With the volume of paperwork filed in each court case, storage space is becoming critical. Currently, the Clerk stores files in seven different rooms in three different buildings. It is very inefficient when Clerks have to travel to these areas to access files. Some of the documents and files are beginning to deteriorate and some are already unreadable. Unfortunately, current methods of file storage and retention are not compliant.

Issue 4: Limited Office Space

The current office area must accommodate seven employees and each work station requires two desks to accommodate the need for space to work with files and documents and space for a telephone, calculator, two computer monitors, a scanner and miscellaneous supplies. The news media is allowed access to files and public records however there is no space available to adequately accommodate that need.

There is room for one person to stand at the public counter and help people. This becomes awkward when passports are being processed because there is inadequate space for the passport appointments and those who must to file papers and pay filing fees, fines, etc. Recently, a public computer terminal was added so the public can access web sites and download forms, view files and order copies. This needed has limited work space even more.

Prosecutor' Office

The mission of the Prosecutor's office is to motivate compliance with and respect for the law by punishing law violations, facilitating restitution and encouraging rehabilitation, while providing sound legal advice and representation to the various county agencies.

Current Programming and Services Provided

District Court: Violation of state statutes involving misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors committed by adults or criminal traffic violations by juveniles 16 and over; representation of the state's interest at involuntary commitment hearings relating to alcohol abuse. From January 1, 2011 through February 27, 2012 the Prosecutor's Office processed 2,134 Misdemeanor cases with two District Court Deputy Prosecutors and two support staff.

Superior Court: Violation of state statutes involving felonies committed by adults, and all crimes committed by juveniles; representation of the state's interest at involuntary mental commitment hearings; civil practice includes paternity establishment, enforcement of child support orders, tort actions, and defense of lawsuits brought against the county. From January 1, 2011 through February 27, 2012 the Prosecutor's office processed 535 Felony cases with two Deputy Criminal Prosecutors, the elected Prosecutor, and two support staff. In addition, the office processed 404 Juvenile Cases.

Appellate Courts: Staff handles the appeals of lower court decisions to the Court of Appeals, Washington State Supreme Court, and potentially to the United States Supreme Court. From January 1, 2011 through February 27, 2012 there were 14 new appeal cases.

Legal Advisor: The Prosecutor's office provides legal advice to all county departments including the County Commissioners. From January 1, 2011 through February 27, 2012, there were 156 civil cases processed.

Crime Victim Assistance: Staff assists victims of crime with restitution recoupment process, as a legal advocate facilitating prosecution and as a referral source for community services. Special assistance for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. During the time period of January 1, 2011 through February 27, 2012, approximately 80% of the cases that came through the office involved a victim of crime.

County Coroner: The Prosecuting Attorney also serves as the County Coroner. The elected Prosecutor and seven Deputy Prosecutors rotate coroner duties on a weekly basis. These duties include being on call 24 hours a day/7 days a week, investigating unattended deaths, and making determinations regarding how the deaths occurred. From January 1, 2011 through February 27, 2012 the office had 115 coroner cases related to unattended deaths in Okanogan County.

Current Facility Issues

Issue 1: Victim-Witness Interview/Waiting Room

The Prosecutor's office does not have a designated, secure room to hold victim-witness interviews or to have victims and witness wait in when there is a trial. Currently, victims and witness either stay in staff offices across the street from the courts or sit in the halls at the courts faced with the family and friends of the defendant. This is a great disservice to victims and witnesses to have to be subjected to this situation. Often times, they are terrified of testifying and having to endure snide remarks and glaring stares in the hall only compounds their fear.

Issue 2: File Storage Space

Pursuant to Washington State Archives retention schedule for Prosecuting Attorney's, there is a requirement to retain gross misdemeanor files for three years with the exception of DUI's which

must be retained for five years. Civil litigation files must be retained for ten years, Class “A” felonies twenty years, Class ” B” Felonies ten years, and Class ”C” Felonies for five years. Due to the increasing cases being prosecuted, space for retaining required files is running out. Retained felony files are currently stored in two different locations, one on the first level of the Administration Building and the other in the basement of Department of Corrections. In recent years, the basement of DOC has flooded causing some files to be ruined.

PRIORITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Priority Need 1

Build a new juvenile detention center. The existing facility is antiquated and beyond its original design capacity. A new facility must be built to ensure public safety for the community. The facility must also be able to deliver quality services to the youth to rehabilitate them and hopefully prevent them from entering deeper into the system. The facility is required to operate 24 hours a day year round in order to serve the courts and law enforcement in all communities in Okanogan County. The current structural and functioning nature of the detention center necessitates that the highest level of priority be given to this request.

Priority Need 2

Build safe and efficient courts. The County must have secure and adequate courtroom space to quickly process cases and get those involved in the system through the system as quickly as possible. Delays in justice only cause further problems later and court issues are inherently difficult mentally and emotionally due the nature of committed offenses. Litigants must also feel safe while going to court.

Priority Need 3

Build adequate, safe, and efficient work space for multiple County offices to better serve the public. The County must provide workspace that is compliant with ADA, fire codes, etc. It must also provide adequate heating and cooling so that employees can be efficient when delivering services to the public.

Priority Need 4

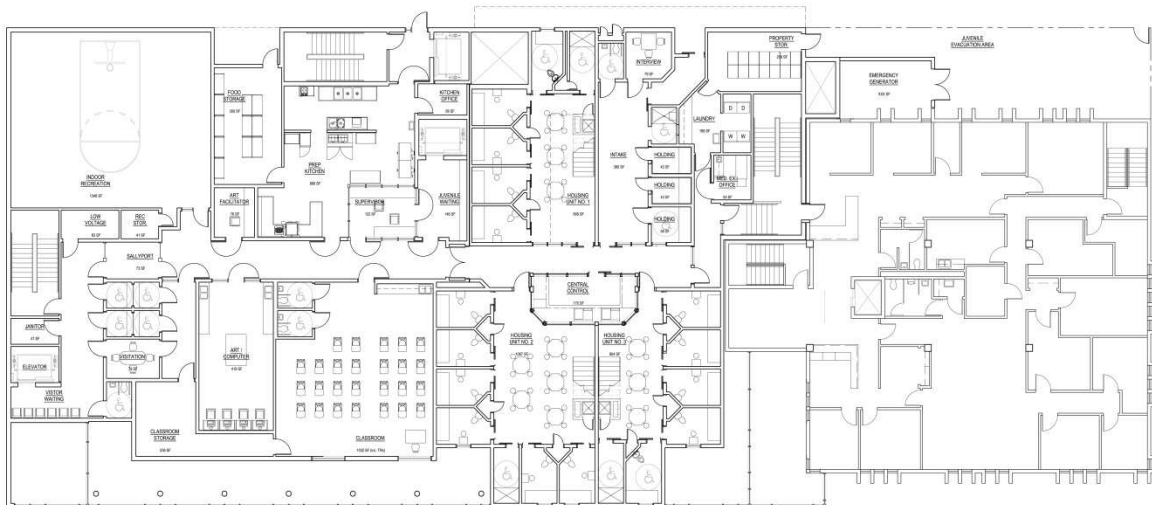
Separate and centralize service delivery processes for increased efficiency in public access to services. The public will be best served if the justice system service delivery and administrative service delivery are separate and distinguishable. Currently, the service delivery processes are intertwined which not only creates a grave public safety concern, but creates confusion for those seeking County services.

PROPOSED SOLUTION – A NEW FACILITY

Overall Improvements

The new facility complex will be more energy efficient with newer systems and technology. This will reduce operational costs and provide a more inviting environment for the public and employees.

Juvenile Detention Proposed Plan



Description

A new detention center will address all of the needs and issues. All structural, ADA, and fire codes will be resolved and the facility will be state of the art with ambient natural lighting and passive solar heat. The detention center will be up to current ADA and fire codes.

The new intake area provides adequate space to safely in-process new offenders quickly and efficiently. Specialty rooms will be handle the youth with the most severe mental health and substance abuse needs. It incorporates a safer environment to deliver health care needs to the youth and it provides new space so that attorneys and other professionals can meet with the youth in a safe and caring environment.

Living pods will allow secure and efficient management of the detention centers population. The three pod system will permit detention staff to separate the population accordingly. Sex offenders can be housed appropriately, gang members can be separated, and non-offenders can be separated from serious offenders that have committed dangerous crimes. Additionally, the cells are single cell rooms, thus creating a safer and more caring environment for those detained.

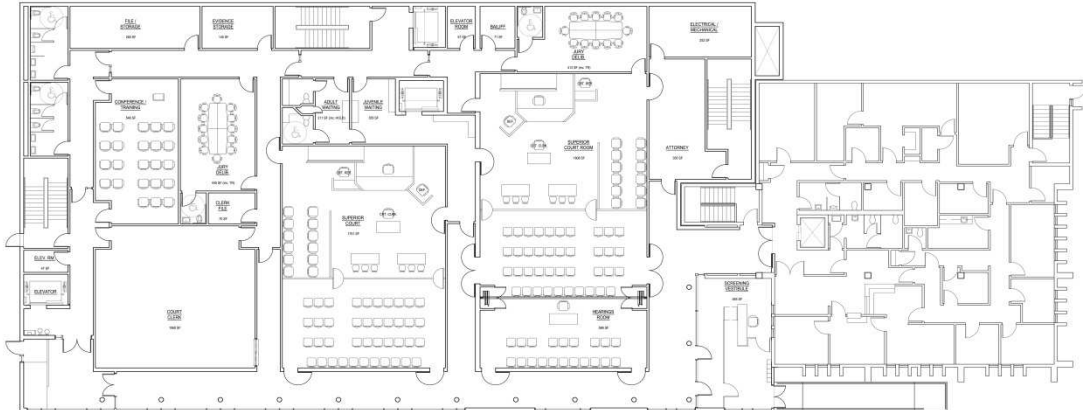
The school classroom is expanded which will increase the ability of the school to deliver quality educational services to the youth. It will also be centrally located for increase safety and security for the youth and staff thereby enhancing the learning environment.

A new visitation area will allow the center to expand its visitation hours so families and youth may interact more often, thus encouraging support and reinforcing the family relationship as detained youth go through the system.

The new recreation area will provide a safe and year round space so that youth can participate in healthy programming while in detention.

The overall security of the detention center is maximized with the new design. All detention operations are on the same floor. Juvenile court will be in the same complex and youth will never have to leave the secure facility for court appearances. Youth will be better managed and better monitored. With staff having to worry less about security, they can focus on positive mentoring, coaching, and behavior change with the youth.

Superior Courts and Support Offices



Description

New courts and support offices will address all of the court needs and issues. All structural and compliance needs will be addressed and fixed. The courts and other offices will be up to ADA and fire codes.

Two new courtrooms will provide the correct amount of space to handle all of Superior Court's needs. The new security vestibule will screen all of the public coming into the facility creating a safe and secure environment for the process of justice. There will be adequate space for proper jury selection and support requirements for juries will be met.

The clerk's office will have adequate space to handle all support requirements to the courts and services to the public. New storage space will be created for proper file/evidence storage that will be in compliance with current legislative mandates.

Judges and staff will have secure access to the courtrooms away from the public. Jurors will be separated and safer in a secure environment.

A new county conference room will allow space for more training for public employees and provide a space available for community and partner agencies to meet in public forums.

The overall security of the facilities is maximized with the new design. The existing administrative building will become secure for the juvenile department, the court facilitator, and the prosecutor's office.

District Courts and County Offices



Description

A main public entrance security vestibule will be added to the existing courthouse. All other entrances will be secured and become staff only entrances. This will secure all remaining district courts, support offices, and all other county administrative offices. District court and other offices will be able to expand as Superior Court and support offices relocate to the new facility.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Job Creation. This project will provide jobs to the community and region for the next three years due to the phasing requirement for the project. It will also create three to five permanent positions for security jobs that will be required for the security screening in the new facilities.

Public Safety. The public and employees will be able to conduct business and work in a safe and secure environment. The new detention center will continue to provide public safety to the community from juveniles committing crimes.

Increased Efficiencies. Service delivery will become more efficient for the public. County offices will have adequate space for quick and easy delivery of services.

Increased Assessibility. Superior court services will become centrally located and provide adequate space for the Clerk's office, court participants, jury deliberation, and attorney-client meetings. The public will not have to go to multiple buildings to address one issue.

Expansion of Programming. New space will allow for growth and expansion of needed programs and services into the future. It will enhance the ability of departments to better and more efficiently work with the community and with families. Additional public meeting space will allow for areas where the County can build better community relationships and partnerships.

BENEFITS TO THE REGION

With expanded capabilities, the County will have the ability to become a regional partner in providing juvenile and family services to neighboring communities. Douglas County currently houses its adult offenders in the Okanogan County Corrections Center. Because of the uncertain future of Martin Hall, there have been subsequent preliminary discussions with Douglas County of the possibility of also housing juvenile offenders in Okanogan County. If the Martin Hall programs are discontinued, there may be additional need from Adams and Ferry Counties.

With current economic conditions it has become more desirable and efficient to combine resources and services. Expanding the Juvenile Detention Center will allow the ability to contract services to other counties, thus increasing revenues to Okanogan County while and reducing costs to the others.

RISKS

Project Complexity

This project is very complex because it will be built in phases requiring extensive scheduling, phasing and coordination. Additionally, the project involves construction at an occupied facility which must continue to operate during construction in order to insure uninterrupted 24/7 services delivery to the community. The County's familiarity with the construction process at

this level will require the need for outside assistance during project development and construction. Two options for project delivery could be through the use of a General Contractor/Construction Manager or contracting with a construction management consultant.

In the GC/CM model, the construction manager holds the risk of subletting the construction work to trade subcontractors and guaranteeing completion of the project for a fixed, negotiated price following completion of the design. The GC/CM also provides advisory professional management assistance prior to construction, offering schedule, budget and constructability advice during the project planning phase. This would allow construction to begin prior to completion of the design. Since a commitment is made to a contractor earlier in the process, selecting the most qualified construction manager will be critical.

Additionally, the County must apply for certification from the state's project review committee for prior to using the GC/CM delivery method. The result of the application process is uncertain.

Utilizing a consultant firm will allow the County to contract for a range of services in managing the construction process. A consultant would have no financial interest in the design or construction of the project and would maintain a responsibility to act on the County's behalf and provide impartial advice. As with the GC/CM, it is imperative the consultant selected is based on qualifications and not on a cost or low-bid basis. This will add additional cost to the project, however utilizing a capable and experienced consultant can significantly reduce risk and provide cost savings by limiting change orders, delays, and contractor claims. It would also ensure the construction of the best project possible, on-time and on-budget.

Disruption of Services

All County services must continue during construction, however, there will be disruption and inconvenience for employees and the public as they negotiate through the work zone. Public parking will be challenging because much of the work zone will include current parking areas. The County is negotiating with adjacent landowners to procure property for alternate and safe parking. Plans will have to be in place to minimize this risk and disruption as best as possible.

FUNDING OPTIONS

TAX INCREASE

Limited Tax Base

Okanogan County has a limited tax base with much of the land being state or federally owned. It is a relatively impoverished area with an average per capita income of \$20,093 -- 48% of the state average of \$29,733. Of the 41,120 residents living in the county, 19.5% live below the poverty level.

Juvenile Use Sale Tax

Pursuant to RCW 82.14.350, upon a majority vote of the people, a 1/10th of 1% of local option sales and use tax can be levied for the purpose of funding juvenile detention facilities within counties. The County, on two occasions in the late 1990's attempted to gain voter approval of increased sales tax to finance needed expansion of the Juvenile facility. In both cases the measure failed by a considerable margin (60%). In this economic environment, a successful third attempt is likely to similarly unpopular.

Criminal Justice Sales Tax

RCW 82.14.340 is the .01% of local option sales and use tax to be used for criminal justice funding purposes within Okanogan County. This tax has been approved and is currently being collected, but does not produce the capacity for the project.

Emergency Taxing Authority

Pursuant to RCW 13.16.02 and RCW 36.40.140-200 counties have the authority to declare a non-debatable emergency with taxing authority and appropriation of funds to provide for improvement and expansion of the juvenile detention facilities owned by the county. This can be done by majority vote of the board of county commissioners and, due to the legislatively authorized emergency status, does not require a countywide vote. However, this approach would not be done without prior public notice and proper support would first try to be obtained.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ISSUE

A general obligation bond issue may be an option to fund a portion of the project assuming voter approval. The County has little capacity for additional debt which may limit the amount of general obligation bonds that can be issued.

GRANT FUNDING

Federal or State Grants may be available for the project. There are numerous possibilities being researched and explored in order to obtain funding for the project with this approach. Grants through OJJDP, emergency seismic grants, JAIBG grants, etc. are possibilities. This approach is going to require readiness and patience.

SUMMARY

The next step for this project is to obtain funding. While this is being pursued and secured the County will continue to develop support for and educate the community on the project, its goals, and its benefits to the Okanogan County residents. An advisory committee composed of community leaders, community partners, and community members will ensure adequate development and support. If funding is secured, the project is ready to move to final design and construction.

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