The Spokane Assessment for Violence Risk, known as the SAFER tool, was used as a cornerstone of local efforts to reduce the risk of dangerous behavior in the justice system.

Developed with help from a forensic psychiatrist at Washington State University, the tool examined several factors — such as criminal records, drug addiction and mental illness — to produce a score indicating the likelihood a defendant would commit a crime before or during trial.

But because of staff turnover, the tool was not used to evaluate the threat posed by Dangerfield until this week. After nearly three years of waiting and testing, officials have scrapped the SAFER tool in favor of a simpler, off-the-shelf program called the Public Safety Assessment, or PSA, which will be used for future risk assessments.

Maggie Yates, who recently stepped into the Spokane County Criminal Justice Institute, affirmed officials agreed they could not wait any longer to move away from using the SAFER tool. The PSA, she said, will be the tool used and it will finally resolve the county's frustration with the defunct tool. Although the state of the jail population has not budged despite several years of grant-funded reformation efforts, Yates said the new assessment tool could help the county re-organize its defendants only because they can't afford the old one.

By Chad Sokol

The Spokane County Criminal Justice Institute is preparing to file its request for a new assessment tool to help judges decide which defendants can be released without abandoning crime control, current development programs that were halted by technical and logistical problems.

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WCU

WSU football standout, ASU advocate Gleason officially earns highest civilian honor from Congress

Two more Puget Sound orcas appear fatally ill

By Linda M. Hayes

Two more orcas are falling ill, according to the Center for Whale Research.

**Orcas**

Orcas pull on their side, showing dramatic condition in the shape of their fin. This should be a smooth line. The condition, known as palm line, is a sign of starvation in killer whales.

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In many ways, Evan is just the next in a line of young men who have been put in the situation of having to choose a path in life. He became famous for blocking a punt in 2006 on the night the Saints won the Super Bowl, and for his career in the NFL in 2008 and was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

He has since qualified for the National Foundation to find funding and progress, but the disease is incurable. He continues to be a frequent guest on TV and radio shows, and has been at the forefront of efforts to find a cure for his disease.

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One of Evan’s favorite spots on campus is the Department of Biology and research director for Washington State University’s Center for Conservation Biology and restoration director for nonprofit Wild Orca. Balcomb said. "He had both of those behaviors the night before he had a big wound to the chest." It was a Level 2 wound to be a blow to a whale. "So, I am not surprised that the family tried to support, especially with two whales already failing," Balcomb said. "But we have to work all the time, every day." They have to work all the time, every day. Gleason said he was not surprised by the condition of J17, because he had been at for these kids and families, it’s been declining as well. Balcomb said.

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The family already has been around that baby as long as she can remember. "I am confident we are going to lose one to two before this fall," Balcomb said. "We need bold action," Balcomb said. "But we have to make sure that we are doing everything that we can to help the southern residents and the Fraser River chinook runs they seek in the summer that a rare emergency response was needed." They also are among the biggest, fattest fish.

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