



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director

RE: Lifeline Connections – Jail Behavioral Health Services Contract

DATE: November 5, 2021

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Lifeline Connections for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides funding for adult behavioral health services in the Whatcom County Jail and Work Center. Services provided under this contract include crisis stabilization and connection to behavioral health services for people releasing to the community with behavioral health problems. The contractor that has been providing these services since 2013 has experienced a serious reduction in staff and has informed the County that they do not intend to provide these services in Whatcom County after 2021.

An RFP for these services was advertised for a contract intended to begin in 2022, but with the withdrawal in services by the existing contractor, the new contractor, Lifeline Connections, has agreed to begin limited services on 11/01/2021. Lifeline Connections and the County will continue to negotiate the full statement of work for the Jail behavioral health services program, which will be included in this contract through an amendment at a later date.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$64,440, is the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization Jail Services and Behavioral Health Program Funds. These funds are included in the 2021 budget. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Jackie Mitchell, Program Specialist at 360-778-6048 (JMitchel@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Assistant Director at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

