



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Charlene Ramont, Assistant Director
RE: Pioneer Human Services – Crisis Stabilization Center Lease Agreement for Food Services
DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2025

Attached is a Lease agreement between Whatcom County and Pioneer Human Services for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities for leasing a County-owned commercial kitchen in the Crisis Stabilization Center, known as the Anne Deacon Center for Hope and located at 2026 Division Street in Bellingham. Within the leased space and as a condition of tenancy, the Lessee will provide food and nutrition services to residents of the facility who are receiving withdrawal management and mental health treatment services.

The County has prioritized the need to divert individuals from arrest and into treatment whenever appropriate, in order to reduce incarceration while improving the health and wellness of adults experiencing behavioral health crises. Additionally, the County seeks to divert individuals from Emergency Medical Services, to include the hospital emergency department, and into appropriate and less costly services that will provide mental health stabilization services and connection to ongoing treatment.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Rent will be paid to the County at a rate of \$2,000/month for an annual amount of \$24,000. Utilities are not included in this agreement and will be paid by the Lessee directly to the utility companies. This income is included in the 2026 budget. WCC 3.08.100 requires all real property Lease agreements to be approved by Council.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new agreement; however, Pioneer Human Services has leased this space for the same purpose since 2021. The agreement ending on 12/31/2025 (WC Contract #202012029) includes a lease of space for the provision of withdrawal management services. The single significant change in this agreement is that this agreement is for a lease of space for the provision of food services only and a lease for the provision of withdrawal management services will be presented to Council separately.

Please contact Hannah Fisk, Special Projects Manager at 360-820-7212 or HFisk@co.whatcom.wa.us if you have any questions.

Encl.

