



Memorandum

To: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu
From: Champ Thomaskutty, Director – Health and Community Services
RE: PeaceHealth – Healthy Children’s Fund OB Perinatal Patient Navigator Contract
DATE: JULY 19, 2026

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

▪ **Background and Purpose**

To help fulfill County priorities around support for vulnerable children and responses to the fentanyl crisis, this two-year, sole source contract provides funding for a Perinatal Patient Navigator (1 FTE) who will provide community health worker essential functions, including the proactive connection with pregnant patients who are not yet connected to prenatal care or social and health supportive resources.

The Perinatal Patient Navigator (Navigator) will work in partnership with a newly hired PeaceHealth Perinatal Social Worker (1 FTE) to provide outpatient mental health services within PeaceHealth’s OB-GYN clinic.

The Healthy Children’s Fund Ordinance includes a provision requiring support for vulnerable children. It is further specified that funding for two of the priorities in support for vulnerable children are:

- Expand Mental and Behavioral Health: Expand mental health services for vulnerable children and their families.
- Support Vulnerable Children’s Parents: Expand supports and services for families who have or are expecting children deemed to be vulnerable.

Additionally, Executive Order 2024-02 – Addressing Fentanyl in Whatcom County, orders the County to undertake, “(B.) In the area of intervention: (c.) Embed Community Health Workers and Social Workers in outpatient healthcare clinics to improve outcomes, particularly for mothers and infants.”

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$180,000, is provided by the Healthy Children’s Fund. These funds are included in the 2026 budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.100, as funding for this contract exceeds \$75,000.

Please contact Sarah Simpson, Child and Family Programs Supervisor at 360-410-2400 (SSimpso@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.