



Memorandum

To: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu
From: Champ Thomaskutty, Director – Health and Community Services
Subject: Pioneer Human Services – CJTA Substance Use Disorder Assessment Contract
Date: JUNE 10, 2026

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

- **Background and Purpose**

Research demonstrates that people detained in jails are more susceptible to relapse and overdose upon release from jail. SUD assessment and linkages to treatment are effective options to deter the cycle of relapse and readmission to jail. These services have broad support from the local Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) panel and the local Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (IPRTF).

The purpose of this contract is to deliver Substance Use Disorder (SUD) assessments and provide post-assessment treatment coordination as a component of re-entry for people who are releasing from the Whatcom County Jail. The goal is to provide eligible inmates with smooth transitions to community inpatient or outpatient treatment in a timely manner.

- **Procurement Method and Reason for Selection**

This contract is awarded as a result of RFP 26-27. This Contractor was selected because they demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the scope of work and provided a detailed approach to executing the required tasks. The proposal clearly articulated how services would support individuals reentering the community following incarceration, with a particular focus on addressing Substance Use Disorder treatment and recovery needs. The proposal also identified their focus on quick evaluation timelines and addressed transportation needs as a significant barrier to successful reentry.

The proposal met all requirements and evaluation criteria outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP) and included relevant examples of successfully implementing similar programs in other counties. Based on the evaluation process, the proposal received the highest overall score from the review panel and was determined to provide the best value and most responsive approach to meeting the project's objectives.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

The source of funding for this contract is the CJTA Grant administered through the Washington State Health Care Authority (Whatcom County Contract #202511026). Total compensation for this contract will vary depending on the number of services provided. Estimated funding for this contract is not to exceed \$101,896. These funds are included in the 2026 budget. Council approval is required as funding for this contract exceeds \$75,000.

Please contact Hannah Fisk, Special Projects Manager at 360-820-7212 or HFisk@co.whatcom.wa.us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.