



# Memorandum

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
**FROM:** Charlene Ramont, Interim Director  
**RE:** Pacific Northwest Psychiatry, P.S. dba Sendan Center – Healthy Children's Fund Innovative Services Contract  
**DATE:** APRIL 4, 2025

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

## ■ Background and Purpose

This contract is a part of a broad learning community, which will over the course of 12 months, serve high need children and give us data for future investments that expand Kindergarten Readiness services across Whatcom County. The data gathered from this contracted is evaluated by a WWU professor, an expert in evaluation and Early Learning, and advances the Healthy Children's Fund goals of kindergarten readiness, quality learning environments, and professional workforce, in an accessible and equitable manner.

Through this agreement, the Contractor will partner with two early learning centers located in Whatcom County to improve skills in all domains that support comprehensive kindergarten readiness. These improvements will be made through the expansion of behavioral health knowledge and skill development of early childhood education (ECE) staff who serve children that may require additional health and supportive services. This contract increases equitable access to behavioral health supports through a three-tiered system including ECE staff education and coaching, in-classroom consultation, evaluation, and individualized support for children ages 2-5, which promotes kindergarten readiness by reducing barriers to services for working caregivers who require place-based services in order to meet the needs of their child(ren).

Anticipated outcomes of these services include:

- Increased knowledge and support for implementation of evidence-based interventions through in-person education and consultation to ECE staff and caregivers.
- Increased access to behavioral and mental health services to promote the social-emotional development of children ages 2-5 which is a key component of kindergarten readiness.
- Increased support for families to implement recommendations and connection to community resources.
- Increased skills and capacity of ECE staff to reduce burnout and increase retention.

Sendan Center provides direct and consultative behavioral and mental health services to children, families, school districts, primary care providers, and social service agencies in Whatcom County. This contract is awarded as a result of RFP solicitation 24-66 and aligns with the Healthy Children's Fund Implementation Plan's Strategy Six to support innovative approaches to meet various goals related to Early Learning and Care.

## ■ Funding Amount and Source

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$244,597, is the Healthy Children's Fund. These funds are included in the 2025 budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.100, as funding for this contract exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Sarah Simpson, Children and Family Programs Supervisor at 360-410-2400 ([SSimpson@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:SSimpson@co.whatcom.wa.us)) if you have any questions.

