



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Uwill, Inc. – School-Based Teletherapy Contract
DATE: JUNE 24, 2024

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Uwill, Inc. for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

This contract supports evidence-based, culturally-respectful mental and behavioral teletherapy services for K-12 aged students (inclusive of all educational settings) in Whatcom County. The target population are students who would not have access to mental and behavioral health services otherwise. This contract will provide up to 1,100 clinical teletherapy sessions.

Youth mental health is a priority from a public health perspective in order to avoid or mitigate continued suffering and poor health over the life course. Data from surveys and other collection tools shows that youth suffer from a variety of behavioral health concerns including depression, anxiety and substance use. The magnitude of challenges associated with youth mental health in Whatcom County is supported in recent years by data from the Healthy Youth Survey, Community Health Assessment and COVID Health Impact Assessment.

School-based teletherapy was included as an initiative in the motion (AB2023-522) authorized by Council on August 8, 2023, to approve Health and Community Services' plan related to Behavioral Health Fund opportunities and recommendations. This contract is awarded as a result of RFP 24-08. Uwill was selected based on their competitive rate per session, ability to serve a high number of students within the funding available, their efficient and low-barrier model, service provision in 21 languages, strong analytic platform, policies that support collaboration with school districts, and 24/7 availability of therapeutic services to meet student and family needs.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000, is provided by the Behavioral Health Program Fund. These funds are included in the 2024 budget. Council authorization is required as this contract exceeds \$40,000, per Whatcom County Code 3.08.100.

Please contact Amanda Burnett, Human Services Supervisor at 360-778-6069 (ABurnett@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.

Encl.