



ERIC J. RICHEY

WHATCOM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Erik K. Sigmar, Chief Criminal Deputy
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August 20, 2025

The BCC Workgroup

Re: The Whatcom County Jail Integrated Off-Site Behavioral Care Center

Dear Colleagues:

The Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney's Office joins what is the apparent consensus of the stakeholders from the Behavioral Care Center (BCC) Workgroup and supports the *offsite* BCC concept, on condition that the new jail adequately accommodates the same services in-custody, including but not limited to behavioral health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment.

The *offsite* BCC concept is more cost-effective, in that it accommodates Medicaid funding. The offsite model is consistent with the laudable goals of the Justice Implementation Plan to provide services outside the jail, reduce incarceration, increase access to treatment for behavioral health and SUD, improve reentry, and increase the opportunities for diversion programs.

The Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney's Office is committed to providing greater opportunity for meaningful rehabilitation and restorative justice, and to divert more cases from the jail to the offsite BCC as contemplated.

Sincerely,

Erik Sigmar,

Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor