



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council

FROM: County Executive's Office

DATE: October 13, 2025

RE: AB2025-730: Jail Healthcare Services

Background and Purpose:

This memo is a follow up to a memo and briefing from [March 11, 2025](#) (AB2025-205). Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, Executive's Office, and Juvenile Detention have been working collaboratively on a solution for jail healthcare services.

Through RCW 70.48.130, the legislature requires that all jail inmates receive appropriate and cost-effective emergency and necessary medical care. The RCW also requires governing units, the health care authority, and medical care providers to cooperate to achieve the best rates consistent with adequate care.

Whatcom County Corrections is an accredited facility through the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare standards (NCCHC).

Request for Proposals:

On Tuesday, June 24, 2025, Whatcom County Request for Proposals #25-41 was issued for jail healthcare services. The request was to expand services to 24/7 coverage and provide a proposal for a comprehensive service.

The County received proposals from Correctional Healthcare Partners, Inc. (CHP) and Mediko Correctional Healthcare. After scoring the proposals, the County chose to move to an 'intent to award' to CHP.

Since August 1 the County has engaged in negotiations for comprehensive services that would include main jail, work center medical, behavioral healthcare, and nursing coverage for juvenile detention.

Funding Amount and Source:

The terms of this contract are for 3 years, beginning on January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2028. The contract provides for two 1-year extensions upon mutual agreement by the parties.

This contract is for an amount not to exceed \$22,656,000 (3 year total) which includes all medical, dental, and behavioral health services combined. Jail health services are primarily funded by General

Fund revenues transferred annually into the Jail Fund, with some costs covered by per diem (bed) rates charged to other jurisdictions, such as cities and tribal police agencies (about \$240,000 annually), and the behavioral health fund (projected at \$1,000,000 for 2026).

The cost differential reflects, among other things, an increase to the Average Daily Population (ADP) from 275 to 300, the addition of 24/7 nursing coverage, access to a comprehensive electronic medical records system, rapid response pharmaceutical services, and enhanced oversight.

The County anticipates cost savings in other areas affected by this increase in services. For example, with 24/7 care, costs for emergency room visits will decline and with in-house imaging services, costs associated with transport to offsite imaging will be reduced.

Correctional Healthcare Partners Inc.:

CHP was founded in 2018 by Dr. Peter J. Freedland (CEO). As a physician-owned company since its inception, CHP maintains a unique focus on clinical excellence and patient outcomes rather than solely financial metrics. CHP provides a full complement of services to fulfill the unique medical needs within correctional facilities. CHP has demonstrated ability to navigate sophisticated correctional facilities, and has delivered meticulous care since 2018, in adult and juvenile detention facilities. CHP extensive knowledge of West Coast detention facilities and has expertise in:

- Clinical efficiencies to help reduce offsite expenses
- Community partnerships with active vendors
- Comprehensive approach to care including the commitment to “Discharge begins at intake.”
- Expertise in governmental initiatives such as Medicaid Transformation Project {MTP 2.0} to render appropriate discharge planning services.
- Expansion of clinical services to multidisciplinary rounds, evening, and triage coverage
- Creating a total care environment to reduce liabilities and improve health
- Adding extensive on-site management at every facility

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