



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Lifeline Connections – Substance Use Disorder Assessment Contract Amendment #2
DATE: **SEPTEMBER 12, 2024**

Attached is a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Lifeline Connections for your review and signature. The North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (ASO) has provided \$100,000 in funding to Whatcom County to support a Substance Use Disorder Professional (SUDP) whose services are intended to address the Whatcom County Resolution declaring fentanyl as an emergency and the County Executive’s Order for immediate and significant action to address overdoses and fentanyl use.

This amendment adds the ASO’s funding to this contract for a SUDP to provide assessment services within Whatcom County’s only Emergency Room within PeaceHealth’s St. Joseph Medical Center. With these additional funds, the Contractor’s SUDPs will provide the required ASAM assessment so that patients can access SUD treatment directly after discharge from the hospital and the SUDPs will serve as a liaison for providers and treatment teams to provide additional support for other resources, such as Peer Pathfinder navigators and connections to medications for opioid use disorders.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This contract funds substance use disorder (SUD) assessments and post-assessment treatment coordination as a component of re-entry for people releasing from the Whatcom County Jail and for people referred in the community through criminal/legal referral channels. The goals is to provide eligible people with smooth transitions to community inpatient or outpatient SUD treatment.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This amendment increases funding by \$100,000. Funding for this contract period, in an amount not to exceed \$281,977, is provided by the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) passed through the Washington State Health Care Authority and North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (NS BHASO) Jail Services and SUDP Programs. Council authorization is required as funding for this amendment exceeds 10% of the amount authorized by Council on 06/18/2024.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Section	Differences
Exhibit A – Scope of Work	Adds \$100,000 in funding and requirements for providing SUDP services within
Exhibit B – Compensation	Whatcom County’s Emergency Room

Please contact Hannah Fisk, Special Projects Manager at 360-820-7212 (HFisk@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.