

WHATCOM COUNTY
Superior Court Administration
Juvenile Division
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Stephanie Kraft
Administrator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brad Bennett, Finance Manager

FROM: Stephanie Kraft, Administrator for Superior Court Administration *SK*

RE: Professional Services Contract – Sole Source Justification

DATE: December 21, 2023

Whatcom County Juvenile Court is seeking to contract with L&L Counseling and Consultation for the delivery of treatment examinations and services under RCW 13.40.162 for the Special Sex Offender Disposition Alternative (SSODA) program. L&L Counseling and Consultation meets the requirements and qualifications for certified sex offender treatment providers outlined in Chapter 18.155 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and Chapter 246-930 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

Background

In 1990, Washington State passed a law relating to community protection from sex offenders called the Community Protection Act. The law established SSODA for eligible juvenile offenders adjudicated for certain sexual offenses to participate in outpatient treatment in lieu of confinement. Eligibility criteria for SSODA is outlined in RCW 13.40.162. SSODA examinations and treatment ordered by the court pursuant to the RCW must be conducted by a certified sex offender treatment provider or certified affiliate sex offender treatment provider.

Whatcom County Juvenile Court has an established SSODA program that has been in place for multiple decades. SSODA services are funded by the Juvenile Court Block Grant through the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families. Whatcom County Juvenile Court currently contracts with Rick Ackerman and Matthew Platte (doing business as L&L Counseling and Consultation), both certified sex offender treatment providers with active credentials through the Washington State Department of Health, for the delivery of SSODA services.

Mr. Ackerman has provided SSODA services for Whatcom County for over 15 years. In 2016, Mr. Ackerman made a decision to focus on the delivery of sex offender treatment and stopped providing SSODA examinations for the court. At the direction of court administration, Mr. Platte was contacted about providing court ordered SSODA examinations as there were no other qualified treatment providers available serving juveniles in Whatcom County. In addition to providing SSODA examinations, Mr. Platte has also provided SSODA treatment to youth not served by Mr. Ackerman since 2016. Until recently, Mr. Ackerman and Mr. Platte have been the only certified sex offender treatment providers serving the juvenile population in Whatcom

Sole Source Memo
L&L Counseling and Consultation

County and have been the long-standing sole sources for SSODA evaluations and treatment for juvenile court.

Walter Cardona is a certified provider who is new to Whatcom County. Kelly Dahl, Assistant Administrator for Whatcom County Juvenile Court, contacted Mr. Cardona on 12/11/23 to inquire about his practice and availability. Mr. Cardona stated in a voicemail to Mr. Dahl on 12/11/23 that he is not currently accepting new clients and that he currently only provides services via Telehealth.

Based on the court's immediate need to serve youth ordered to participate in the SSODA program, Mr. Cardona's lack of capacity to serve additional clients at this time, and no other known treatment providers in Whatcom County who meet certification requirements, Whatcom County Juvenile Court is requesting to move forward with a contract with L&L Counseling and Consultation as a sole source for providing SSODA examinations and treatment pursuant to RCW 13.40.162.

Sole source approved.

[Signature] 12/22/23