



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director

RE: North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC – Integrated Care Network Contract Amendment #5

DATE: January 13, 2025

Attached is a contract amendment between Whatcom County and North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization for your review and signature. This amendment adds funding for existing programs which include the Dedicated Cannabis Account, Jail Services Program, Trueblood Programming, Opiate Outreach, Naloxone Vending Machine, 13b Proviso Funds (one-time support for temporary Overdose Prevention and Response position and embedded hospital SUDP), and the Co-Responder Program. This amendment also adds a definition for Mental Health Care Provider and updates insurance requirements.

- **Background and Purpose**

The purpose of this contract is to acknowledge & fund Whatcom's participation in the North Sound Integrated Care Network (ICN) in order to promote a continuity of care for individuals, avoid service disruption, ensure the provision of behavioral health services and strengthen the regional service network.

Whatcom County participates in the ICN along with Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties. The North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (NS BH-ASO) administers the ICN to cooperatively provide a community health program and regional system of care, with the collective goal of consolidating administration, reducing administrative layering and reducing administrative costs, consistent with the State of Washington's legislative policy as set forth in [RCW 71.24](#).

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Total funding added by this amendment is \$206,191 for the 01/01/2025 – 06/30/2025 contract period. These funds will be included in the 2025 budget. The contract includes terms for automatic annual renewals. Council authorization is required as the additional grant funding provided by this amendment exceeds \$40,000, per WCC 3.06.010.

Please contact Malora Christensen, Response Systems Manager at 360-778-6131 (MChriste@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

