

WHATCOM COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE


BILL ELFO
SHERIFF



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Bill Elfo, Sheriff 

RE: 2022 Contract for Psychiatric Services at the Whatcom County Jail and Work Center

DATE: January 4, 2022

Enclosed are two (2) originals of a contract between Whatcom County and Lifeline Connections for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Compass Health, the previous Psychiatric Services Provider notified us late last year that they would not be submitting a bid to provide these services in the future. The RFP for these services was issued in September of 2021, however, we did not receive any responses as the result of the bid process. The Health Department put us in contact with Lifeline Connections, who was the most responsive bidder to the RFP for the Mental Health Professional and Re-entry Services for the Jail. After a review of our existing program, Lifeline agreed to contract with us to provide Psychiatric Prescriber Services. This is a critical service due to the high number of offenders with Serious Mental Illnesses who are in custody and is required for our accreditation with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

The primary funds for this contract are provided by revenues generated from the Mental Health/Chemical Dependency Sales tax. It is anticipated that due to the increased costs, additional funding will need to be provided and a supplemental budget request will be forthcoming. The annual maximum compensation will not exceed \$187,200.00.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contract**

This is an increase of \$97,200.00 from the previous contract held with Compass Health. The per hour rate of \$200 will remain the same with 486 more hours added to the contract (per year) for a total of 936 hours. The continuing increase in the number of offenders with Serious Mental Illness requires the additional hours.

Please contact Wendy Jones at extension 6505, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.