



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Champ Thomaskutty, Director
RE: Lake Whatcom Residential Treatment Center – Lincoln Street Studios Contract
DATE: MAY 12, 2026

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Lake Whatcom Residential Treatment Center (LWRTC) for your review and signature.

■ **Background and Purpose**

The purpose of this contract is to expand safe, stable, and appropriate housing options for individuals with behavioral health needs in Whatcom County. When complete, the Lincoln Street Studios (the “Project”) will add thirty-seven (37) units of permanent, supportive housing that promotes recovery, community integration, and improved health outcomes. Of these units, eleven (11) will be reserved for the exclusive use by members of the Trueblood Settlement Class (“Trueblood Class Members”) for a period of twenty-five (25) years.

Trueblood Class Members are those identified in A.B. ex rel. Trueblood v Washington State Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) as having their constitutional rights violated as pretrial criminal detainees when DSHS failed to provide timely court-ordered competency evaluations and restorative services and includes all persons who are now, or will be in the future, charged with a crime in Washington and: (i) who are ordered by a court to receive competency evaluation or restoration services through DSHS; (ii) who are waiting in jail for those services; and (iii) for whom DSHS receives the court order. Fines levied against DSHS by the Court established a settlement fund to be used to keep individuals from becoming Class Members and to redress the harm caused by DSHS’s inaction.

Whatcom County applied for, and was subsequently awarded funds from the settlement fund for the purpose of supporting the Lincoln Street Studios Project. This Project was selected based on LWRTC’s unique experience providing supportive housing for adults with behavioral health needs.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Project and underlying Property, are owned by the Lake Whatcom Center Foundation. The Lake Whatcom Residential Treatment Center is the manager of the Foundation. All instances which refer to “Lake Whatcom Residential Treatment Center”, “LWRTC” or the “Contractor”, shall, as applicable, refer to the Contractor causing the Foundation to achieve the same.

■ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$3,087,940 is provided by Whatcom County Contract #202605002. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.100, as funding for this contract exceeds \$75,000. Council appropriated funding on April 28, 2026 in 18538527.7190 for this expenditure.

- **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract, but LWRTC completed other capital work supported by the County under contract #202502013. LWRTC completed this work on schedule, within budget, and within scope.

Please contact Eric Chambers at 360-778-6199 or EKChambe@co.whatcom.wa.us if you have any questions.

Encl.