



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Lifeline Connections – Jail Behavioral Health Services Contract Amendment #6
DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Attached is a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Lifeline Connections for your review and signature. Due to funding reductions in the Behavioral Health program, \$211,000 was not able to be added to the original base allocations for the 2025 contract year. We have identified funds from the Sales and Use Tax for Housing and Related Services (HB 1590) that will allow us to restore this amount and make the contract whole for 2025. This adjustment ensures that the contract can continue as planned, without any disruption to the services it supports.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides critical funding for behavioral health services within the Whatcom County Jail, Work Center, and for Court Involved Youth. The services funded under this contract include crisis stabilization and the connection to ongoing behavioral health care for individuals being released into the community. These services are essential for addressing behavioral health needs among incarcerated individuals, ensuring they receive appropriate care and reducing the likelihood of re-incarceration. In 2024, 1,197 adults and 318 court involved youth were provided behavioral health services in the Jail and Juvenile Court Administration. A total of 7,824 referrals were made for jail behavioral health and recovery services in 2024.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$911,000 for this contract period (01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025), is provided by the Behavioral Health Program Fund in the amount of \$700,000 and HB 1590 funds in the amount of \$211,000. These funds are included in the 2025 budget. Council authorization is required as the additional funding provided by this amendment exceeds 10% of the amount authorized by Council.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Section	Differences
General Terms – Section 37.1, Administration of Contract and 37.2, Notice	Updates the County’s Contract Administrator and contact information
Exhibit B – Compensation	Adds funding to restore funding to the level necessary to operate the program and updates the Contractor’s indirect rate to match their federally approved rate.
Appendix I – Nonprofit Rate Agreement	Adds the Contractor’s federally approved nonprofit rate agreement

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