



Memorandum

TO: SATPAL SIDHU, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FROM: Jackie Mitchell

DATE: SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

RE: REQUEST COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR A CRIMINAL JUSTICE TREATMENT ACCOUNT PANEL APPOINTMENT

In 2002, the state adopted a statute (RCW 71.24.580) which established the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA). This law was designed to reduce sentencing guidelines and create alternatives to treat nonviolent offenders with substance use disorders (SUD).

Key provisions of this law included the:

- Establishment of the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) which is funded via savings by the Department of Corrections for reducing sentences.
- Allocation of funding to counties for treatment and support services for offenders with SUD.
- Development of a local criminal justice panel to submit a plan for the disposition of funds.

The Health Department created the Whatcom County CJTA panel. According to the RCW, the panel should consist of the following members:

- County Alcohol and Drug Coordinator (Jaculine J. Mitchell)
- County Prosecutor (Eric Richey)
- County Sheriff (Bill Elfo)
- County Superior Court (Dave Reynolds)
- A Drug Court Representative (currently A. Christine Furman)
- And two positions which must be appointed by the County Council; a substance use disorder treatment agency, and a member of the criminal defense bar.

The County Council approved the appointment of Starck Follis, Director of Whatcom County Public Defenders, as the criminal defense bar representative. The Health Department is asking for the approval of Carolyn Mason, Regional Director of Lifeline Connections as the substance use disorder treatment agency.

