



Memorandum

TO: WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM: Ann Beck, MSW, LICSW

DATE: JANUARY 16, 2025

RE: INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION: LAKE WHATCOM
RESIDENTIAL AND TREATMENT CENTER

Purpose

Health and Community Services Staff and Lake Whatcom Residential and Treatment Center CEO Jenny Billings will provide an overview of current and future efforts to increase recovery housing, intensive behavioral health services, and additional supported housing in Whatcom County. Staff will also provide information about a forthcoming contract for \$1M to support new housing for this vulnerable population in support of the County's Fentanyl Operations Plan.

Background on Lake Whatcom Residential and Treatment Center

Lake Whatcom Residential and Treatment Center (LWC) is a licensed nonprofit behavioral health organization providing residential and community mental health services to adults with severe and persistent mental illness in Whatcom County. They provide a variety of residential options across the continuum of care to in order to best match the consumer with the appropriate housing type, including assisted living, residential treatment for co-occurring mental health and substance abuse, independent living, and a newly opened enhanced services facility for our most vulnerable community member. Residential services are supported by a comprehensive array of services including community case manager, an intensive out-patient program, individual treatment, and employment services, among others.

Funding Request

The Department of Health and Community Services staff will be proposing a contract for \$1,000,000 to create new units of affordable housing for low-income individuals with chronic and persistent behavioral health disorders who need additional support to live stably.

Please call Ann Beck at 360-778-6055 with any questions.