



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Lifeline Connections – Jail Behavioral Health Services Contract Amendment #3
DATE: February 10, 2023

Attached is a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Lifeline Connections for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides funding for behavioral health services in the Whatcom County Jail and Work Center. Services provided under this contract include crisis stabilization and connection to behavioral health services for people releasing to the community with behavioral health problems. The Behavioral Health Program at the jail receives 350-400 requests for behavioral health services per year. Lifeline Connections currently has three full-time staff to provide crisis services and re-entry case management, which is insufficient to meet current needs.

Service expansion was prioritized as the top priority in a recent gap analysis completed by the Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team (BHGAT). The Incarceration and Reduction Task Force adopted the updated Sequential Intercept Model from the BHGAT. This model includes a recommendation to increase jail behavioral health staffing by three FTE. This amendment increases funding to support hiring those three additional full-time personnel.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$911,244 for this contract period (01/01/2023 – 12/31/2023) and \$1,580,566 for the entire contract period (11/01/2021 – 12/31/2023), is provided by the Behavioral Health Program Fund. These funds are included in the 2023 budget. Council authorization is required as the funding added by this amendment exceeds 10% of the amount authorized on 01/25/2022.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Section	Revision Purpose
Exhibit A – Scope of Work	Section III.C – Staffing Requirements to increase the number of personnel providing behavioral health services by 3 FTEs.
Exhibit B – Compensation	Increase funding by \$310,000 to support additional personnel necessary to provide increased behavioral health services at the jail.

Please contact Perry Mowery, Behavioral Health & Special Projects Supervisor at 360-778-6059 (PMowery@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Financial & Administrative Manager at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

