



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director

RE: Lake Whatcom Residential & Treatment Center – Mental Health Court Case Coordination Contract Amendment #1

DATE: DECEMBER 31, 2024

Attached is a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Lake Whatcom Residential & Treatment Center for your review and signature. This amendment increases the estimated amount of funding for 2025.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This contract funds Mental Health Court case coordination services Lake Whatcom Residential & Treatment Center provides for clients enrolled in the program. This funding reimburses Lake Whatcom Residential & Treatment Center for services not covered by other sources like Medicaid. The Mental Health Court Program is a partnership between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham that diverts Whatcom County residents who are challenged with mental illness and charged with crimes, to treatment and supportive services. The goals of this program are to promote public safety, engage, and retain defendants in treatment services, reduce contact with the criminal justice system, and efficiently use scarce public resources.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This amendment increases the estimated amount of funding available for this contract period (01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025) by \$12,000, for a total amount not to exceed \$22,000. Funding is provided by the Behavioral Health Fund. Council authorization is required as cumulative funding for all contract periods is expected to exceed \$40,000.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Section	Differences
Exhibit B – Compensation	Increases total funding by \$12,000

Please contact Malora Christensen, Response Systems Manager at 360-778-6131 (MChriste@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.

Encl.