



MEMORANDUM

TO: Jack Louws, County Executive
FROM: Regina A. Delahunt, Director
RE: Communities In Schools – Student Support Services Contract
DATE: June 10, 2019

Enclosed are two (2) originals of a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Communities In Schools for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Students that experience challenges with poor mental health, substance use, basic needs, academics, life skills, and similar issues attend school less regularly and drop out of school at higher rates. This, in turn, contributes to a number of other long-term and often life-long problems. The services provided under this contract will provide a support system for students who have obstacles for achieving at school and in life. The Communities In Schools (CIS) Program is an evidence-based and cost-beneficial program designed to support a range of behavioral health needs and to increase access to critical school and community services. The CIS model surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. This program is currently operating in the Bellingham, Blaine and Ferndale School Districts. Whatcom County has provided funding for these services under a similar contract since 2016. CIS continues to exceed expected services levels and to demonstrate positive outcomes that meet identified goals.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This contract, in an amount not to exceed \$136,000, is funded by the Washington State Healthcare Authority – Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery and the local Behavioral Health Program fund. These funds are included in the 2019 budget. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Joe Fuller at extension #6045 if you have any questions regarding this agreement.

Encl.

