



Memorandum

To: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu
From: Champ Thomaskutty, Director – Health and Community Services
Subject: North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC – Integrated Care Network Agreement
Date: JULY 19, 2026

Attached is an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC (North Sound BH-ASO) for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The purpose of this agreement is to receive revenue from North Sound BH-ASO as part of our participation in the North Sound Integrated Care Network (ICN), and allocate it to key behavioral health services, with the overarching aim of fostering continuity of care for individuals, avoiding service disruptions, ensuring the continued provision of behavioral health services, and strengthening the regional service network.

Whatcom County participates in the ICN along with Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties. The North Sound BH-ASO administers the ICN, facilitating the cooperative delivery of a community health program and regional system of care. The collective aim of these efforts is to consolidate administration, reduce administrative layering and reduce administrative costs, consistent with the State of Washington's legislative policy as set forth in [RCW 71.24](#).

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

The total revenue allocated through this grant for the period of 07/01/2026 – 12/31/2026 is not to exceed \$725,761.41. These funds are included in the 2026 budget. The agreement includes provisions for automatic, annual renewals. Council authorization is required as the grant funding provided by this agreement exceeds \$40,000, per WCC 3.06.010.

▪ **Differences between Previous Contracts**

This is a new agreement; however, revenue for these programs has been provided through previous agreements since 2016. Differences from the agreement that ended on 06/30/2026 (WC Contract #202602005) are as follows:

- o Alternative Response Team (ART): No changes – \$166,379 total funding
- o Dedicated Cannabis Account (DCA): No changes – \$41,719 total funding
- o Jail Transition Services: No changes – \$38,329 total funding
- o Opiate Outreach: No changes – \$203,114 total funding
- o Blake Recovery Navigator: No changes – \$256,227.50 total funding
- o Trueblood: No changes – \$19,992.91 total funding

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

Encl.

