



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Charlene Ramont, Assistant Director
RE: Lydia Place – Mental Health Workforce Expansion Contract Amendment #1
DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2025

Attached is a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Lydia Place for your review and signature. This amendment revises the initial term, shortening it to 12/31/2025, due to the contractor's accelerated expenditure of funds resulting from fluctuations in other funding sources. The contractor anticipates depleting the initially allocated funds by the end of 2025. Additionally, this amendment establishes a consecutive contract term through 2026 and includes a budget for the extended period. This amendment also revises client transportation requirements to authorize utilization of multiple ride-hailing transportation services and reimbursement of cancelled rides.

Whatcom County Health and Community Services continually assesses its contract reporting requirements to align them with the department's Results Based Accountability model and stakeholder needs for addressing program reporting requirements and evaluation. See attached Exhibit E for a summary of data for services provided through the 3rd quarter of 2025.

Council authorization for this amendment is required as this amendment proposes to update and authorize future revisions to reporting requirements, without contract amendment.

■ Background and Purpose

This contract provides for the expansion of mental health and parent support services to low-income families with children ages 0-5. Expansion of mental health services funded through this contract include:

- A mental health internship program with two interns;
- Utilization of a 1 FTE Mental Health Clinician and 1 FTE Family Support Specialist;
- Staff training to increase capacity of a workforce skilled in perinatal or early childhood mental and behavioral health services; and
- Enhanced coordination and delivery of behavioral health services including therapy and parenting support and education to families, in a variety of settings.

This contract aligns with Strategy 7 of the Healthy Children's Fund, intended to expand behavioral and mental health services for vulnerable children, pregnant parents, and parents with young children. Access to early childhood mental health care is a critical gap in Whatcom County. This lack of access has serious and lasting consequences on children's physical, emotional, social, and cognitive health. With early identification and investments in mental health treatment for young children and their families, expenditures in healthcare, education, criminal-legal system, and the labor market are reduced. Early identification and intervention also supports families in learning simple strategies for support, which leads to healthy development of the child and a healthier home environment and a reduction in the risks of childhood mood disorders.



▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for the initial contract period (10/09/2024 – 12/31/2025) is not to exceed \$474,786 and funding for the 2026 contract period is not to exceed \$348,177. These funds are provided by the Healthy Children's Fund and included in the 2025 and 2026 budgets.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Section	Differences
General Terms – Section 10.1, Term	Ends the initial contract term on 12/31/2025.
General Terms – Section 10.2, Extension	Establishes a consecutive contract period through 2026.
Exhibit A – Scope of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revises client transportation requirements. • Authorizes amendments to future reporting requirements, without contract amendment. • Updates the estimated number of clients served in the extended contract period.
Exhibit B – Compensation	Revises the term of the initial budget, provides a budget for the extended contract period, and revises client transportation requirements.
Exhibit E – Summary Data	Summarizes data of the services provided through the 3 rd quarter of 2025.

Please contact Ann Beck, Community Health and Human Services Manager at 360-778-6059 or ABeck@co.whatcom.wa.us if you have any questions.

Encl.