



Memorandum

TO: COUNTY EXECUTIVE SATPAL SIDHU

FROM: Anne Deacon, Human Services Manager

DATE: JUNE 16, 2021

**RE: 2020 ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM FUND**

The Whatcom County Code requires that an annual report be presented to the County Council on the services and expenditures of the Behavioral Health Program Fund. The 2020 annual report will be presented at the June 29, 2021 meeting. That report is attached here for your review.

The pandemic impacted in-person delivery of some, but not all programs funded. Nonetheless, you will see from the report that many services were provided and over 10,000 residents of Whatcom County benefited as a result. The stated number of people served is almost 14,000, but we are aware that many people received more than one service.

The Behavioral Health Program Fund, supported by local sales tax dollars, has a healthy fund balance. As a result, we are creating a budget that provides more funding for programs than is expected from annual revenues. The county made some cuts to certain programs in 2021 in anticipation of less revenue collected this year due to the pandemic. However, we find that our revenues have exceeded our budgeted expectations and are reinstating funding as appropriate to ensure programs supported by these dollars have the necessary resources to operate at full capacity.

We will plan to provide a more detailed report to County Council this Fall on our school-based services. Data indicates that the mental health of our youth has been negatively impacted by the pandemic. We hope to inform the County Council on how we are working with our school districts and community partners to address this troubling concern.

