



Memorandum

TO: WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM: Jackie Mitchell, Behavioral Health Program Specialist

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

RE: REQUEST COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2023 CRIMINAL JUSTICE TREATMENT ACCOUNT PLAN UPDATE

The CJTA Panel recently convened a meeting and is submitting the following plan for review and approval by the County Council. Pursuant to state law, the county legislative authority must approve the CJTA plan.

In 2002, Washington State adopted RCW 71.24.580 which established the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA). This law created an account to fund alternatives for treating nonviolent offenders with substance use disorders (SUD).

Key provisions of the CJTA law include:

- Establishment of the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) which is funded via savings by the Department of Corrections for reducing prison sentences.
- Allocation of funding to counties for treatment, support, and recovery services for people with criminal charges who have SUDs.
- Development of a local criminal justice panel to submit a plan for the disposition of funds.

A local CJTA panel was established according to RCW in 2018. The Panel met on Sept.8th, 2021 to update the CJTA Plan. The updated plan is enclosed.

Council Action Requested:

The County Council is asked to approve the CJTA Plan update for submission to the State as enclosed.

