

Please find attached the legislative proposal, executive summary, letters of support and latest status report from Lifeline Connections. A little background, in May 2016 NAMI sponsored a community meeting where some elected officials attended. During that meeting, the legislators in attendance suggested the community draft a legislative proposal identifying a need in the community and submit it to the Governor and Legislature for funding. I facilitated a community planning process that led to the community requesting funding for a new crisis stabilization and triage center. The proposal was submitted and SWWA received \$3million in capital funds to help create it that will serve Clark and Skamania Counties. The Community Foundation of SWWA is the fiscal agent for these funds and they are currently conducting a community planning process that my staff and I participate in to determine how to spend these dollars to build a new building in an area closer to transportation and other services. In early 2018, DSHS awarded SWWA over \$600,000 in operational funds to create a crisis stabilization and triage center. However, these funds cannot be used for capital expenses only program startup costs. Beacon Health Options received the \$600,000 and awarded them to Lifeline Connections to create and operate the crisis stabilization and triage program. I was asked if the County had any vacant buildings available to help create this program which must open by June 2019. There was no space large enough in CCH so I checked with the Sheriff's Office about the vacant building at their work release site. They agreed to let Lifeline Connections use this building for the crisis stabilization and triage center. General Services is involved to negotiate a lease to use the building for initial 5 years with the ability to renew the lease in 5 year increments. Since the operational funds cannot be used for capital expenses DCS agreed to use some of its behavioral health fund reserves to remodel the building spending over \$1million. However, due to City code issues and Department of Health building requirements for this program Lifeline Connections needs additional funds to finish the remodel. They requested funds from the State Department of Commerce and was just awarded \$2.9million to help with the remodel. Also, the Foundation recently learned from the State that the \$3million proviso awarded from the Legislature cannot be used to purchase land. These funds can only be spent on bricks and mortar and access to the funds is through cost reimbursement. Due to these latest developments, the Foundation and community planning group has decided to allow Lifeline Connections (if needed) to use the \$3million to finish the remodel at the building located at the work release site. However, you all should be aware there are some advocates such as Consumer Voices Are Born who are against this Center or any other treatment programs being located anywhere near a jail or law enforcement facilities. The County will not manage and Lifeline Connections is not expecting the County to pay for any programs operated in the crisis stabilization and triage center. All program costs will be paid for by the Medicaid health plans and Beacon Health Options. However, the intent of the program is to divert people with mental health and drug and alcohol issues from the jail and emergency rooms so it definitely benefits the County. I hope this information answers any questions. Thank you.

# Lifeline Connections Crisis Stabilization and Triage Center in Clark County, WA

## SSB 5883 2017, Section 204 (E)

### Monthly Implementation and Status Updates

#### July 2018

##### Timeline:

**12.29.2017**-Notification received that Proviso dollars had been awarded to Beacon Health Options to open a Crisis and Stabilization Center

**02.28.2018**-DLC Architecture selected to begin evaluation process

**05.09.2018**-Plan presented with DLC Architecture and Clark County at City of Vancouver

**06.11.2018**-Application for additional funding submitted to the Department of Commerce

**June 2018**-Pre-Application submitted to City of Vancouver

**June/July 2018**-Wallace Engineering to conduct erosion, draining, and storm water site analysis

**July 2018**-Award notifications for Department of Commerce made

**September 2018**-Written Comment period open for neighbors by City of Vancouver

**October 2018**-Public comment period after hearing before final approval of permits

**November 2018**-Plan for Clark County to release RFP for Contractor bids

**December 2018**-Selected Contractor to begin construction, expected to take 90 days

**March/April 2019**-Site to be licensed and inspected by the Washington Department of Health

**Tentative Open Date**-Spring 2019

##### Milestones:

**12.29.2017**-Secured funding from Clark County to assist with the site construction

**01.23.2018** - Hired a Crisis Stabilization and Triage Center Project Director

**02.22.2018-** Formed a Crisis Stabilization and Triage Center Advisory Board made up of community stakeholders

**03.05.2018-**Held meeting with Clark County staff and DLC Architecture to review initial mapping of site

**03.16.2018-**Received Lease from Clark County for the space being utilized

**03.26.2018-**DLC Architecture tour of existing Residential Facilities operated by Lifeline Connections

**04.04.2018-**On Site review with the Department of Health and DLC Architecture conducted

**04.10.2018-**Met with DLC Architecture to review proposed drawings

**04.17.2018-**Revised drawings received and reviewed for final submission to Cost Estimator

**05.01.2018-**Met with DLC Architecture and Clark County staff to prepare for meeting with City of Vancouver and reviewed finalized drawings

**05.09.2018-**Feedback provided by Vancouver Fire Marshall and City of Vancouver indicating a zone change to a class 1 facility, Transitional Housing would be required which evokes a Type 3 process because of the Human Service Facility Ordinance and need for a new land use process permit

**05.16.2018-**Clark County Facilities staff provided definitive answer that the project would need a site plan, erosion control, minimal impact development evaluation for storm water

**06.06.2018-**Initial cost estimate received from DLC Architecture

**06.21.2018-**Pre-Application meeting held with the City of Vancouver

**Potential Barriers:**

- The written comment period has created a time delay due to the process-21 days of comment and then a response period with delays in continuing with construction/permit/site approval until after this process has completed
- The process for gaining permits and approval from both Clark County and the City of Vancouver takes a significant amount of time
- The process for competitive bidding and procurement thru Clark County is a longer process than used by Lifeline Connections

- Recruiting Peer Support Staff is challenging due to a shortage in our area and extremely limited training scheduled for those who are interested but not yet trained

## Southwest Washington Build a Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Facility Legislative Capital Request \$18,750,000

### The Unmet Need

- ❖ Regional crisis stabilization beds in Clark & Skamania Counties are consistently full
- ❖ Community members in need are frequently turned away while in the midst of a behavioral health emergency
- ❖ Vulnerable individuals are either sent to Western State Hospital, placed in facilities outside the region, left to fend for themselves which has led to incarceration, or rely upon a safety net of services that are increasingly spread thin
- ❖ Local law enforcement, emergency medical services (EMS), and emergency room resources are depleted due to unnecessary and divertible behavioral health-related encounters
- ❖ Recent community health needs assessments conducted in SWWA identified **diversion, crisis stabilization, and involuntary treatment services were identified as an emergent need**, specifically for a "brick and mortar" clinical setting to provide expanded capacity and to enhance and improve care coordination.

### Cost-Savings & Cost-Avoidance Opportunities

- ❖ The Clark County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) reports approximately 17% of total bookings in calendar year 2015 were misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor bookings, which are most likely to originate with behavioral health or crisis-related issues. Diversion of this population to the SWWA Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Project could result in upwards of \$712,000 in annual cost savings to local jurisdictions through the diversion of individuals from jail to crisis triage and stabilization services.
- ❖ A recent study of PeaceHealth's SW Washington Medical Center's (PHSWMC) emergency department from March through August 2016 estimated that up to 40% of emergency room (ER) visits with behavioral health conditions could have been diverted to the proposed Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Facility. Based on an average ER visit cost of \$700, the potential annual cost savings at PHSWMC alone is estimated at nearly \$1.4M.

### Clinical Design

- ❖ Living Room Model with Peer Support
- ❖ Crisis Stabilization & Crisis Triage
- ❖ Co-location of Clark County Crisis Services
- ❖ Safe, respectful, and recovery-focused environment
- ❖ 8-bed crisis stabilization center
- ❖ 16-bed E&T (evaluation & treatment) center, an increase from current regional capacity, with potential for diversion from Western State Hospital
- ❖ 16-bed secure detoxification center
- ❖ Diverse range of community services and care coordination available on-site

### Community Partners

- ❖ Clark & Skamania Counties
- ❖ The 2 local Managed Care Organizations
  - Molina Healthcare
  - Community Health Plan of WA
- ❖ The Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization
  - Beacon Health Options
- ❖ Local law enforcement
- ❖ PeaceHealth
- ❖ Existing crisis service providers in SWWA
- ❖ NAMI SWWA (National Alliance on Mental Health)
- ❖ Consumer Voices are Born (CVAB)
- ❖ Numerous behavioral health providers for

September 22, 2016

State of Washington - Office of Financial Management  
Attn: David Schumacher, Director  
P.O. Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113  
RE: Request for Funds

Dear Mr. Schumacher,

On behalf of the Southwest Washington (SWWA) community in Clark & Skamania Counties, we respectfully request capital funds in the total amount of \$18,750,000 to support planning and preliminary design along with construction of a Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Facility in Vancouver, Washington. This amount includes the procurement of architectural design and project management (\$750,000) and for the subsequent construction of the facility (\$18,000,000).

#### **The Unmet Need**

Regional crisis stabilization beds in SWWA are consistently full and community members in need are frequently turned away while in the midst of a behavioral health emergency. Vulnerable individuals are either sent to Western State Hospital, placed in facilities outside the region, left to fend for themselves which has led to incarceration, or rely upon a safety net of services that are increasingly spread thin. As a result of this gap in services, local law enforcement, emergency medical services (EMS), and emergency room resources are depleted due to unnecessary and divertible behavioral health-related encounters. Based on recent community health needs assessments conducted in SWWA, **diversion, crisis stabilization, and involuntary treatment services were identified as an emergent need**, specifically for a "brick and mortar" clinical setting to provide expanded capacity and to enhance and improve care coordination. Accordingly, a SWWA Behavioral Health Crisis Workgroup was formed to explore solutions to better serve the region's most vulnerable mental health and substance use-impacted residents.

#### **The Cost-Savings & Cost-Avoidance Opportunity**

The two systems that are most directly impacted by inadequately resourced crisis systems are law enforcement and emergency departments. The Clark County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) reports approximately 17% of total bookings in calendar year 2015 were misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor bookings, which are most likely to originate with behavioral health or crisis-related issues. This closely coincides with the national standard of 16% of jail inmates suffering from serious mental illness. Diversion of this population to the SWWA Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Project could result in upwards of \$712,000 in annual cost savings to local jurisdictions through the diversion of individuals from jail to crisis triage and stabilization services. While data for drug and alcohol related arrests are not readily available, it is safe to conclude that diversion of these arrests will result in similar cost savings. Additionally, a recent study of PeaceHealth's SW Washington Medical Center's (PHSWMC) emergency department from March through August 2016 estimated that up to 40% of emergency room (ER) visits could have been diverted to the proposed Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Facility. Based on an average ER visit cost of \$700, the potential annual cost savings at PHSWMC alone is estimated at nearly \$1.4M. Moreover, these estimates do not include potential cost savings related to a second emergency department at Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center also in Vancouver, Washington.

### Target Population & Key Goals

The target populations for the SWWA Diversion, Crisis Stabilization and Involuntary Treatment Project are adults and youth experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The key goals and "core values" of the SWWA Diversion, Crisis Stabilization and Involuntary Treatment Project include an array of services that aim to: 1) decrease inpatient and emergency department utilization, 2) decrease behavioral health-related jail bookings, 3) increase access to stabilization services, 4) improve care coordination between behavioral health & primary care, and 5) keep people in their homes versus admission to higher, more costly levels of care such as Western State Hospital or to inpatient facilities outside of the community.

### Clinical Model

The Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Facility will be an integrated facility designed to address the needs of all Clark and Skamania community members 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The center will house Clark County Crisis staff with space for SWWA Behavioral Health providers, allowing for referrals and services across all age ranges. On-site services will include crisis triage and stabilization, secure detoxification, and evaluation and treatment (E&T) beds for adults 18 and older.

- The entrance to the Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Facility and first area of orientation is based on the **Living Room Model with Peer Staff**, a place that looks and feels more like a home than a clinic or hospital setting. The center will be a safe place to seek support from behavioral health peers, as well as mental health or chemical dependency professionals, and will serve as an alternative to the emergency room. Thoughtful attention will be paid to creating a non-medical environment, with snacks, beverages, and comfortable seating available while a consumer is waiting to be seen.
- The site will hold the WAC-defined license for **crisis stabilization and crisis triage**. Consequently, an evaluation for admission to services will be conducted for all adults 18 and older. Due to Department of Health (DOH) regulations, triage will be conducted behind the "Living Room Model" entrance. A Mental Health Professional (MHP), Registered Nurse (RN), and Peer staff will support triage, with a warm hand off originating from the Peer. The MHP is available, if needed, to escalate the level of care for a vulnerable person who is unable to agree to treatment. Each person will be assessed by an RN to rule out any acute medical conditions in advance of referral to admission for inpatient care. If at any time an individual displays medical problems that cannot be safely treated on-site, center staff will make an immediate arrangement for transfer to the closest emergency department.
- **Clark County Crisis Services** will be co-located with the Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Facility. Their presence will allow for the evaluation of individuals on-site as well as community outreach to adults, youth, and children.
- The Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Facility will provide a **safe, respectful, and recovery-focused** environment to help stabilize symptoms and prevent the need for a higher level of care. Services will include rapid access to licensed staff, assessment and medication support, supportive counseling and appropriate linkage to community supports.
- Connected to the Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Facility triage unit will be **8 crisis stabilization beds**. The stabilization area will serve voluntary adults who are not in need of acute care but who need a sub-acute option to achieve and sustain stability. Center staff will be cross-trained to work interchangeably with E&T staff, and vice versa. Individuals will experience a seamless transition from different levels of care within the facility, dependent upon need.

- The Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Facility will house a free standing **16-bed E&T, a capacity increase from current regional capacity with potential for diversion from Western State Hospital**. This program will provide both voluntary and involuntary acute psychiatric inpatient care, with space for individuals to have their own room. The design will be respectful of individuals experiencing acute distress, with secure outdoor space for recreation. A group room and family meeting room will be included.
- Connected to the Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Facility, but with a separate and distinct entrance, will be a **16-bed secure detoxification center**. Placements at secure detoxification facilities are initial detentions and 14-day commitments for substance use disorders. For those on longer commitments, involuntary substance use disorder treatment will take place at another approved substance use disorder treatment facility. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) evaluated integrated crisis response pilot projects, which ran from 2006 through 2009 and allowed for involuntary detention for mental health or substance use disorder. The subsequent report found that savings from fewer hospitalizations and avoidance of more expensive detentions to mental health facilities more than offset the cost of secure detoxification treatment. Another study found that people committed involuntarily for substance use disorder treatment showed decreased post-discharge use of costly acute care services such as detox, psychiatric hospitalization, and mental health crisis services. Many people with substance use disorder issues end up committed to the mental health system and would be better served in less costly involuntary substance use disorder treatment services.
- **Community services** will be located on-site and local providers will have access to space within the building, in some capacity. Offices will be allocated for intensive case management and care coordination teams, in order to increase the synchronization of outpatient treatment and support services with discharge planning. In-person Assisters for health insurance enrollment will be housed in the Living Room, as well as other community support functions. Community meals or extra support will be provided periodically for those who may be struggling. All providers will be encouraged to post materials for referral and outreach. Court space will be necessary within the building to adjudicate ITA decisions. Office space for the center will flow along the triage and crisis stabilization pathway, allowing for collaboration and consultation with community partners.

### **Community Partnership**

Partners for this project include Clark & Skamania Counties, the two (2) local Managed Care Organizations (Molina Healthcare & Community Health Plan of WA), the Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (Beacon Health Options), NAMI SWWA (National Alliance on Mental Health) , Consumer Voices are Born (CVAB), numerous behavioral health providers for adults and youth, local law enforcement, and existing crisis service providers in SWWA. Most importantly, the SWWA Behavioral Health Crisis Workgroup includes multiple individuals who are past or current consumers of Medicaid funded behavioral health services, ensuring that the experiences of consumers are honored and considered in all project decision-making. Further, as the first regional service area to embark upon Fully Integrated Managed Care in Washington State on April 1, 2016, we consider recent system innovations and increased partnership between physical and behavioral health providers to ideally position us for a community project of this size and scope. The numerous individual letters of support attached to this correspondence illustrate the community support for the SWWA Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Facility.



**Fundraising Support & Fiscal Sponsorship**

The SWWA community is seeking out diverse, cross-sector support for the capital and operations costs of the SWWA Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Facility , including future funding opportunities from federal, state, and local government, MCOs and BH-ASO support, and private foundation and donor support. The Community Foundation of SWWA will serve as the fiscal agent for the capital funds secured and raised, while the SWWA community is actively forming an independent, legal nonprofit entity to act as the trustee of the future property. This OFM request of \$18,750,000 will enable a thoughtful, intentional planning period to determine the best location and methodology for clinical services to ensure an optimal return on investment for all contributing stakeholders, together with funding to support the quality construction of the center.

The SWWA Behavioral Health Crisis Workgroup understands the scarcity of resources and believes that the return on investment for this project is substantial. With an **intentional focus on the mandates of House Bill 1713, also referred to as "Ricky's Law"**, and the recently released Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) budget and maintenance priorities that include **capacity building for behavioral health continuums of care that reduce the Western State Hospital waitlist**, the SWWA Behavioral Health Crisis Workgroup has collected ample empirical and anecdotal evidence to ensure that the return on investment for this project is substantial. Please join us in bringing this project to fruition.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Gaston  
Director

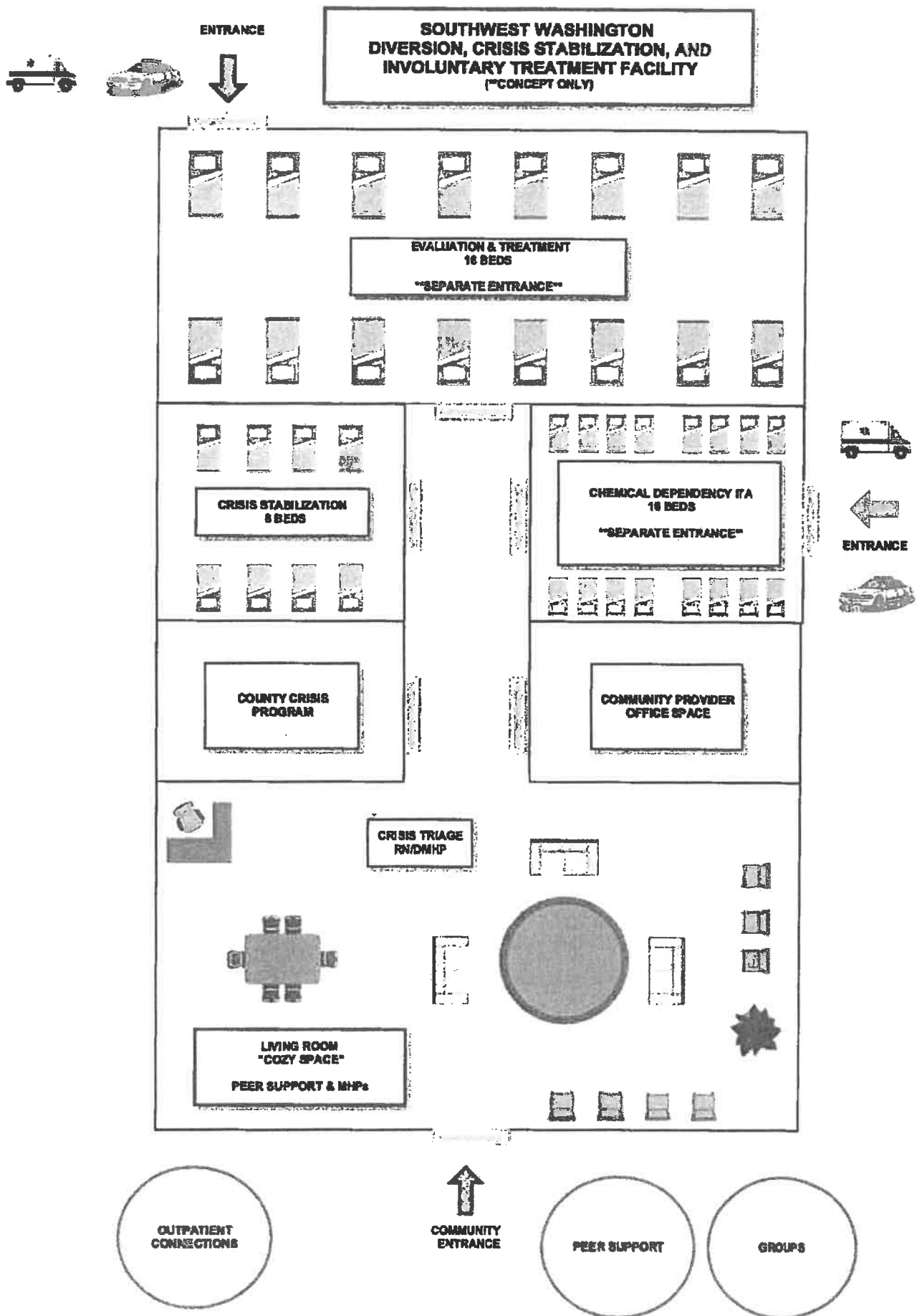
Clark County Department of Community Services



Kirby Richards  
Director

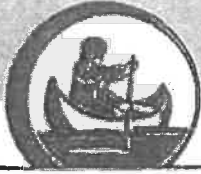
Skamania County Community Health

cc. Dr. Robert Crittenden, Governor's Senior Health Policy Advisor



**\*\*NOT TO SCALE; PLACEMENT OF FURNITURE AND FIXTURES,  
AS WELL AS LAYOUT, FOR RENDERING PURPOSES ONLY.**





## BOARD OF CLARK COUNTY COUNCILORS

Marc Boldt, Chair • Jeanna E. Stewart • Julie Olson • David Madore • Tom Mialke

proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY  
WASHINGTON

September 21, 2016

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Governor State of Washington  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of Clark County, we are pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project located in Vancouver, Washington and serving the SWWA region of Clark and Skamania counties. As one of the organizations most impacted by gaps in services and access for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis in Southwest Washington, we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

The mission of Clark County government is to enhance the quality of life in our diverse community by providing services with integrity, openness and accountability. Our strategic actions include community relationships, customer service, employee relations, decision making processes, finance and technology.

Based on recent community health assessments conducted in our community, triage and stabilization services offered in a "brick and mortar" setting for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis were identified as an urgent need. The limited services currently available result in overutilization of high cost services including local emergency departments and the Clark County Jail that are not properly equipped to successfully engage those in crisis. This often results in a failure to effectively support those in crisis towards stabilization and recovery.

The SW-WA Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center will offer an array of services for adults and youth in a behavioral health crisis. The creation of this center will decrease inpatient and emergency department utilization; decrease behavioral health-related jail bookings; increase access to stabilization services; improve care coordination between behavioral health & primary care; and keep people in their homes vs. inpatient admission or referral outside of the community to Western State Hospital or other out-of-region evaluation and treatment beds.

While the primary focus of this project is the immediate health and wellbeing of those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, we also recognize the strain placed on other systems and scarce funding streams as a result of these unmet needs. The overarching goals of the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project include 1. Improving client access and experience of care; 2. Reducing costs in the community; and 3. Improving the overall health of Clark & Skamania County communities.

We are grateful for your leadership and look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Marc Boldt, Chair



## **Clark County Sheriff's Office**

707 West 13th Street • PO Box 410 • Vancouver, WA 98666 • (360) 397-2366 • Fax (360) 397-2367

**Chuck E. Atkins, Sheriff**

15 September, 2016

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Clark County Sheriff's Office, I am pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project in Vancouver, Washington. As one of the organizations most impacted by gaps in services and access for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis in Southwest Washington, we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office protects and safeguards the community by upholding and enforcing the law, enhancing public safety through sound correctional practices, and serving the public through effective civil process.

Based on recent community health assessments conducted in our community, triage and stabilization services offered in a "brick and mortar" setting for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis were identified as an urgent need. The SW-WA Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center will offer an array of services for adults and youth in behavioral health crisis. Experience tells us that sometimes crisis situations do demand law enforcement engagement to address criminal behavior, but often the police are called simply as a last resort. In cases of discretionary arrest, the proposed Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center will provide a much needed alternative to arrest and incarceration, and will divert this population to systems better equipped to address root-cause behavioral health challenges.

While the primary focus of this project is the immediate health and wellbeing of those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, we also recognize the strain placed on other systems and scarce funding streams as a result of these unmet needs. We support the overarching goals of the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project: 1. Improving client access and experience of care, 2. Reducing cost in the community, and 3. Improving the overall health of Clark & Skamania County communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We look forward to further collaboration on this important proposal, and will be happy to address questions or provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck E. Atkins".

Chuck E. Atkins  
Sheriff



## SKAMANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Skamania County Courthouse  
240 NW Vancouver Ave | PO Box 790  
Stevenson, WA 98648

(509)427-3700  
Fax (509) 427-3708

Christopher Brong  
District 1

Doug McKenzie  
District 2

Bob Hamlin  
District 3

September 20, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of Skamania County, we are pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project located in Vancouver, Washington and serving the SWWA region of Clark and Skamania counties. As one of the organizations most impacted by gaps in services and access for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis in Southwest Washington, we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

The mission of Skamania County Community Health Advisory Board is as appointed by and responsible to the Skamania County Commissioners, is to advise the Director on their individual areas of expertise and act in a community liaison role while remaining respectful of client confidentiality. Skamania County Community Health is a County department and the only provider of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Public Health services in the County. Skamania is a rural county which relies on Clark County for many services including hospitals and behavioral health in-patient.

Based on recent community health assessments conducted in our community, triage and stabilization services offered in a "brick and mortar" setting for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis were identified as an urgent need. The limited services currently available result in overutilization of high cost services including local emergency departments and the Clark and Skamania County Jails that are not properly equipped to successfully engage those in crisis. This often results in a failure to effectively support those in crisis towards stabilization and recovery.

The SW-WA Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center will offer an array of services for adults and youth in a behavioral health crisis. The creation of this center will decrease inpatient and emergency department utilization; decrease behavioral health-related jail bookings; increase access to stabilization services; improve care coordination between behavioral health & primary care; and keep people in their homes vs. inpatient admission or referral outside of the community to Western State Hospital or other out-of-region evaluation and treatment beds.

While the primary focus of this project is the immediate health and wellbeing of those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, we also recognize the strain placed on other systems and scarce funding streams as a result of these unmet needs. The overarching goals of the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project include 1.) Improving client access and experience of care; 2.) Reducing costs in the community; and 3.) Improving the overall health of Clark & Skamania County communities.

We are grateful for your leadership and look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Christopher Brong,  
Commissioner



September 14, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of the Cowlitz Tribe Health and Human Services Department, we are pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project located in Vancouver, Washington and serving the SWWA region of Clark and Skamania counties. As one of the organizations that is impacted by gaps in services and access for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis in Southwest Washington, we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe Health and Human Services Department provides Behavioral Health Services to the Tribal population in Clark and Skamania Counties. This population suffers from some of the greatest health disparities including Mental Health Illnesses and addiction to Drugs and Alcohol. Having a SW-WA Crisis Triage & Stabilization facility will increase access to these essential services while getting them to the right place early when they are in crisis...

We have been partnering with the SW Washington Regional Health Alliance on filling these types of gaps in our community. We currently send our patients to multiple locations in the state to access these services. Having this Center in our community will decrease inpatient and emergency department utilization; decrease behavioral health-related jail bookings; increase access to stabilization services; improve care coordination between behavioral health & primary care; and keep people in their homes vs. inpatient admission or referral outside of the community to Western State Hospital or other out-of-region evaluation and treatment beds.

We are grateful for your leadership and look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions about this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Kutz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Kutz BSN, MPH  
Executive Director Health and Human Services Department  
Cowlitz Indian Tribe



# City of Battle Ground

City Hall • Executive Department

109 S.W. 1st Street, Suite 221 • Battle Ground, WA 98604 • (360) 342-5000 • Fax (360) 342-5050

September 19, 2016

The Hon. Jay Inslee, Governor  
State of Washington  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of the City of Battle Ground, I am pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project in Vancouver, Washington. As one of the organizations most impacted by gaps in services and access for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis in Southwest Washington, we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

The City of Battle Ground has a population of 19,640. Because of its size and scale, Battle Ground serves a significant population residing outside our jurisdictional boundaries in North and Northeast Clark County. Over 80,000 people rely on Battle Ground as a center of commerce, residence, education, employment and as a gateway to other areas of the region for employment, commerce and recreation. The City of Battle Ground is a municipal services provider providing fire protection, emergency medical response, law enforcement, municipal court, public works and development services within its jurisdiction. The population of the City is expected to nearly double by 2035. Significant demand growth for City services related to population growth in the surrounding areas served by Battle Ground is likewise expected.

Based on recent health assessments conducted in our community, triage and stabilization services offered in a "brick and mortar" setting for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis were identified as an urgent need. The limited services currently available result in police officers and other emergency services personnel having to wait for an ambulance to transport adults and juveniles experiencing a behavioral health crisis to the local hospital emergency room. This type of response is very expensive and inefficient as it ties up both law enforcement and emergency medical resources.


The SW-WA Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center will offer an array of services for adults and youth in a behavioral health crisis. A Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center would reduce emergency room admissions, and provide for long term coordination between behavioral health and a patient's primary health care provider. In addition, a coordinated response and follow up care would reduce the revolving door that currently requires multiple police responses, transportation by ambulance, an emergency room admission and release back into the community without the necessary support systems.



While the primary focus of this project is the immediate health and wellbeing of those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, we also recognize the strain placed on other systems and scarce funding streams as a result of these unmet needs. The overarching goals of the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project include 1.) improving client access and experience of care; 2.) reducing cost in the community; and 3.) improving the overall health of Clark & Skamania County communities.

We are grateful for your leadership and look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions about this request.

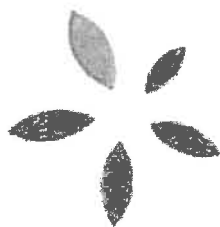
Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Philip Johnson, Mayor  
City of Battle Ground

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey R. Swanson' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeffrey R. Swanson, City Manager  
City of Battle Ground



**COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
SOUTHWEST  
WASHINGTON**

Community Foundation  
for Southwest Washington

610 Esther Street  
Suite 201  
Vancouver, WA 98660

360.694.2550  
fax 360.737.6335

[www.cfsww.org](http://www.cfsww.org)

September 27, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

We are pleased to offer this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project located in Vancouver, Washington serving the Southwest Washington region of Clark and Skamania counties.

The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington's mission is to inspire a culture of giving to create a vibrant and engaged community. Part of our strategic direction includes engaging and collaborating with community partners to identify creative solutions to current challenges and deepen our knowledge of the region.

Earlier this year the Community Foundation along with GE Healthcare Camden Group completed a behavioral health needs assessment for Clark and Skamania counties that highlighted significant gaps in behavioral health services in our area. Our local service providers used this information to help prioritize our highest needs which led to the recommended plan to create a crisis and stabilization center. This center will offer a more appropriate path for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis which in turn will alleviate over utilization of our emergency departments and the Clark County Jail. We applaud the cross-sector partnership that is working in unison to serve our most vulnerable residents.

In addition, the Community Foundation is prepared to act as fiscal agent for this community project. We have served in this capacity in the past for other collaborative projects and organizations in need of independent fiscal management.

Thank you for your leadership. We look forward to working with you on this important proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 360-952-4311 if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Rhoads  
President

Southwest  
Washington  
Community  
Behavioral Health  
Provider Alliance

**Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002**

**Dear Governor Inslee:**

On behalf of the Southwest Washington Behavioral Health Provider Alliance we are pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project located in Vancouver, Washington and serving the SWWA region of Clark and Skamania counties. As the primary Medicaid behavioral health providers in the region we are well aware of the need for the development of the Crisis Triage Center in our region and we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

The mission of the Southwest Washington Behavioral Health Provider Alliance is to provide the highest quality of behavioral health services to each person we have the privilege of serving. We subscribe to the Behavioral Health Centers of Excellence keys to delivering exceptional services which include Easy Access to services, World Class Customer Service built on a culture of engagement and wellness, Comprehensive Care, Excellent Outcomes and Excellent Value.

The SW-WA Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center will offer an array of services for adults and youth in a behavioral health crisis. The creation of this center will decrease inpatient and emergency department utilization; decrease behavioral health-related jail bookings; increase access to stabilization services; improve care coordination between behavioral health & primary care; and keep people in their homes vs. inpatient admission or referral outside of the community to Western State Hospital or other out-of-region evaluation and treatment beds. The Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center will allow all behavioral health providers to extend our coverage and coordination of care of individuals experiencing crises and create a platform for collaboration to support individuals and families at their most vulnerable time of need.

Based on recent community health assessments conducted in our community, triage and stabilization services offered in a "brick and mortar" setting for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis were identified as an urgent need. The limited services currently available result in overutilization of high cost services including local emergency departments and the Clark County Jail that are not properly equipped to successfully engage those in crisis. This often results in a failure to effectively support those in crisis towards stabilization and recovery.

While the primary focus of this project is the immediate health and wellbeing of those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, we also recognize the strain placed on other systems and scarce funding streams as a result of these unmet needs. The overarching goals of the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project include 1.) Improving client access and experience of care; 2.) Reducing costs in the community; and 3.) Improving the overall health of Clark & Skamania County communities.

We are grateful for your leadership and look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions about this request.

Sincerely,



John Bunk Moren, Co-Chair Southwest Washington Behavioral Health Provider Alliance  
CEO Community Services Northwest, Clark and Skamania Counties



Andrew Tucker, Co-Chair Southwest Washington Behavioral Health Provider Alliance  
Director, Children's Home Society, Clark and Skamania Counties

The Southwest Washington Behavioral Health Provider Alliance consists of the following agencies

- Catholic Community Services of Western Washington
- Change Point
- The Children's Center
- Children's Home Society of Washington
- Columbia River Mental Health Services
- Community Services Northwest
- Consumer Voices Are Born, INC
- Daybreak Youth Services
- Family Solutions
- The Institute for Family Development
- Lifeline Connections
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest
- National Alliance on Mental Illness of Southwest Washington
- Seamar
- Telecare

# Southwest Washington Provider Alliance



ChangePoint

Meeting Family Mental Health Needs

center



*Columbia River*



CVAB  
CONSUMER VOICES ARE BORN, INC



Family  
Solutions

Growing Hope and Wellness

FD Institute for  
Family Development

Connections  
*Healing*



Health • Justice • Hope

NAMI Southwest  
Washington  
National Alliance on Mental Illness



Clark County E & T



**PeaceHealth  
Southwest Medical Center**

September 26, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center, we are pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project located in Vancouver, Washington, and serving the southwest Washington region of Clark and Skamania counties.

As one of the regional organizations most impacted by gaps in services and access for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis, we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

The mission of PeaceHealth is to promote personal and community health, relieve pain and suffering, and treat each person in a loving and caring way. Based on recent community health assessments, we have identified an urgent need to provide a "brick and mortar" setting for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis.

The limited resources currently available in our community result in overutilization of high-cost services, including local emergency departments and the Clark County Jail that are not properly equipped to successfully engage those in crisis. This often results in a failure to effectively support those in crisis towards stabilization and recovery.

The SW-WA Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center will offer an array of services for adults and youth in a behavioral health crisis. We believe the creation of this center will decrease inpatient and emergency department utilization; decrease behavioral health-related jail bookings; increase access to stabilization services; improve care coordination between behavioral health and primary care; and keep people in their homes vs. inpatient admission or referral outside of the community to Western State Hospital or other out-of-region evaluation and treatment beds.

While the primary focus of this project is the immediate health and well-being of those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, we also recognize the strain placed on other systems and scarce funding streams as a result of these unmet needs. The overarching goals of the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project include 1.) Improving client access and experience of care; 2.) Reducing costs in the community; and 3.) Improving the overall health of Clark & Skamania County communities.

We are grateful for your leadership and look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Wade Hunt  
Chief Operating Officer & interim Chief Executive  
PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center



Lives Change Here!

Office of Financial Management  
Attn: David Schumacher, Director  
P.O. Box 43113  
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

**Re: Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Center**

*David*

Dear Mr. Schumacher:

I am writing to express the strong support of Columbia River Mental Health Services for a Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Center in Clark County, Washington, and ask that the Governor and legislature to place a high priority on securing funding for it in the 2017 legislative session and capital budget.

Columbia River is the oldest and largest provider of behavioral health services in southwest Washington. Our mental health and chemical dependency programs range from low intensity outpatient services to focused residential treatment. We operate five crisis stabilization beds as well as an opioid treatment program, including Methadone and buprenorphine.

The Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Center will fill several long-standing and critical needs in the behavioral health system in the early adopter region. Specifically, the center will allow us to provide a secure detox facility, additional evaluation and treatment center capacity, and dedicated diversion programs. It will help to consolidate and improve our crisis stabilization efforts, provide better integration of housing and employment opportunities under the Medicaid waiver, and coordination with tribal communities.

While our provider network does exceptionally well at diverting persons from emergency rooms and criminal justice systems, development of this center will empower the region to do still more to reduce demands on the state hospital and other more expensive treatment options. Through its focus on the "Triple Aim" and evidence-based practices, we believe the Diversion, Crisis Stabilization, and Involuntary Treatment Center will serve as a resource and model for the rest of the state as they prepare for care integration in the years ahead.

In coordination with other providers in southwest Washington, Columbia River has set aside other legislative requests to focus our support on this, the most critical behavioral health need in our communities. If I can provide additional information or be of any assistance as you consider this request, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Craig A. Pridemore".

Craig A. Pridemore, CEO  
Columbia River Mental Health Services



**nami** Southwest  
Washington  
**National Alliance on Mental Illness**  
We are dedicated to helping people affected by mental illness.

September 14, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

NAMI SW WA is pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project to be located in Vancouver, Washington and serving the SWWA region of Clark and Skamania counties. As one of the organizations most impacted by gaps in services and access for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis in Southwest Washington, we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

NAMI SW WA provides services to individuals affected by mental health and/or dual diagnosis issues and to their family members and others in their support system. Daily we receive calls, emails, and visits from individuals in near-crisis and family members whose loved ones are moving toward crisis. Individuals are fearful of going to the emergency rooms because the staff at those sites do not have the proper training to work empathically with people with mental health issues, nor are the "mental health beds/rooms" in any way supportive or healing to someone in mental health crisis. The option, when crisis services is called, is that the individual is taken to jail which is also not a good place for someone dealing with mental health issues. NAMI SW WA staff work daily with our clients to help them work through their issues however, in many cases, we know these efforts are temporary band aids. For this reason, we became a licensed mental health agency in our region earlier this year; we are the only NAMI in the nation offering these additional services.

Hospital staff members tell us constantly that they would prefer not to have to deal with people with mental health or substance abuse issues. Our Clark County jail currently has a daily census well above 700 while space was meant to hold 300. Corrections staff indicate that well over 50% of offenders already have diagnoses; many of these individuals are there for minor offenses such as trespassing. NAMI SW WA provides a weekly psychoeducational class in the pre-release program for many offenders with mental health diagnoses at this jail as well as at the Work Center, providing them with the beginning steps toward recovery. However, we know we are reaching only a very small percentage of those with diagnoses and those who could receive diagnoses but have not entered the mental health system.

Our SW WA region requests your full support of our plea for initial funding for this project. The Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center will help divert individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues to find appropriate help without filling more costly places in our two hospitals and jails, all sites that are not able to provide these people with the services they truly need to get them into recovery.

Sincerely,

  
Peggy McCarthy, MBA  
Executive Director

Vancouver: 5411 E Mill Plain Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98661 \* 360-695-2823 \* Serving Clark and Skamania counties  
Kelso: 109 Allen St, Kelso, WA 98626 \* 360-703-6722 \* Serving Cowlitz County  
[www.namiswwa.org](http://www.namiswwa.org) \* <https://www.facebook.com/namiswwa>



9/21/2016

Governor Jay Inslee

Washington State

Dear Governor Inslee,

Hello. My name is Angie Corll. I write to you regarding the Crisis Stabilization and Triage center that will be discussed for Vancouver, WA.

The SW-WA Crisis Triage and Stabilization Unit Center will offer an array of services for adults and youth in a behavioral health crisis. The creation of the center will decrease inpatient and emergency department utilization; decrease behavioral health related jail bookings, increase access to stabilization services; improve care coordination between behavioral health and primary care and keep people in their own homes vs. inpatient admission or referral outside the communities to Western State Hospital or other Oregon units that are not fit or have capacity, staffing or great outcomes for patients in crisis.

If you knew me, you would know that I am educated, I have a college degree, I am working at going back to law school, I love helping others, I write law, and love animals. But, if you really knew me, you would also know that I suffer from Bi Polar Schizzo effective disorder. Which means I often have highs and lows and sometimes during extreme cases of stress and change or negativity, I can see and hear things that are not there. I have been in mental health recovery until April 1<sup>st</sup>, this year. My husband of 16 years, drank too much and began to harm me physically and emotionally. HE told me because of my mental health issues that he could do whatever he wanted to me and no one would ever believe me. I believed that lie for many years until he tried smashing my brand new skull open. (I am recovering from a 10 year battle with a brain tumor and it nearly killed me.)

Life with him didn't help my illness, it made it worse. So when I needed to check myself into the hospital when I wasn't feeling physically or emotionally safe, just one day after my attack, I was taken to SW WA Medical Center and was treated

like a criminal and drug addict and was refused any assistance from the county mental health officer because of a false positive UA for Amphetamines. Since I knew I don't use any substances, I challenged that test, and ordered another where of course it came back positive. However, they told me they could and were going to not allow me any help because of that false positive, and regardless of the correct UA I was forced to go across state in a cop car ( I am not a criminal, nor did anything criminally wrong and still don't understand why, I was told I would be going ambulance and that didn't happen, even with two private paying insurances. Also I was forced to go in a hospital gown, open, they told me I couldn't have my clothes. The ambulance ride would have at least given me enough dignity to not be a spectacle when arriving and leaving. Can you imagine your family member being treated this way? Yeah neither can I ....)

When I arrived to Cedar Hills Hospital, I was taken to their CSU Unit. IT was terrible they had no clothes to fit me, told me I couldn't wear my gown and when they tried to take it from me, the only article I had, they wanted to leave me in blankets. I flipped out of course, and demanded some respect and human decency like any other human and demanded clothing, only then, they allowed my gown. I wore that gown for four days. No other clothing was offered, not even underwear. I was told by SW WA med that I would be going to a "Women's trauma Unit" I did not. In fact, I went to general and then I was housed with junkies. Heroin and Meth junkies. I have no experience with any of these people or those issues and did not get why I wasn't on the women's unit where I was supposed to be receiving trauma care. Instead I remained on the regular unit the rest of my stay. I was attacked by two paranoid schizzos because staff doesn't enforce meds there and they don't enforce behavior management either. I was also attacked by a male in group, by a nurse who was just attacked by her cow worker, and when I filed grievance after grievance I was ignored. I since, have found out the state is trying to shut that place down. Two nurses quit during my last night because of how bad it was ran. I did not get therapy or help. I did not get assistance, or trauma related therapy help or assistance, and my nightmares only increased. That place wasn't a place for a psych patient like me. Had there been any bed or place local that would have taken me, I think I would have had a much better experience.


This experience left me traumatized and believing that places like these don't help they just do more harm. I do not wish to ever tell someone I am so sick that I am not safe because I know what that outcome will entail and what I will have to

endure. SO I ask you, on behalf of my mental health, and my experience alone to please consider a nice place will do these things:

1. Improve Client access and overall experience of care
2. Reducing the cost in the community for housing and assisting crisis
3. Improving overall the mental health of the community, lets face it, we all could use some therapy and help

So, I really ask you to consider what a great impact this center and facility would offer people and patients like me and how much of a need our community has for this center. Thank you for reading my letter and hearing my concern. I look forward to hearing from you in the future regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angie Corll".

Angie Corll

Kathryn Curry <katteskafe@gmail.com>

September 20, 2016 3:15 PM

To: Peggy McCarthy

Fwd: Background for Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kathryn Curry** <katteskafe@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Sep 20, 2016 at 3:12 PM

Subject: Background for Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center

To: Kathryn Curry <katteskafe@gmail.com>

I have a degree in cognitive science, yet having a center such as this would have allowed me to handle my mental disorders and obtain a PhD or Medical degree. I have gone to the emergency room more times than I can count. My medications were off and I needed them stabilized so I wouldn't commit suicide. In fact, the medications often put me to the place where I wanted to. Peace Health was horrible when I went there. The staff didn't know how to deal with me and I ended up in what seemed like a jail which made me feel worse than I did. It made me question whether I should be there at all yet I would have ended up on drugs or alcohol to correct my bipolar imbalance. This may have led to me getting in a wreck and possibly killing someone and going to jail. The jails are already overcrowded in this area.

I volunteer for NAMI and am in such a loving and supportive environment. I am getting on my feet and in the past have had my own business, taught surgeons in a medical school, helped write papers for a surgeon and PhD in psychology, taught teachers and students and worked with MIT and HARVARD. A center such as this would have allowed me to continue my dream jobs instead of ending up in the emergency room where there is no love or training.

Governor Jay Inslee

9/22/16

The In WA Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center? will offer an array of services for adults and youth in a Behavioral Health Crisis. The creation of this center will decrease inpatient and emergency department utilization; decrease behavioral health related jail bookings; increase access to stabilization services; improve care coordination between behavioral health and primary care; and keep people in their homes vs. inpatient admission or referred outside the community to Western State or other out of region evaluation and treatment needs.

If something like that one had been available the last three years with 3 of my 4 grandchildren in crisis constantly, our family would have had some help instead of going it alone. In 13 years my daughter has had one weekend away from her 3 mentally challenged children. The burden on families is beyond belief when there is no help available.

Please consider the above with an open mind towards helping hundreds of families have some

relief from the burdens they bear.

Sincerely

Reuben L. Anderson

September 22, 2016

From: Karla Obenhaus  
6311 Wyoming Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661

To: Governor Jay Inslee

Dear Sir,

I think that the funding and creation of the LW-WA Crisis Triage + Stabilization Center is a great use of tax payer funds. I have known people who unfortunately ended up in the criminal justice system when their problems were due to a mental health crisis.

I believe that the establishment of such a center could result in less expense by the State of Washington by keeping people out of the jail + prison system. Such a center is a compassionate response to pressing needs of the community of mentally ill citizens. This center could also be a central point of helping the homeless who are mentally ill.

Thank you for considering placing the center in Vancouver.  
Sincerely,

Karla Obenhaus

(Legal name is Denise Karla Obenhaus)

to Governor Jay Inslee

My name is [redacted] and I've been dealing  
with a mental illness since very young but not  
diagnosed with a illness until 19. My time in a  
emergency room ended with a shot. The Rules of  
the state lead them to do some unprofessional thing  
and a Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center would help  
me because I would be more likely to go some  
where where I would not be locked up and have  
my jets. Also I think with the amount  
of money that is going to Portland would be  
save at the cost of a year. Considering the size of  
Vancouver I think the fund would be better allocated  
and work for us longer than let say Seattle.

Thank you for your time

*Let [redacted]* 9-22-2016

223 Omaha Way

Vancouver WA 98661



MY NAME IS

DAMIAN (HOLY)

---

LIFE

---

HI DAD (GOD)

---

BLESS YOU

2155 W. Firestone, Inc  
Vancouver Wa, 98660

To whom it may concern - Jay Inslee

My name is Eric Johnson I have been dealing with my mental health issue most of my life, ... Having a place that is designed for working with my special need, will save me from the trauma of the E.R. or the real threat of the criminalization of humans with schizophrenia. Please I don't want to go to jail... I am tired of people thinking that I have a mental illness I am a bad person. I beg... you to please vote for the funding for better treatment... We can do better...

sincerely, Eric Johnson

From Khalil Babajan  
12708 NE 86 ST  
Vancouver WA 98682

9-22-16

Dear Governor Jay Inslee  
I agree with WAMI. helped me a lot  
The SW-WA Triage and stabilization center will  
help the community.

Khalil Babajan

A handwritten signature, likely of Khalil Babajan, written in dark ink. The signature is stylized and appears to be a cursive or semi-cursive script. It is positioned below the printed name "Khalil Babajan".

Sept. 22, 2016

To Who it may Concern,

Please provide funding and resources for mental health needs. Having a SW-WA Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center would help keep people out of emergency rooms and in their homes. Having some Psych needs <sup>myself</sup> ~~and~~ I can tell you having a regular schedule and a sense of normalcy is important to keeping people well and out of the hospital. Outpatient is a more cost effective way of handling mental health issues than having to have people in hospitals or other facilities. It also improves the quality of care that mental health patients receive, which leads to better & happier outcomes.

As a result, I agree with those who say we need a SW-WA Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center. Unfortunately, mental health issues don't disappear and having more appropriate resources makes a tremendous difference for people who need them. It results in a better & healthier community in the long term. Thank you for your time and concern.

Sincerely,

Justin Mark Desjardins

14905 SE Sun Park Ct.  
Vancouver, WA 98683

# CVAB

**CONSUMER VOICES ARE BORN, INC.**

September 22, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of Consumer Voices Are Born (CVAB), we are pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project located in Vancouver, Washington and serving the SWWA region of Clark and Skamania counties. As one of the organizations most impacted by gaps in services and access for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis in Southwest Washington, we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

CVAB is a peer-run organization sharing hope and empowering people that vulnerable, in crisis, or wanting to experience healing and recovery; CVAB employs mental health peers and recovery coaches. A brief description of CVAB's array of peer-delivered services includes self-help centers, an employment center, mentoring in therapeutic courts, reentry supports, and training Certified Peer Counselors.


Based on recent community health assessments conducted in our community, triage and stabilization services offered in a "brick and mortar" setting for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis were identified as an urgent need. The limited services currently available result in individuals accessing the most acute care systems or being incarcerated instead of brief, recovery-oriented intervention services that provide empowering community based. This often results in a failure to effectively support those in crisis towards stabilization and recovery.

The SW-WA Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center will offer an array of services for adults and youth in a behavioral health crisis. The creation of this center will decrease inpatient and emergency department utilization; decrease behavioral health-related jail bookings; increase access to stabilization services; improve care coordination between behavioral health & primary care; and keep people in their homes vs. inpatient admission or referral outside of the community to Western State Hospital or other out-of-region evaluation and treatment beds.

While the primary focus of this project is the immediate health and wellbeing of those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, we also recognize the strain placed on other systems and scarce funding streams as a result of these unmet needs. The overarching goals of the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project include 1.) Improving client access and experience of care; 2.) Reducing costs in the community; and 3.) Improving the overall health of Clark & Skamania County communities.

We are grateful for your leadership and look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions about this request.

Sincerely,



Brad Berry  
Executive Director  
berryb@cvab.org

PO BOX 1707 VANCOUVER WA 98668-1707  
360-397-8050 • FAX 360-397-8059 • INFO@CVAB.ORG • www.cvabonline.com  
***A PERSON-CENTERED, RECOVERY-ORIENTED, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY***



September 15, 2016

Vanessa Gaston  
Director, Clark County Department of Community Services  
PO Box 5000  
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

On behalf of the Telecare Corporation, I am pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project in Vancouver, Washington. As one of the organizations most impacted by gaps in services and access for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis in Southwest Washington, we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

Telecare Corporation provides a broad spectrum of behavioral health services to the most needy individuals in the community. Our core treatment population has been and continues to be those that suffer from persistent mental illness and substance use disorders. Our Statement of Purpose reflects our Mission, "We exist to help people with mental impairments realize their full potential".

Based on recent community health assessments conducted in our community, triage and stabilization services offered in a "brick and mortar" setting for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis were identified as an urgent need. The limited services currently available result in impaction of needed medical/emergency treatment resources, delays in treatment, long waits in Emergency Departments and occasionally unnecessary hospitalization when Crisis Stabilization would have been more beneficial and effective. Inappropriate and unnecessary hospitalizations results in a lack of bed availability for those that truly need a brief course of treatment in an inpatient setting.

The SW-WA Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center will offer an array of services for adults and youth in a behavioral health crisis that addresses the above, as well as increasing appropriate mental health related jail diversion and avoidance of State Hospital bed usage. The Triage & Stabilization Center will enhance the efforts to provide integrated care in the community.

While the primary focus of this project is the immediate health and wellbeing of those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, we also recognize the strain placed on other systems and scarce funding streams as a result of these unmet needs. The overarching goals of the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project include 1.) improving client access and experience of care; 2.) reducing cost in the community; and 3.) Improving the overall health of Clark & Skamania County communities.

We are grateful for your leadership and look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Faith Richie  
Sr. Vice President of Development  
TELECARE CORPORATION

FR/ccb

# Connections

*Lifeline*

September 20, 2016

Lifeline Connections  
1601 East Fourth Plain Blvd Building 17  
Vancouver, WA 98668

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Lifeline Connections, I am pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project in Vancouver, Washington. As one of the organizations most impacted by gaps in services and access for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis in Southwest Washington, we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

Lifeline Connections is a behavioral health nonprofit organization that has been providing services to those in SW Washington since 1962. Lifeline offers outpatient, residential and detox services to those that are struggling with an addiction or mental health condition.

Based on recent community health assessments conducted in our community, triage and stabilization services offered in a "brick and mortar" setting for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis were identified as an urgent need. The limited services currently available result in fewer individuals getting access to the critical care they need in times of a behavioral health crisis.

The SW-WA Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center will offer an array of services for adults and youth in a behavioral health crisis. Having a Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center in our community will have a direct impact in reducing emergency department utilization and decreased behavioral health related jail bookings.

While the primary focus of this project is the immediate health and wellbeing of those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, we also recognize the strain placed on other systems and scarce funding streams as a result of these unmet needs. The overarching goals of the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project include 1.) improving client access and experience of care; 2.) reducing cost in the community; and 3.) Improving the overall health of Clark & Skamania County communities.

We are grateful for your leadership and look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions about this request.

Sincerely,



Jared Sanford  
Chief Executive Officer  
Lifeline Connections



Julie Lindberg  
Vice President, Health Care Services  
Molina Healthcare of Washington, Inc.  
Direct: 425-424-7122  
Julie.Lindberg@MolinaHealthcare.com

September 27, 2016

Molina Healthcare of Washington  
21540 30<sup>th</sup> Drive SE  
Bothell, WA 98021

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Molina Healthcare of Washington, I'm pleased to provide a letter of support for the *Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project* in Vancouver, Washington. Individuals in crisis need timely, simple access to immediate interventions, followed by a well-coordinated response to engage them in appropriate follow-up care, to achieve full stabilization. The Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center can serve as a cornerstone of Southwest Washington's behavioral health system, supporting first responders and family members in humanely and therapeutically responding to behavioral crises of individuals in the community.

Molina Healthcare of Washington is the largest Medicaid Managed Care Organization in Washington, serving Medicaid beneficiaries in the state for over 20 years. Recently, Molina was excited to be awarded the Fully Integrated Managed Care contract in Southwest Washington to coordinate and deliver integrated medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment services to Medicaid beneficiaries in Clark and Skamania Counties.

In our experience, in the first 6 months of this program, this region could strongly benefit from a more coordinated, single point of access crisis center, to provide immediate interventions to avoid more acute levels of care and/or criminal justice system involvement. For this reason Molina is in full support of initiating the work to design a crisis triage center, using evidence-based practices and drawing from other regional and national models.

The goals of this project include improving access to crisis services by offering a one-stop location for services; avoiding emergency room visits and inpatient hospitalizations whenever possible; avoiding arrests and incarcerations for individuals in crisis; and increasing engagement in follow-up services to promote recovery beyond stabilization of crises.



**Molina pledges our commitment to this project in the form of technical assistance, data for design and evaluation, contracting for covered Medicaid services delivered in the crisis triage center and coordination of referrals to and from the center.**

**We are excited to be a part of this project, to improve the continuum of behavioral health services and community supports, for the residents of Clark and Skamania Counties.**

**With regards,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Lindberg', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Julie Lindberg  
Vice President, Health Care Services  
Molina Healthcare of Washington  
Julie.Lindberg@MolinaHealthCare.com**



**COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN  
of Washington™**

September 18, 2016

Vanessa Gaston  
Director  
Clark County Community Services  
P.O. Box 5000, Vancouver, WA 98666  
360-397-2130

Re: Support for Crisis Triage and Treatment Center

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW), I am pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project in Vancouver, Washington.

CHPW manages the Fully Integrated Managed Care (FIMC) contract in Southwest Washington (SWWA) and serves about 20,000 members in the FIMC region with the goal of keeping health care services close to home for the members. As one of the organizations most impacted by gaps in services and access for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis in Southwest Washington, we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

Based on recent community health assessments conducted in the SW WA community, triage and stabilization services offered in a "brick and mortar" setting for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis were identified as an urgent need. The limited services currently available result in higher than necessary rates of emergency use, incarcerations, and hospitalization.

CHPW supports this effort to provide more effective crisis intervention to reduce utilization as well as provide more appropriate interventions for those with psychiatric and substance use treatment needs. While the primary focus of this project is the immediate health and wellbeing of those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, we also recognize the strain placed on other systems and scarce funding streams as a result of these unmet needs. We support the overarching goals of the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project, including 1) improving client access and experience of care; 2) reducing cost in the community; and 3) improving the overall health of Clark & Skamania County communities.

We are grateful for your leadership and look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Abie Castillo  
Senior Vice President, Provider Services/Network Development  
Community Health Plan of Washington





September 20, 2016

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Governor of Washington  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

It is with considerable enthusiasm and great pleasure to provide a letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project located in Vancouver, Washington, serving the Southwest Washington region of Clark and Skamania counties. Beacon Health Options is one of the many organizations who can clearly identify the need for a regional crisis triage center. Beacon is the Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization (BH-ASO) that oversees the current behavioral health crisis system. Having access to a crisis triage and stabilization center rather than jail, emergency rooms or not at all, will have a considerable impact across several social service systems and will be able to support the most vulnerable residents of Southwest Washington.

In conjunction with our community partners, and based on a recent community health assessment conducted in our community, a crisis triage and stabilization center for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis, was identified as an urgent need. The project will allow residents to receive community based services during their greatest time of need, provided in a welcoming environment, and will provide timely effective crisis interventions without having to go to an emergency department. The overutilization of high cost services has overburdened our jails and emergency rooms with minimal, if any, positive outcomes. The failure to effectively support those in a behavioral health crisis towards stabilization and recovery has tremendous effects on multiple systems. With a crisis triage and stabilization facility available to the public, first responders, law enforcement, and allied agencies, our region will be able to effectively serve our residents while mitigating unneeded services, costs and unnecessary treatment outside our region.

The principal goals that have driven our community conversation when developing the crisis triage and stabilization center has been to meet the need of our most vulnerable residents by improving access and care for those in crisis, reduce costs to the community and improve the overall health for our region. The Southwest Washington Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center will offer an array of services for adults and youth in a behavioral health crisis. The creation of this center will decrease inpatient and emergency department utilization; decrease behavioral health-related jail bookings; increase access to stabilization services; improve care coordination between behavioral health & primary care; and keep people in their homes vs. inpatient admission or referral outside of the community to Western State Hospital or other out



of region evaluation and treatment beds.

Beacon Health Options looks forward to the opportunity to work with you and our agency partners on this important proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Inna Liu".

Inna Liu, LCSW  
Program Director  
Beacon Health Options



*Preventing and ending homelessness in Clark County*

September 21, 2016

Council for the Homeless  
2500 Main Street  
Vancouver, WA 98660

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Council for the Homeless, I am pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project in Vancouver, Washington. As one of the organizations most impacted by gaps in services and access for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis in Southwest Washington, we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

The Council for the Homeless leads the community's efforts to prevent and end homelessness in Clark County. Through this work we see the overlap between housing instability and behavioral health on a daily basis. Based on recent community health assessments conducted in our community, triage and stabilization services offered in a "brick and mortar" setting for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis were identified as an urgent need. This approach will provide timely and appropriate services to people and avoid a prolonged crisis that could result in homelessness. Further, it will give us an opportunity to co-locate housing assistance services and reach people before they fall through the cracks.

The SW-WA Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center will offer an array of services for adults and youth in a behavioral health crisis. This will increase access to stabilization services and decrease inpatient and emergency department utilization. In other words, people will get the services they need at the time they need them rather than more costly and less effective interventions.

While the primary focus of this project is the immediate health and wellbeing of those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, we also recognize the strain placed on other systems and scarce funding streams as a result of these unmet needs. The overarching goals of the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project include 1.) Improving client access and experience of care; 2.) reducing cost in the community; and 3.) Improving the overall health of Clark & Skamania County communities.

We are grateful for your leadership and look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Andy Silver  
Executive Director  
Council for the Homeless

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE | 2500 Main Street | Vancouver, Washington 98660 | 360-993-9561

HOUSING SOLUTIONS CENTER | 2306 NE Andresen Road, Suite A | Vancouver, Washington 98661 | 360-699-5106



September 16, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Southwest Washington Regional Health Alliance, I am pleased to share this letter of support for the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project in Vancouver, Washington. As one of the organizations most impacted by gaps in services and access for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis in Southwest Washington, we appreciate your time and consideration of this cross-sector endeavor to serve many of our most vulnerable residents.

The Southwest Washington Regional Health Alliance is the Accountable Community of Health organization for Clark and Skamania County. The purpose of this organization is to promote quality health in Southwest Washington, coordinate and integrate health care and human service resources; assist in monitoring regional data to ensure effectiveness of care and assist in prevention of chronic health conditions in the region.

Based on recent community health assessments conducted in our community, triage and stabilization services offered in a "brick and mortar" setting for people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis were identified as an urgent need. The limited services currently available result in extended emergency department stays.

The SW-WA Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center will offer an array of services for adults and youth in a behavioral health crisis. This Center will become an integral element in the continuum of services available to individuals with behavioral health related situations.

While the primary focus of this project is the immediate health and wellbeing of those experiencing a behavioral health crisis, we also recognize the strain placed on other systems and scarce funding streams as a result of these unmet needs. The overarching goals of the Crisis Triage and Stabilization Center Project include 1.) Improving client access and experience of care; 2.) Reducing cost in the community; and 3.) Improving the overall health of Clark & Skamania County communities.

We are grateful for your leadership and look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this proposal. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions about this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andy Silver".

Andy Silver  
Vice Chair, Board of Directors

