KING COUNTY DRUG DIVERSION COURT SERVICES
516 Third Avenue, Room E-609, Seattle, WA 98104

206-477-0788 (Phone)
206-296-7885 (Fax)

February 7, 2024

Re: Therapeutic Health Services' Department of Commerce Behavioral Health Facilities Program Funding Application

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express King County Drug Diversion Court (KCDDC)'s strong support for Therapeutic Health Services' (THS) application for Department of Commerce Behavioral Health Facilities funding to support capital improvements and an expansion of THS' Kent facility.

For the past decade, THS has served as the primary substance use disorder treatment provider for KCDDC. THS also provides mental health counseling, medications for opioid use disorder, and primary care services for many KCDDC participants. KCDDC participants commonly enter Drug Court experiencing severe substance use disorder, a history of trauma, co-occurring mental health disorders, homelessness, significant criminal legal involvement, and other complex challenges. THS consistently delivers high quality, compassionate, and evidence-based care to this specialized KCDDC population.

However, current limitations due to the size and physical layout of the Kent branch prevent THS from being able to offer the full suite of services available at their other locations – most notably, methadone treatment and onsite childcare. Amidst the rising fentanyl epidemic and current behavioral health crisis, it seems clear there would be a benefit to expanding the types of services and number of community members that THS is able to serve. With fentanyl now the most commonly used substance in KCDDC, there is a need for expanded methadone access. Currently, KCDDC participants who live in Kent, Des Moines, Auburn, Federal Way, and other south end cities need to travel all the way to Seattle to receive methadone treatment - a burdensome logistical consideration that can limit employment opportunities, interfere with family obligations, and serve as a barrier to an individual choosing to enroll in methadone treatment even if it is recommended by their medical provider as the most effective level of care. Facilitating expanded access to comprehensive behavioral health treatment at THS' Kent location would undoubtedly be valuable for both KCDDC participants and the south King County region as a whole.

Please feel free to contact me at 206-477-0785 or Christina.Mason@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Christina Mason, MSW, LICSW
Program Manager