February 6th, 2024

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

To Whom This May Concern:

The Low Income Housing Institute is writing this letter to express our support for Therapeutic Health Services' Behavioral Health Facilities Program funding application. These funds, if awarded, would help pay for the planned expansion of Therapeutic Health Services (THS) current Kent location.

THS currently provides on-site behavioral health services at 10 tiny house village sites operated by the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI). Homelessness has increased across the region, including South King County and Pierce Counties. In addition to daily crisis management and de-escalation, THS' Behavioral Health Specialists provide barrier-reducing outreach and engagement to village residents, making their first tentative steps toward long-term treatment and support less intimidating.

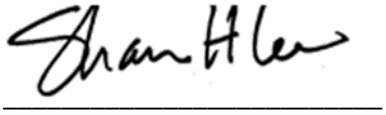
LIHI is planning to open additional villages in these areas and will explore contracting THS to provide behavioral health services at these new sites. Along with homelessness, opioid use among those experiencing homelessness is rising. The affordability and availability of fentanyl has caused an increase of opioid use and overdose in LIHI's villages. As providers of Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction for more than 50 years, THS has been a valuable partner in the fight against this newest wave of the opioid epidemic.

Therapeutic Health Services newest expansion of their Kent location at 24823 Pacific Highway South will bring Medication Assisted Treatment to the site. Currently, THS' Kent Branch offers substance use disorder and mental health treatment for adults. It also serves as a site where THS delivers King County Adult Drug Diversion Court services. This new footprint and the additional services it will house will create a treatment "home" for residents of nearby villages. Most of the villages currently staffed by THS clinicians are in close proximity to a THS service location. This makes getting to the clinic for additional services (including daily methadone dosing) easier.

LIHI's continued collaboration with THS ensures that each existing tiny home village site, as well as any planned in the future, will have the vital behavioral health services to support village residents, make the Villages safer places to live and help each Village maintain good relationships with the communities around them.

I am available by phone or email if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



2/6/2024
Date

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