



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

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May 15, 2026

The Honorable Sarah Perry

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Perry:

Pursuant to Ordinance 19783, which adopted the Crisis Care Centers (CCC) Levy Implementation Plan, this letter provides an update on the steps remaining to achieve a viable proposal for each remaining un-sited adult-focused crisis care center or youth-focused crisis care center. A milestone assessment of whether progress is on schedule to avoid an executive alternative siting process is also included. This letter is the second in a series of updates called for by the Implementation Plan. It builds upon and updates information that the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) provided in its initial CCC proposal update summary letter in December 2025.

Background

As directed by Ordinance 19572, the CCC Levy's paramount purpose is establishing a network of five crisis care centers throughout King County. Currently, the County's behavioral health crisis service system relies heavily on phone support and mobile response, with limited options for people to go for immediate, life-saving care when in crisis. As a result, people experiencing behavioral health crises often end up in the emergency room or jail, neither of which is equipped to provide appropriate care. The CCC Levy was designed to more quickly address this region's gap of "somewhere to go" in behavioral health crisis.

Ordinance 19572 requires a network of five crisis care centers by the end of 2032. The CCC Levy Implementation Plan describes the steps DCHS will take to ensure the successful and timely siting of crisis care centers in local jurisdictions.

Status as of May 2026

As of the drafting of this second update letter, the County has continued to make progress toward the creation of a network of five crisis care centers. The crisis care center in the North Crisis Response Zone (CRZ) is open and operating and recently added a youth urgent care component. The County has also announced the operator award and secured a location for the Central CRZ crisis care center. Finally, the County has selected an operator for the South CRZ crisis care center and is working with the operator and

south King County jurisdictions on identifying a viable site. The County has not yet awarded providers for the East CRZ, nor for the youth-focused crisis care center. The information below summarizes the status of viable proposals and steps remaining to site the South, East, and Youth crisis care centers. It also provides a red, yellow, or green milestone assessment of whether progress is on schedule.

Defining a Viable Proposal

Consistent with the CCC Levy Implementation Plan, DCHS considers a proposal for a crisis care center viable if it meets all requirements outlined in Ordinance 19572. Specifically, as referenced in Ordinance 19572, a viable proposal must propose a facility (or group of facilities) whose size is sufficient to provide same-day access to behavioral health crisis stabilization services, including 24/7 urgent care, onsite crisis responder assessment, short-term observation, and stabilization treatment, and that is staffed by a multidisciplinary team with peer counselors. Proposals must also ensure that facilities are accessible via transportation, and that they reflect the commitments made by local jurisdictions to serve people seeking care at a crisis care center. Additionally, DCHS prefers that viable proposals for adult-focused crisis centers demonstrate support from a jurisdiction within the relevant CRZ that can support development of a crisis care center at a site that already does meet or will be updated to meet zoning and land use requirements, is located near major public transportation routes and services; is centrally located relative to the region's population, and is sufficiently spaced from other crisis care center locations to maximize geographic access across King County. According to the CCC Levy Implementation Plan, for a youth-focused crisis care center, a viable proposal must demonstrate support from the host jurisdiction specifically, rather than from any jurisdiction within the CRZ where the facility is proposed.

Achieving a Viable Proposal

The process for achieving a viable crisis care center proposal follows two key milestones. The first milestone is pre-procurement. During this phase, jurisdictions and potential operators form partnerships and align priorities, with technical support from DCHS. DCHS also conducts community and jurisdictional engagement. The second phase is procurement. In this phase, DCHS selects operators through a competitive process, giving preference to those with demonstrated support from a siting jurisdiction and surrounding cities in the crisis response zone.

When a site is identified in a proposal, it must meet minimum requirements outlined in the CCC Levy Implementation Plan. However, achieving a viable proposal does not necessarily mean a site has been identified, as proposals are not required to have an identified site. Rather, proposals may describe how they plan to conceptualize and operationalize the crisis care center model's clinical components within a facility without having a specific site identified yet. Siting could begin after procurement and once contracts are executed, with DCHS supporting operators and jurisdictions as they work together to identify a viable site and develop the facility.

Status of each Crisis Care Center

Consistent with the CCC Levy Implementation Plan, DCHS tracks milestone status updates using a three-tier color system (green, yellow, and red). The three-tier system is structured around two key milestones discussed earlier: pre-procurement and procurement. A green status indicator means that progress is on track and DCHS anticipates completing the milestone without issue and before the end of 2026. A yellow status indicator means that progress continues but may be at risk of delays. A red status indicator reflects that the milestone may not be completed before the end of 2026.

Each crisis care center is in a different status for each of the phases detailed above (pre-procurement, procurement, and siting). Therefore, the status is presented individually by CRZ below.

North Crisis Response Zone

The crisis care center in the North CRZ is sited and operating and recently added youth urgent care services. In addition, the County completed the purchase of the North CRZ crisis care center facility in May 2026, as detailed in a March 2026 notification letter to the Council and summarized in Table 1. No additional steps are needed to secure a viable proposal.

Table 1: North CRZ Crisis Care Center Status

Milestone	DCHS Activity	Status
Pre-procurement	DCHS conducted engagement through monthly updates at community meetings, presentations at King County Integrated Care Network (KCICN) community behavioral health system partner meetings, and provider sessions focused on operational requirements. DCHS and Sound Cities Association co-hosted jurisdictional training to support readiness and alignment.	Complete
Procurement	DCHS released the Round 1 RFP in September 2024 and selected the operator (Connections Health Solutions) in the Round 1 Launch Ready review process in February 2025.	Complete
Siting	The crisis care center in Kirkland opened and is operational and now features a new youth urgent care component. Additionally, with the support of the City of Kirkland, the County acquired the North CRZ facility in May 2026 providing long-term stability for the site.	Complete

Central Crisis Response Zone

As shown in Table 2, pre-procurement and procurement activities for the Central CRZ are complete, as DCHS selected a viable operator proposal in November 2025. With completion of the County's acquisition of the Broadway Facility in December 2025, the Central CRZ crisis care center has been sited. The current status of the siting process is described below.

Table 2: Central CRZ Crisis Care Center Status

Milestone	DCHS Activity	Status
Pre-procurement	DCHS conducted engagement through monthly updates at community meetings, presentations at KCICN system partner meetings, and provider sessions focused on operational requirements. DCHS and Sound Cities Association co-hosted jurisdictional training to support readiness and alignment. Additionally, Between May 2025 and October 2025, DCHS hosted more than 60 community conversations, presentations,	Complete

	walking tours and other events with neighboring businesses, community organizations, residents and neighborhood groups.	
Procurement	DCHS released the Round 1 RFP in September 2024 and selected the operator in the Round 1 New Site review process. DCHS announced the operator award to Connections Health Solutions in November 2025.	Complete
Siting	The County signed a purchase and sale agreement (PSA) in January 2025 for the Broadway Facility. The Executive received a letter of support from the host jurisdiction, the City of Seattle, in August 2025. Property acquisition was completed in December 2025. DCHS and FMD are collaborating to coordinate the conversion of the facility. FMD selected a project manager for the facility's conceptual design work and released a request for proposals for a project architect in April 2026. CBRE Group, Inc., the contracted property management company, executed a contract with a consultant in April 2026 to conduct the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) analysis. In addition, DCHS has been meeting bi-weekly with the City of Seattle's Mayor's Office since early 2026 to determine roles, responsibilities, and ownership for each of the conditions outlined in Seattle's letter of support. The Community Advisory Group requested by Seattle in the letter of support had its first meeting on April 9, with regular meetings anticipated to continue moving forward. The Mayor's Office, DCHS, and Connections met on April 24 to decide on how Seattle would be supporting community engagement and have planned additional monthly coordination meetings. DCHS, Connections, FMD, CBRE, the Mayor's Office, and the Seattle Police Department met on April 30 to discuss the role and responsibility of each party as related to the CPTED analysis, community engagement, and the Good Neighbor Policy/Agreement prior to and upon the facility opening. King County and the City of Seattle also planned additional quarterly coordination meetings. DCHS anticipates the Central CRZ crisis care center will open by the end of 2027.	On track

South Crisis Response Zone

Pre-procurement and procurement for the South CRZ are complete. DCHS selected an operator in February 2026, and that operator is now working to secure a viable site, as outlined in Table 3.

Table 3: South CRZ Crisis Care Center Status

Milestone	DCHS Activity	Status
Pre-procurement	DCHS held virtual meetings with providers and jurisdictions interested in operating within this CRZ. Outreach and engagement included virtual and in-person meetings with	Complete

	community-based organizations, community groups, and residents of the South CRZ.	
Procurement	DCHS released the Round 1 RFP in September 2024 and selected the South CRZ operator through the Round 1 New Site review process. DCHS announced the selection of MultiCare Behavioral Health as the operator in February 2026. MultiCare's proposal did not yet include an identified site.	Complete
Siting	To support early jurisdictional alignment, DCHS has awarded pre-development contracting funds to MultiCare to help the operator move expediently on siting. Over the coming months, the operator is expected to identify and advance viable site options, engage South CRZ jurisdictions to build relationships, secure a letter of support from the host jurisdiction, and complete due diligence steps needed to confirm the feasibility of its selected site. DCHS is working with MultiCare to engage with jurisdictions and to support the operator's efforts to secure a viable site. By the end of 2026, the operator is expected to secure site control. Once site control has occurred, DCHS will proceed with capital and operational contracting with MultiCare.	On Track

East Crisis Response Zone

Pre-procurement for the East CRZ is complete and procurement is on track. The procurement for the East CRZ opened January 2026, as described further in Table 4. More information on siting is expected to be available once procurement is complete.

Table 4: East CRZ Crisis Care Center Status

Milestone	DCHS Activity	Status
Pre-procurement	DCHS held virtual meetings with providers interested in operating within this CRZ. Outreach and engagement included virtual and in-person meetings with community-based organizations, community groups, and residents of the CRZ. Jurisdictional engagement included virtual meetings with jurisdictions located within the CRZ, along with a jurisdictional training co-hosted with Sound Cities Association.	Complete
Procurement	DCHS did not receive any proposals for the East CRZ crisis care center in Round 1. DCHS released its Round 2 crisis care center procurement in January 2026, with a focus on the East CRZ. Notification of the award is anticipated in late 2026.	On track
Siting	Siting an East CRZ crisis care center depends on whether proposals submitted through the procurement process have identified a specific site.	To be determined

Youth Crisis Care Center

Pre-procurement is complete and procurement for the youth crisis care center is on track. As referenced in Table 5 below, to build stronger provider relationships and help ensure that operators submit viable proposals, DCHS intends to release a procurement for the youth-focused crisis care center in late May 2026. More information on siting will be available once procurement is complete.

Table 5: Youth Crisis Care Center Status

Milestone	DCHS Activity	Status
Pre-procurement	DCHS continued its engagement with youth-serving providers throughout early 2026, focusing on addressing questions and reducing barriers that previously prevented organizations from proposing to operate a youth crisis care center. Engagement with jurisdictions across King County also continued during this period, including DCHS staff partnering with Sound Cities Association, to help possible proposers identify potentially viable sites and jurisdictions willing to host a youth facility.	Complete
Procurement	DCHS intends to release its Round 3 crisis care center procurement in late May 2026, which will include the youth-focused crisis care center. Notification of the award is anticipated in late 2026.	On track
Siting	Siting a youth crisis care center depends on whether proposals submitted through the procurement process have identified a specific site.	To be determined

Conclusion

The February 2026 selection of the South CRZ operator clarifies the timeline for securing a viable site, enabling the initiative to remain on track in the South zone. DCHS intends to continue working closely with the selected operator and with South CRZ jurisdictions to build alignment across all parties, support permitting and zoning requirements, and advance the steps necessary for successful siting and operations.

DCHS is on track to achieve viable proposals for the East CRZ and the youth-focused crisis care center by the end of 2026. As the RFP for the East CRZ center is open and the RFP for the youth-focused center will open soon, information remains limited regarding specific site identification in those zones. Additional details are expected to emerge as DCHS receives and evaluates proposals. Future updates like this one, required under the CCC Levy Implementation Plan, will continue to provide the Council with timely information on the status of each CRZ, before any of the zones are at risk, and before potential activation of the alternative siting process.

DCHS continues to apply strategies and lessons learned from the North and Central CRZ procurement and siting processes, particularly related to jurisdictional engagement, provider readiness, and community

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partnership, to ensure that the remaining crisis care centers can be successfully sited after viable proposals are received.

If your staff have any questions, please contact me at 206-477-9309.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Susan McLaughlin", with a stylized, flowing script.

Dr. Susan McLaughlin

Acting Director, Department of Community and Human Services

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Robert Feldstein, Sound Cities Association

Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive