



King County | Office of the Executive

Executive Girmay Zahilay

Chinook Building, CNK-EX-0800
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-2391

May 1, 2026

The Honorable Sarah Perry
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Perry:

This letter transmits the Plan to Address the Needs of Vulnerable Jail Residents as They Transition from Prerelease to Postrelease Services, in response to Ordinance 20023, Section 51, Proviso P2, and a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report.

As required, the enclosed report describes key initiatives to expand transitional and post-release services to serve more jail residents who are receiving medication for a substance use disorder, are likely to experience homelessness, have a disability, have a physical or mental illness, have experienced domestic violence, may need violence interruption interventions, or are in other vulnerable populations, recognizing that many individuals leaving custody experience multiple, overlapping conditions.

The report shows how Jail Health Services (JHS) is transitioning its in-custody social service team to a multidisciplinary model. Teams include certified substance use disorder professionals, licensed clinical social workers and mental health clinicians, and community health workers. These teams conduct a standardized social determinants of health screening with all individuals booked into the jail as close to booking as possible, flagging vulnerable individuals and co-creating reentry plans.

The report outlines the additional resources needed to serve more jail patients with an enhanced care model. It recognizes that investments are required across multiple county systems, including housing, criminal legal and custody systems, public health and behavioral health systems, and human services, to comprehensively address the needs of vulnerable jail residents upon reentry.

Thank you for your consideration of this report and proposed Motion.

If your staff have questions, please contact Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, Government Relations Manager, Public Health – Seattle & King County, at 206-263-0365.

The Honorable Sarah Perry

May 1, 2026

Page 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Girmay Zahilay". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and "Z".

for

Girmay Zahilay
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive
Jasmin Weaver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Hyeok Kim, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive
Sierra Howlett Browne, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Executive
Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, Office of the Executive
Sandra Valenciano, Director and Health Officer, Public Health – Seattle and King County