

| CLEARANCES | Date | Date Received in Council Office | Agenda Date | Assigned To |
|-----------------------------|---------|--|-------------|--------------|
| Orig. Dept.: County Council | 3/24/99 | RECEIVED MAR 23 1999 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL | 3/23/99 | Full Council |
| Division Head: | | | | |
| Dept. Head: | | | | |
| Prosecutor: | | | | |
| Budget: | | | | |
| Executive: | | | | |

SUBJECT:

Resolution maintaining-current level of State Funding for Mental Health Care

ATTACHMENTS

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Related County Contract #: | Should the Clerk schedule a hearing? (Y/N) | Requested Date: |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|

Resolution maintaining current level of State Funding for Mental Health Care

RECOMMENDED MOTION (for final action):

COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN:

1999 - 126 3/23/99: Approved 7-0 Res. #99-014

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number (this item only):

RES. #99-014

2 PROPOSED BY: NELSON
3 SPONSORED BY: CONSENT
4 INTRODUCTION DATE: MARCH 23, 1999
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8 RESOLUTION NO. 99-014
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11 MAINTAINING CURRENT LEVEL OF STATE
12 FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE
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15 WHEREAS, mental health disorders can be very effectively treated; and

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17 WHEREAS, the prevention and treatment of mental health disorders can be realized in
18 savings to productivity and reduction in criminal justice; and
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20 WHEREAS, the number of people served within our region has increased over the past five
21 years by 57%, yet, our region's use of the state hospital has remained at 50% of the state average;
22 and
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24 WHEREAS, the number of mentally ill offenders at both state and local levels has increased
25 the demand for chemical dependency treatment; and
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27 WHEREAS other disabled populations are requiring service in mental health facilities; and
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29 WHEREAS, Governor Locke's budget proposes a \$26.5 million reduction to community
30 mental health; and
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32 WHEREAS, this reduction includes a 2% cut to mental health regional support networks,
33 totaling \$9.6 million and a \$16.9 million decrease related to projected "caseload" reduction in
34 medicaid eligible population; and
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36 WHEREAS, if the Governor's reductions are put in place we could see a 43% increase in
37 caseloads in our region, and, as an unfunded need, this could result in delayed access to services,
38 limited choices of programs, and possible rationing of care.
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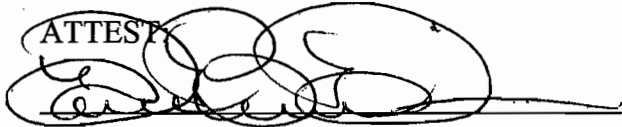
40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Whatcom County Council strongly
41 urges support of maintaining the current level of funding to avoid unfunded impacts to our local
42 communities due to the State's commitment in reducing inpatient care.
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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that, in addition, the legislature should consider a re-evaluation of the current funding model for community mental health that is solely based on medicaid eligibles.

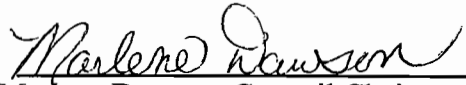
APPROVED this 23 day of March, 1999

ATTEST




Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Marlene Dawson, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Civil Deputy Prosecutor