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1 Roy stated services have dropped off. There are people with development
2 disabilities who are not in any kind of supported employment. Also, the
3 Developmental Disabilities Board is trying to focus on early intervention. They have
4 board members who are parents with children in the younger age range.

5
6 **Roy moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

7
8 **Motion carried unanimously.**

9
10 **2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE A**
11 **CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH**
12 **DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH**
13 **SERVICES TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR OUTPATIENT**
14 **SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, CHILDREN,**
15 **ADULT DRUG COURT AND PREVENTION, IN THE AMOUNT OF**
16 **\$381,373, FOR A TOTAL AMENDED CONTRACT FOR A TOTAL**
17 **AMENDED CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$2,824,829 (AB2003-357)**

18
19 Crawford stated he did not mean to infer that all substance abuse treatment
20 is fully funded. Some specific programs have no waiting list. The part of substance
21 abuse treatment they are lacking is the prevention part.

22
23 **Crawford moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

24
25 **Motion carried unanimously.**

26
27 Roy asked about funding for prevention.

28
29 Andy Byrne, Human Services Manager, stated the total dollars going to
30 prevention are in two categories totaling \$193,000. They also have another grant
31 for \$30,000 for prevention. All that funding goes to administering one person's
32 full-time status and a lot of prevention activities.

33
34 Crawford asked if it includes tobacco. Byrne stated it does not.

35
36 Crawford asked what happened with a \$37,000 expense they talked about
37 last year. Byrne stated that when the amount was \$33,000 and they didn't like
38 that amount, he looked for other dollars within the entire budget to build it up. In
39 2004, contractual services for prevention are close to \$100,000, which is still low.

40
41 Crawford asked the funding source for the \$173,000, and asked what they're
42 doing with it. Byrne stated it's added to other grants totaling \$193,000 to operate
43 the substance abuse prevention program, including administrative dollars and
44 operating expenses. The contractual service is close to \$100,000. An example of
45 prevention is the Star Task Force and a contract with the Cooperative Extension's
46 Strengthening Families Program.

1 Roy asked if they go into the schools. Byrne stated they go into Meridian
2 School District and partner with the Bellingham School District.

3
4 Jackie Mitchell, Substance Abuse Program Specialist, stated schools can
5 apply for funding like anyone else can. This year, they were supposed to do a
6 certain amount of those best practice activities. They had to select several best
7 practice activities and feature them in the services they provide.

8
9 Byrne described a number of activities the Health Department is involved in.

10
11 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE A**
12 **CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH**
13 **DEPARTMENT AND THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF**
14 **HEALTH TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**
15 **SERVICES IN WHATCOM COUNTY, SUPPORTING BIOTERRORISM**
16 **PREVENTION AND DRINKING WATER PROGRAMS, IN THE AMOUNT**
17 **OF \$138,950 FOR A TOTAL AMENDED CONTRACT AMOUNT OF**
18 **\$1,676,913 (AB2003-358)**

19
20 Terry Hinz, Assistant Director, stated this is an amendment to the
21 consolidated contract, to add funding for this program for the next fiscal year.
22 There is a small amount for a drinking water program.

23
24 **Roy moved** to recommend approval to the full Council. She asked the
25 portion of the emergency response budget this is for. Hinz stated it is for the
26 portion of work they are doing in the Health Department. He works with the
27 Division of Emergency Management, but this funding is specifically for public health
28 planning. A draft plan was submitted to the State Department of Health. This
29 funding will develop a plan for using the strategic national stockpile of drugs and
30 supplies they would use in an emergency. The rest is funding from the State
31 Department of Health that includes immunization, the Women/Infant/Children
32 program, and all the other programs.

33
34 Roy asked the connection between these programs and bio-terrorism.

35
36 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated they all share the same funding
37 source.

38
39 Hinz stated that's why they call it a consolidated contract.

40
41 Roy stated \$9,800 is for shellfish. She asked what that is for exactly. Hinz
42 stated they do some shellfish sampling periodically.

43
44 **Motion carried unanimously.**

45
46 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**
47 **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM**

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1 **COUNTY AND HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATORS, INC.**
2 **FOR ADMINISTRATION AND CLAIMS PROCESSING FOR THE SELF-**
3 **INSURED EMPLOYEE MEDICAL BENEFIT PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT**
4 **OF \$15.80 PER MEMBER PER MONTH (AB2003-359)**
5

6 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated this affects many County
7 employees and their families. This recommendation has to do with the way they
8 manage claims through the self-insured health insurance program. The County has
9 used Regence for a number of years. A new provider is being recommended, which
10 would save the county \$30,000 to \$35,000 per year.

11
12 Crawford asked the old rate. Desler stated the old rate is \$18.24.

13
14 Caskey-Schreiber asked for a plan comparison.

15
16 Karen Goens, Human Resources Division Manager, stated it's the same plan
17 with the same access. The company is a subsidiary of Regence, at a tremendously
18 lower cost.

19
20 Caskey-Schreiber asked for an example of a higher cost plan that is
21 referenced. She asked what would push someone into that category. Goens stated
22 the County previously had a co-pay plan. When someone exceeded the cap set by
23 the County, they had to pay that amount out-of-pocket to stay on the old plan.
24 The co-pay plan had a \$10 co-pay versus a \$20 co-pay on the new cap plan. There
25 were a couple of modest modifications to bring the plan cost down within the
26 contribution cap that is set as the Council's policy.

27
28 Desler stated the co-pay plan was about \$56 per person per month more
29 than the \$500 limit they established for 2003.

30
31 Goens stated that certain bargaining groups were given the option to stay
32 with the old plan at a cost of \$56 per month, whether or not they received services.

33
34 Brenner asked about other changes besides the lower fee.

35
36 Crawford asked how they evaluate the service level. Goens stated she went
37 through a request for proposal (RFP) process and asked for service standards.
38 These folks meet the standards the County felt are acceptable. Regence is a large
39 entity. Whatcom County is the last remaining contract for Regence that is for
40 administrative services only. Their corporate headquarters kept moving toward
41 Portland, and their administrative costs kept getting higher. The County hasn't
42 been getting especially great service from Regence. The County will get better
43 service with the new organization.

44
45 Desler stated this new organization is the subsidiary of Regence that is
46 supposed to specialize in handling administrative claims only.

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1 Goens stated the benefits will stay the same. It should be a seamless switch
2 for the employees.

3
4 Roy asked if there are still employees who have a choice between the plans.
5 Goens stated they have a choice every year during open enrollment. Once
6 someone moves to the new cap plan, that person can't move back. There are
7 about 60 employees still on the old plan.

8
9 **Roy moved** to recommend approval.

10
11 Caskey-Schreiber asked if this plan could cover massage, which is a valid
12 medical treatment for certain people. Goens stated it is a cost issue. She can find
13 out the price to include it.

14
15 McShane stated another approach is to reduce insurance costs by giving
16 employees options for their own medical and health well-being, such as health club
17 memberships. It reduces the number of claims filed. Goens stated she would look
18 at low-cost wellness techniques next year.

19
20 **Motion carried unanimously.**

21
22 **5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
23 **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROVIDING WHATCOM COUNTY WITH A**
24 **GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO IMPLEMENT THE**
25 **MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA INTEGRATION**
26 **PROJECT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$993,500 (AB2003-360)**
27

28 Crawford asked what they are specifically getting.

29
30 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated this came out of the Law and
31 Justice Plan. The criminal justice system departments maintain different
32 information and file systems. Each department has to duplicate files and
33 information. It's very inefficient. Congress specifically added it as an
34 appropriation. The County has to tell the Department of Justice what they want to
35 do with the money.

36
37 There are two things the County is going to get from this project. The first is
38 the ability to have a single information system that everyone feeds into and
39 everyone draws out of. There won't be any duplication. Right now, it just includes
40 Whatcom County's justice agencies first, then they will expand to include City of
41 Bellingham courts and police, and then expand again to other cities and federal
42 entities.

43
44 Caskey-Schreiber asked if the weekend dispatch, provided by the City of
45 Bellingham, will have that information to relay to the sheriff deputies. Desler
46 stated it will.

1 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*
2

3 Desler stated the second objective is making sure they have good
4 information about what is happening and the associated costs and timelines. Get
5 the system to put out information the County Council can use to make decisions
6 and set priorities. Fundamentally, it means that if this investment works, they
7 won't have to add more and more people to work in a broken and ineffective
8 system.
9

10 Crawford stated the contract is awarded to develop a bunch of software.
11 Then item 12 of the contract gives the County the right to sell the software to all
12 affected agencies. He asked if that's happening. Desler stated they have no plans
13 to sell the software.
14

15 Roy asked if they project a decrease in personnel as a result. Desler stated
16 he's asked that question to the managers in the justice system. When people say
17 they need more, the administration needs to ask what it will achieve from the
18 investment.
19

20 Roy asked if Whatcom County will work with the other cities and agencies.
21 Desler stated the Management Information System (MIS) Committee is working
22 closely with the County. Part of the money would pay for their programmer to
23 reset their systems. The County will hire a programmer and project coordinator.
24 The County will also have a sole source contract with Compu-Tech. There will be
25 another contract with the software developers for the long arm system. All those
26 contracts will come before the Council. This request accepts the money and
27 creates the obligation. A 2003 budget supplemental request will ask to get going
28 with this now. In the 2004 and 2005 budgets, money has been identified to
29 implement this program. The administration anticipates going back to Congress for
30 more money to do this.
31

32 Roy asked if it pays for hardware. Desler stated they may purchase servers.
33

34 Roy asked if there is software they can buy that does this. Desler stated
35 they have to take what has been created in the past in the departments, and create
36 a legacy system that ties them all together. They are going to use current
37 applications, but this project for the County is cutting edge in many ways.
38 Information systems is something they need to do. They have the support from
39 the federal government to finance it.
40

41 Roy asked about the administrative piece to be used by the decision-makers.
42 They still run into people who think they're not asking the right questions. Desler
43 stated the question is whether they are getting good information about what's
44 going on in the justice system. They tried to hire an evaluation coordinator.
45 Because that person was asking questions that were too sensitive, he was forced
46 out. They then hired another person that people in the justice system wanted
47 hired, but soon that person also asked questions that were too sensitive. Everyone

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1 is frustrated in trying to get people to share information on what's really going on.
2 He wants to get decision support information in the data integration project. That
3 means they will have to call into question the independent managers' decisions.
4 Often, they are reluctant to be accountable to other people.
5

6 Roy stated she's not sure how changing software will change that problem.
7 The departments are still going to take their data the way they want to take it.
8 Desler stated the Council and administration has to continue to ask the questions.
9

10 **Roy moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

11
12 **Motion carried unanimously.**
13

14
15 **OTHER BUSINESS**
16

17 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, submitted technical corrections and the
18 Council's work session amendments to the proposed 2004 budget. There will be a
19 separate letter issued later today from the Executive regarding the water resources
20 education issue.
21

22
23 **ADJOURN**
24

25 The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.
26
27

28
29 _____
30 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription
31

32 ATTEST:
33
34
35
36
37

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

38 _____
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Sam Crawford, Committee Chair