



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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January 28, 2022

Honorable Christine Rolfes  
Honorable Lynda Wilson  
Senate Ways & Means Committee

Honorable Timm Ormsby  
Honorable Drew Stokesbary  
House Appropriations Committee

Dear Senators Rolfes and Wilson and Representatives Ormsby and Stokesbary:

The governor's 2022 supplemental operating budget proposal included \$8.9 million of one-time funding to continue state diversion programs (Section 215(4), HB 1816/SB 5693).

The governor included this funding because Disability Rights Washington (DRW), in partnership with the federal court monitor, has funded state diversion programs over the past several years using contempt fines collected by the federal court in *Trueblood v. DSHS*. Most of the contempt dollars in the federal registry have been spent. The diversion programs have been working to develop sustainability funding, but not all have been successful yet in doing so.

The Governor's Office worked with DRW to solicit one-year funding proposals from all active diversion programs. Of the nine active programs, five responded and the governor's proposed budget included funding for all five (King County, Pierce County, Frontier Behavioral Health in Spokane, Comprehensive Healthcare in Yakima, and Community Integrated Health Services in the Great Rivers region).

In January, after the governor's budget was released, Kitsap Mental Health Services (KMHS), one of the nine active diversion programs, requested \$399,000. DRW recommends continued funding for this small, successful program. The amount requested is consistent with the annual grant awards KMHS has been receiving through DRW and the federal court.

We support adding \$399,000 for KMHS in the 2022 supplemental operating budget. With prior funding, KMHS has provided therapists and peers in the Kitsap County jail to divert *Trueblood* class members with behavioral health needs from incarceration and help them get into treatment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Schumacher".

David Schumacher  
Director

cc: Susan Howson, Staff Coordinator, Senate Ways & Means Committee  
Charlie Gavigan, Staff Coordinator, House Appropriations Committee  
Nona Snell, Assistant Director for Budget, Office of Financial Management