



City of Bellevue

Date: March 5, 2025

TO: Susan McLaughlin, Director
Behavioral Health and Recovery
Department of Community and Health Services
King County, WA

From Lynne Robinson, Mayor
on behalf of Bellevue City Council

RE: Letter of Jurisdictional Support for Youth Eastside Services

The City of Bellevue supports King County's Crisis Care Centers Initiative, and we support YES's proposal before the County for consideration in 2025. Within Bellevue's vision is a goal centered around thriving people and communities, with a specific objective to: "advance Bellevue as a community in which each and every member has access and opportunity to meet their essential physical and behavioral health, economic, recreational, and social needs, feels a sense of belonging, and has an opportunity to thrive." The request for proposals presents an opportunity for our city to answer that call and to take action to support interested providers in our community.

This initiative provides for a much-needed expansion of behavioral health services across the region. The City of Bellevue's 2024-adopted Comprehensive Plan contains numerous policies supportive of the initiative:

- HS-17. Support agencies locating human services facilities in Bellevue and, where appropriate, encourage efficiencies through agency collocation and collaboration.
- HS-18. Support a network of service points that are easily accessible by Bellevue residents and workers, geographically distributed within the city and proximate to public transit.
- HS-28. Support services and investments for children and youth that lead to equitable outcomes in health, wellness and education and meet essential needs, including shelter, housing, food, physical and behavioral health services, and safety from harm and violence.
- HS-29. Recognize behavioral health conditions, including substance use disorder, as chronic and treatable diseases that are best managed through the behavioral health system, including walk-in crisis and inpatient treatment programs.

- HS-30. Support services and investments in equitably available and proven behavioral health care services, including mobile integrated healthcare, co-responder programs, walk-in crisis and inpatient treatment programs, prevention and education programs, emergency overdose treatment and resource navigation for those seeking treatment.

Youth Eastside Services (YES) has informed the City of their intention to submit a joint proposal with Ryther (Lead Agency) and the YMCA of Greater Seattle Social Impact Center (YSIC) to be operators of the Youth Crisis Care Center (CCC). We understand that services for this youth CCC will be provided in three different locations, with the primary entry point for clients at a YES-operated 24/7 Behavioral Health Urgent Care and 23-Hour Crisis Observation Unit facility, in a location that has yet to be determined in East King County. Clients needing additional care would be transferred to either a Crisis Stabilization Unit hosted by Ryther for youth ages 12 and under, or a Crisis Stabilization Unit hosted by YSIC for youth ages 13 to 17.

YES has been critical to our community's efforts to support children and youth in East King County with serious behavioral health issues, including mental health and substance use. YES is a state-licensed Community Mental Health Center and state-certified Outpatient Chemical Dependency Treatment Program helping children and youth from birth to age 22, and their families, overcome the devastating effects of behavioral issues, mental illness, substance use, trauma, and more. Their services include mental health counseling, substance use treatment, treatment for co-occurring substance use and mental disorders, early childhood behavioral health, parent support, school- and community-based services, and psychiatric services provided on-site. YES is fully integrated into the Bellevue and Lake Washington School Districts, with clinicians located on-site at 50+ elementary, middle and high schools and teen/community centers. YES is in alignment with city policies regarding services to behavioral health and youth, as a trusted provider of equitably available and proven behavioral health care services. Thus, **the City of Bellevue is supportive of YES's proposal to be a joint operator of the youth Crisis Care Center, along with Ryther (lead) and YSIC.**

YES has indicated an interest in siting their portions of the Crisis Care Center model in the Eastside Crisis Response Zone, in Bellevue if possible. YES has not yet identified a site.

Bellevue will support YES in their effort to potentially identify a site that complies with Bellevue's policies, zoning and other local development requirements.



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Bellevue is also committed to supporting YES (and partners Ryther and YSIC) in engaging our community members regarding the potential siting, development, and ongoing operations of a Crisis Care Center in the Eastside Crisis Response Zone to ensure the needs of all stakeholders are heard and incorporated into planning and operations.

Health is central to so much of our individual and collective prosperity as a region, and behavioral health needs are underserved currently. Our city's vision proclaims: "Bellevue is an equitable and caring community where everyone can thrive and belong." We are eager for the County to move forward in awarding these Crisis Care Centers across the region, and we hope you will advance the proposal from YES for East King County so that youth may thrive.

Lynne Robinson
Mayor
City of Bellevue

CC: Bellevue City Councilmembers
Diane Carlson, City Manager, Bellevue
Genesee Adkins, Deputy City Manager, Bellevue
Nathan McCommon, Deputy City Manager, Bellevue
Michael Shiosaki, Parks & Community Services Director, Bellevue