



DATE: March 4, 2025

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Genesee Adkins, Deputy City Manager, 452-7849  
*City Manager's Office*

Toni Esparza, Assistant Director, 452-5379  
*Parks & Community Services Department*

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*Office of Housing, City Manager's Office*

SUBJECT: King County Crisis Care Centers Initiative: Letter of Jurisdictional Support

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### DIRECTION

Consider directing staff to prepare a letter of jurisdictional support for the Youth Crisis Care Center Proposal to be submitted by Youth Eastside Services in conjunction with Ryther and YMCA of Greater Seattle Social Impact Center

## BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

King County voters approved a 9-year levy in April 2023, called the Crisis Care Centers Initiative. Implementation of this Crisis Care Centers Initiative has begun. The Initiative focuses on increasing access and capacity for behavioral health services in King County, including the creation of a countywide network of five crisis care centers, restoration and expansion of mental health residential treatment beds, and strengthening the community behavioral health workforce.

Crisis Care Centers provide walk-in behavioral health care access and the potential for short-term stays to help people stabilize, depending on needs. One Crisis Care Center will be sited in each of the four crisis response zones designated by the County, and one Youth Crisis Care Center will be placed somewhere in the County. Each Crisis Care Center will consist of three elements, all operating 24 hours per day, 7 days per week:

- Behavioral health urgent care;
- 23-hour observation unit; and
- 13-day crisis stabilization unit.

The County has opened its first RFP for providers for future Crisis Care Centers. Behavioral health providers have submitted letters of intent for proposals that will be due

in March. Provider proposals must include a letter of jurisdictional support from a jurisdiction within the Crisis Response Zone where the provider intends to site a facility.

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. The City has also been informed that, if selected by the County, services for this Youth Crisis Care Center will be provided in three different locations. The primary entry point for clients would be 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 transported by the agency 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 is requesting a letter of jurisdictional support from the City of Bellevue.

## **POLICY IMPACTS**

The City of Bellevue's 2024-adopted Comprehensive Plan contains policies supportive of the King County Crisis Care Centers 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.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

A. City of Bellevue Letter of Jurisdictional Support for Youth Crisis Care Center