



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District

Peter Browning, Second District

Lisa Janicki, Third District

January 6, 2023

Briana Leach, RFP Coordinator
Washington State Health Care Authority
Cherry Street Plaza
626 8th Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: RFP 2022HCA32 - State Funded Opioid Treatment Program Mobile Medication Expansion

Dear Ms. Leach,

Skagit County is pleased to write a letter of support on behalf of the didg^wálič Wellness Center application for State Funded Opioid Treatment Program Mobile Medication Expansion funding to acquire and staff a mobile medication unit (MMU) to serve the eastern part of Skagit County.

The primary goal of the didg^wálič Wellness Center is to provide the community with quality health care solutions to today's substance use disorder and mental health challenges using an integrated health care model designed to improve outcomes for patients. The center is vital to our community, acting as a treatment and recovery hub for Skagit County, serving both tribal and non-tribal community members.

It is the mission of the didg^wálič Wellness Center to remove barriers to care. This is achieved in a variety of ways, including (but not limited to) no-cost onsite childcare and transportation to and from the center. Providing no-cost transportation ensures that our diverse population can be served efficiently—and equitably.

Historically, due to the remoteness of the eastern portion of Skagit County, it has been a struggle for east-county residents to access care. While our community behavioral health providers routinely go above and beyond to fill these gaps, it continues to be a challenge due to capacity and funding. Serving these individuals whom, statistically, suffer from a higher rate of behavioral health challenges compared to other parts of Skagit County, requires creativity and innovation.

We are confident that the didg^wálič Wellness Center's proposal to operate and staff an MMU will greatly enhance the health and wellbeing of our community. Not only would the MMU provide access to immediate physical and mental health care for our most underserved residents, didg^wálič is proposing a fully integrated, wrap-around system of care to ensure that these individuals are given the best chance at long-term health and happiness.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing about the grant awardees and their projects. If you have further questions, please feel free to reach out directly to Jennifer Johnson, Deputy County Administrator at jenniferj@co.skagit.wa.us or (360) 416-1304.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Ron Wesen, Chair


Lisa Janicki, Commissioner


Peter Browning, Commissioner