



King County

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

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October 20, 2025

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Zahilay,

This letter transmits the Report on Feasibility of Implementing Auditor Recommendations and Proposed Amendment Concepts, in response to Ordinance 19978, Section 3.A.2.a-d. As required by the Ordinance, the report analyzes the feasibility of implementing the King County Auditor's Office (KCAO) recommendations and proposed amendment concepts referenced in the Ordinance. Consistent with the Ordinance, it includes an evaluation of whether reforms can be achieved within existing resources, a recommended timeline and implementation plan, an assessment of associated costs, and structural changes required to ensure lasting oversight improvements.

In August 2025, KCAO released a report that showed during a period of rapid growth, DCHS' internal controls and compliance standards did not keep up with the demand for its services. The audit stated, "DCHS took on greater financial risk as a strategy to reduce barriers to contracting among organizations with limited government experience." The Executive and DCHS take KCAO findings, and the department's duty to be strong financial stewards of public resources, seriously. The department is moving urgently to address gaps and implement KCAO recommendations, including strengthening internal policies, increasing staffing, and providing trainings, in addition to taking action on the 19 instances of potential improper payments referred by KCAO. In reviewing the cases, it is clear that an independent investigation is necessary to ensure objectivity and maintain public trust. DCHS is working closely with the Executive's Office and the county's Finance and Business Operations Division to explore contracting with an external consultant to lead this work.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Kelly Rider, Director, Department of Community and Human Services at 206-263-5780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Braddock', written in a cursive style.

for

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget

Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Kelly Rider, Department Director, Department of Community and Human Services

ATTN: Amber Green, Deputy Director, Department of Community and Human
Services