



**Office of the Washington State Auditor**  
**Pat McCarthy**

## **Accountability Audit Report**

# **Greater Columbia Behavioral Health Organization**

**Benton County**

**For the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016**

**Published March 27, 2017**

**Report No. 1018831**





**Office of the Washington State Auditor**  
**Pat McCarthy**

March 27, 2017

Board of Directors  
Greater Columbia Behavioral Health Organization  
Kennewick, Washington

**Report on Accountability**

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for Organization operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

The attached comprises our report on the Organization's compliance and safeguarding of public resources. Our independent audit report describes the overall results and conclusions for areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy  
State Auditor  
Olympia, WA

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## AUDIT SUMMARY

### Results in brief

In the areas we audited, Organization operations complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources. The Organization also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

### About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Greater Columbia Behavioral Health Organization from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the Organization's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Contract monitoring for state contracts
- Insurance and bonding
- General disbursements for new vendors

## RELATED REPORTS

### **Financial**

Our opinion on the Organization's financial statements and compliance with federal grant program requirements is provided in a separate report, which includes the Organization's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

### **Federal grant programs**

We evaluated internal controls and tested compliance with the federal program requirements, as applicable, for the Organization's major federal program, which is listed in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs section of the separate financial statement and single audit report. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Greater Columbia Behavioral Health Organization is a health plan contractor for the State of Washington for mental health services. Created under the Community Mental Health Services Act passed by the Washington State Legislature in 1991, the Organization is under contract with the Department of Social and Health Services to coordinate mental health services to individuals covered by Medicaid or with limited financial resources and no health insurance. The Organization is organized as a consortium of 10 counties including Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Kittitas, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Whitman and Yakima. The Organization does not provide services to individuals directly, but rather funds services through provider agencies.

A 10-member Board of Directors governs the Organization. Each Board Member represents a member county. The Organization has approximately 20 employees. The total revenue for fiscal year 2016 was \$91,483,548.

Contact information related to this report	
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*Information current as of report publish date.*

### Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Greater Columbia Behavioral Health Organization at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

## ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

Contact information for the State Auditor's Office	
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