



Office of the Washington State Auditor  
Pat McCarthy

## **Accountability Audit Report**

# **Greater Columbia Behavioral Health, LLC**

**For the period January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020**

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

March 29, 2021

Board of Commissioners  
Greater Columbia Behavioral Health, LLC  
Kennewick, Washington

**Report on Accountability**

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The Office of the Washington State Auditor 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.

Attached is our independent audit report on the Organization's compliance with applicable requirements and safeguarding of public resources for the areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy  
State Auditor  
Olympia, WA

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## AUDIT RESULTS

### Results in brief

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, Organization operations complied, in all material respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity, policy, internal control, or area. As a result, no information is provided on the areas that were not examined.

### About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Greater Columbia Behavioral Health, LLC from January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

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.

This audit was conducted under the authority of RCW 43.09.260, which requires the Office of the Washington State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved obtaining evidence about the Organization's use of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters. The procedures performed were based on our assessment of risks in the areas we examined.

Based on our risk assessment for the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Payroll – gross wages
- Accounts payable – general disbursements and electronic funds transfers
- Financial condition

## 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, LLC Administrative Service Organization (GCBH BH-ASO) was formed in June 2018 as part of the Washington State Integrated Managed Care System. The GCBH BH-ASO began operations January 2019 through an inter-local agreement between nine counties: Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Kittitas, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima Counties, each county authority recognized by the Secretary of Department of Social and Health Services. GCBH BH-ASO does not provide services to individuals directly, but rather funds services thru network provider agencies.

A nine-member Executive Committee governs the ASO. Each County designates one commissioner to participate in the Executive Committee. Greater Columbia Behavioral Health ASO is responsible for the delivery of medically necessary Behavioral Health Crisis Services and services related to the administration of the Involuntary Treatment Act and Involuntary Commitment Act to all individuals in our Regional Service Area (RSA) regardless of insurance status, ability to pay, country of residence, or level of income. Crisis Services, as defined by the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA), include the evaluation and treatment of behavioral health crisis to all individuals experiencing a crisis.

In the Counties supported by GCBH BH-ASO, Crisis Services are available on a 24-hour basis and are intended to stabilize a person in crisis, prevent further deterioration, and provide immediate treatment and intervention in a location best suited to meet the needs of the individual. The Executive Committee appoints two Co-Directors who oversee eight employees. Greater Columbia Behavioral Health reported fiscal year 2020 revenues and expenditures of about \$21.6 million and about \$21 million, respectively.

### 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, LLC at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

## ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

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

We work with state agencies, local governments and the public to achieve our vision of increasing trust in government by helping governments work better and deliver higher value.

In fulfilling our mission to provide citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, we hold ourselves to those same standards by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency, and by developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an Organization, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits, attestation engagements and investigations. Our work is designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state and local laws. The Office also has an extensive quality control program and undergoes regular external peer review to ensure our work meets the highest possible standards of accuracy, objectivity and clarity.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with federal, state and local laws for all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits and cybersecurity audits of state agencies and local governments, as well as state whistleblower, fraud and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are available to everyone through the more than 2,000 reports we publish each year on our website, [www.sao.wa.gov](http://www.sao.wa.gov). Additionally, we share regular news and other information via an email subscription service and social media channels.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. The Office provides training and technical assistance to governments both directly and through partnerships with other governmental support organizations.

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