



Response to Community Concerns Directed at the Department of Health (department)

1. What written authority gives the department the right to select locations, lease and remodel office locations, and hire staff?

The Department of Health does not own, operate, or endorse opioid treatment programs. These programs are owned and operated by private companies. As required in RCW 71.24.590, locations of opioid treatment programs must be sited in accordance with the appropriate county or city land use ordinances. Counties and cities may require conditional use permits with reasonable conditions for the siting of programs. Pursuant to RCW 36.70A.200, no local comprehensive plan or development regulation may preclude the siting of essential public facilities.

2. What part of the DOH budget is the funding coming from and who is the approval authority?

The Department of Health does not fund opioid treatment programs. The department's role is to assure that opioid treatment programs meet state and federal rules and regulations.

3. What type of clinic is being implemented?

Opioid treatment programs (OTPs) provide medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to people with an opioid use disorder. MAT is the use of U.S. Food and Drug Administration- approved medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a "whole-patient" approach to treating substance use disorders.

Three medications are commonly used to treat opioid addiction:

- Methadone
- Naltrexone
- Buprenorphine

4. Is the department actively seeking new hires to help staff this location? Where are those new jobs being posted?

The Department of Health is not involved in hiring or staffing opioid treatment programs.

5. What public locations in Auburn or outside of the Auburn Area were public information notices posted for hiring and for informing the Auburn general population of this plan?

The Department of Health released a media advisory notice on January 10th, 2019 which went to all local media outlets. Additionally, a notice was placed in the Seattle Times on January 10th, 2019. We Care Daily Clinics conducted additional community outreach.

- 6. Why was the Muckleshoot Library the chosen meeting place rather than Auburn's Library? Was the Muckleshoot Library chosen because it is out of the area that will be impacted, away from the businesses and residents who will be affected?**

RCW 71.24.590, requires the department to hold one public hearing in the community in which the facility is proposed to be located. When choosing this location the address of the proposed facility, 3320 Auburn Way North, was used to determine the closest location to the community most directly impacted by the facility which had availability and taking into consideration cost and accessibility.