



Healing Transformed

**Thunderbird
Treatment Center**



SIHB[®]

A large bonfire is burning on a dark beach at night. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with a thick plume of smoke rising into the dark sky. In the background, a range of dark mountains is silhouetted against a twilight sky with soft orange and blue hues. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric.

A Transformation Story

IN SOME COASTAL INDIGENOUS CULTURES, transformation can happen between animals and humans, representing a dramatic change in one's journey. These stories are told at ceremonies where it is considered an honor for a person to wear a transformation mask, as well as viewers to bear witness to the physical and spiritual change itself.

Facility renderings created by BCRA.

All people featured in photos are models and don't have any relationship to Thunderbird Treatment Center.



Meeting Today's Needs

Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB) is always evolving to meet the needs of the community. SIHB has been providing community-focused healthcare and programming for more than 50 years throughout King County.

Today, the organization operates clinics in the International District, Pioneer Square, and Lake City, as well as a mobile clinic. Prior to finding a home on Vashon, SIHB operated Thunderbird Treatment Center out of South Seattle for more than 30 years before pausing the program. SIHB will now be able to provide more services and beds to residents healing from substance use disorder.

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Thunderbird offers something unique—the opportunity to not only heal physically and mentally, but to heal culturally as well.

Shelley Means (Ojibwe/Lakota), Board Member, SIHB

A New Home

In 2026, SIHB reopened Thunderbird Treatment Center on Vashon Island as a \$36 million state-of-the-art facility.

Thunderbird offers 92 beds and high-end amenities, including luxury rooms, a cultural healing space, an outdoor traditional garden, and customized community and counseling spaces. Residents will be surrounded by and have access to the natural environment and medicines that Vashon Island has to offer.



Community-Centered Care

At Thunderbird, SIHB offers an intensive inpatient treatment program (ASAM 3.1 and 3.5) that blends innovative therapies with personalized treatment plans, tailored to each individual's unique needs and goals. The standard program is 45 days, but may be less or more depending on an individual's context.

Thunderbird's program is grounded in culturally based healing, drawing on the teachings of the Red Road to Wellbriety that supports a balanced life rooted in respect for self, others, and creation. Guided by White Bison's integration of the Medicine Wheel and an American Indian and Alaska Native perspective that mirrors the 12-Step model, the program offers a holistic path to healing for individuals and families that connects traditional values and community.

Residents have access to behavioral health professionals, individual and group counseling, Traditional Indian Medicine experts, and outdoor activities, as well as access to ancillary comprehensive services, including psychiatry, Medication-Assisted Treatment, dental, pharmacy, primary care, and an array of human services.

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To be with people who could relate to my experience as a Native person changed everything for me.

**Derrick Belgarde (Siletz), Chief Executive Officer,
Chief Seattle Club, and former Thunderbird graduate**







92
beds

Number of beds for
people healing from
substance use disorder



15
beds

Number of beds dedicated to
pregnant and parenting people

15
beds

Number of beds reserved for
private insurance and self pay



45
day program

Standard number of days for
intensive inpatient treatment
(ASAM 3.1 and 3.5)



30+
years

Number of years of intensive
inpatient treatment experience



51%
increase

Percentage increase of
inpatient beds in King County,
from 180 to 272



Keeping Families Together

Thunderbird will be offering a very unique and important addition to its programming. Fifteen beds will be allocated in a wing of the facility for pregnant or parenting adults, where they will have the opportunity to still be with their children as they complete the program.

This groundbreaking component is modeled after the Women's Lodge in Oakland, California. Operated by the Friendship House, this program has seen tremendous success for decades by keeping families together throughout their healing.

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Thunderbird saved my life and reconnected me to my culture, community, and family.

Kimberly Brown (Coeur'd Alene), Substance Use Disorder Director, SIHB, and former Thunderbird graduate







Addressing A Crisis

The fentanyl and opioid crisis has destroyed lives, families, and communities throughout the country, with Native communities being impacted disproportionately. It has overwhelmed hospitals, health programs, and government officials who are doing all they can to find solutions.

Thunderbird Treatment Center will increase the number of inpatient beds by 51% in King County, while providing the services and treatment that people struggling with substance use disorder need today.

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Strengthening someone's cultural identity is key to hope—to overcoming trauma. I believe our people deserve that.

Esther Lucero (Diné), President and CEO, SIHB



Residential Treatment Reimagined

Thunderbird Treatment Center serves as a hub for community healing, hope, and transformation. It redefines treatment and recovery, and what it looks like in King County and Washington.

TTC welcomes both individuals and referrals from organizations. Those who are already in the Seattle area will begin their journey at SIHB's Substance Use Disorder program in Seattle's International District clinic. Those who are not in the Seattle area may be referred by another organization. To get started on the intake or referral process please call (206) 324-9360.

We hope you will join us as we enter into a new chapter of healing.

For the Love of Native People

Thunderbird Treatment Center

15333 Vashon Highway SW

Vashon, WA 98070

206-324-9360

Visit ttc.org to learn more

Seattle Indian Health Board

611 12th Ave South

Seattle, WA 98144

206-324-9360

sihb.org

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