



MEMORANDUM

To: Whatcom County Council members
From: Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive
Subject: Memorandum of Agreement for "The Waystation"
Date: September 17, 2020

Enclosed for your review and consideration is a memorandum of agreement between Whatcom County, PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center, Opportunity Council and Unity Care NW for the purposes of initiating a capital campaign for the construction of the "The Way Station".

Background and Purpose

Whatcom County as been in discussion and collaboration with the above referenced Parties to address the lack of hygiene facilities and medical respite for the homeless and unsheltered population. Medical respite has the potential to significantly improve the lives of a severely vulnerable population while reducing hospital admission, decreasing inpatient days, and increasing outpatient visits.

Reducing and eliminating critical gaps in care continuum services and a cost-effective approach can all be achieved by co-locating services in a single facility. The Way Station is proposed to be housed in an ideal location in the State Street facility. Services would include: recuperative respite care, health care services, hygiene services, case management services, potential public health services and connections to stable housing.

This is a unique collaboration that involves many community partners.

Funding Amount and Source

An initial \$400,000 has been committed by PeaceHealth and additional funding is to be raised by the Parties through an ambitious capital campaign. If and when the capital campaign is successful the County will complete negotiations of a \$1/year lease and/or consider selling the county owned building located at 1500 State Street.

Please feel free to contact me with any question you may have regarding this important Memorandum of Agreement.

Thank you.