



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director

RE: SeaMar – GRACE Program Contract Amendment #4

DATE: March 10, 2021

Attached is a contract amendment between Whatcom County and SeaMar for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Whatcom Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) is a multi-agency, cross-system program that provides intensive care coordination to individuals who have frequent contact with law enforcement and emergency response systems, make inappropriate use of health care, and have failed social service and housing episodes, leading to inefficient use of public resources to meet their needs. The goal of GRACE is to increase public safety, reduce excessive use and cost to emergency and criminal justice systems, and improve the health and well-being of individuals with complex needs. SeaMar facilitates the GRACE program and works closely with community partners and various systems to provide care coordination to individuals in the program. The purpose of this amendment is to increase funding for an additional GRACE Case Manager who, working closely with the Bellingham Police Department, will focus on responding to people who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$599,421 during this contract period (01/01/2021 – 12/31/2021) and \$1,712,583 for the entire contract period (09/01/2018 – 12/31/2021), is provided by the Behavioral Health Program Fund, the City of Bellingham, PeaceHealth Medical Center, and the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization Trueblood Fund. These funds are included in the 2021 budget. Council approval is required as increased funding for this amendment exceeds 10% of the approved budget.

Please contact Kathleen Roy at extension #6007 if you have any questions regarding this agreement.

Encl.

