

WHATCOM COUNTY
Council Office
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Dana Brown-Davis
Clerk of the Council

MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council Members

FROM: Councilmember Barry Buchanan, Whatcom County Executive's Office, Whatcom County Sheriff, and Whatcom County Health Department

RE: Whatcom County Public Health, Safety, and Justice Initiative

DATE: August 28, 2019

On August 7, 2019, Whatcom County Council approved Resolution 2019-036, which identifies a work plan for the Whatcom Public Health, Safety, and Justice Initiative. The resolution identifies a need to plan for a criminal justice system that is built to address the root causes of incarceration and designed with rehabilitation as the goal. It identifies key elements to complete a behavioral health and criminal justice needs assessment and design concepts for a new facility, all with broad participation from the public.

County staff further developed the ideas of the Resolution in a document included as Exhibit A, which identifies specific tasks for a needs assessment, conceptual design work, and a robust public outreach effort to incorporate the community's vision for criminal justice and behavioral health services.

Councilmember Buchanan, the Whatcom County Executive's Office, the Whatcom County Sheriff, and the Whatcom County Health Department would like to engage the Council in a discussion of next steps to complete the defined tasks in Exhibit A, including contracting for professional services.