



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Washington State Health Care Authority – Alternate Response Team Pilot Program
DATE: August 16, 2022

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Washington State Health Care Authority for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The purpose of this Agreement is for Whatcom County to establish an Alternative Response Team Pilot Program to respond to 911 calls that do not require law enforcement. The Pilot Program is a cross-system project intended to test the efficacy of deploying teams of responders to behavioral health and other low-risk crises, in order to appropriately serve the persons involved and divert those calls from law enforcement. Ultimately, the goal of the program is to connect persons in behavioral health and related crises with ongoing services that will improve the health and well-being, while also reducing criminogenic behavior, when present.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this Agreement, in the amount of \$2,213,000, is provided by the Washington State Health Care Authority’s Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. These funds will be included in the 2022-2023 budgets. Council approval is required per WCC 3.06.010(B), as funding exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Dean Wight, Special Projects Manager at 360-778-6036 (DWight@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Assistant Director at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

