



Memorandum

TO: JACK LOUWS, COUNTY EXECUTIVE
FROM: Barbara Johnson-Vinna, Housing Specialist
DATE: September 23, 2019
RE: Whatcom County Strategic Plan to End Homelessness

Human Services staff from the Whatcom County Health Department will present the first draft of the 2019 Whatcom County Strategic Plan to End Homelessness to the Public Works and Health Committee on Tuesday, October 8, 2019.

Background and Purpose

The Washington State Department of Commerce, as mandated by legislation, is requiring all communities to submit an updated Local Plan to End Homelessness by December 2, 2019. Before submission to the state, the County Council must approve the plan. A first draft of the Whatcom County Local Plan update is attached for review. This document is "Phase 5" of the original plan, incorporating updates to reflect the evolution of the homeless housing system and its challenges as well as successes. The draft Local Plan has been created by the Health Department in conjunction with community organizations and members, and meets State and legislative criteria. The main priorities of this Local Plan update are outlined in the Executive Summary therein. The purpose of this presentation is to describe key components of the draft related to our local homeless crisis response system, and provide an opportunity for the County Council to offer feedback. A follow-up draft will be presented on November 19, 2019, to the County Council for final approval.

Recommendations

The Health Department will appreciate County Council input and questions up until October 30, 2019, at which time a final draft will be submitted. Approval for the final draft of the Whatcom County Strategic Plan to End Homelessness will be required of County Council prior to submission of the plan to Commerce by December 2, 2019.

Please call Barbara Johnson-Vinna at 6046 if there are any questions.

