



## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

**FROM:** Erika Lautenbach, Director

**RE:** SeaMar – GRACE Program Contract Amendment #3

**DATE:** November 13, 2020

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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 renew the contract for an additional year.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$506,546.46, 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 will be included in the 2021 budget. Council approval is required as funding for this amendment will exceed 10% of the approved budget.

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

Encl.