



Memorandum

TO: SATPAL SIDHU, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**FROM: ANN BECK, COMMUNITY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
MANAGER**

DATE: 09/08/2022

**RE: UPDATE FROM HOMELESS HOUSING STAFF ON SEVERE WEATHER
SHELTER PLANS**

With the winter season on the horizon and a continued need for emergency shelter in the community, county housing staff have been working on an added location for emergency shelter when temperatures reach 28 degrees or less. This brief discussion will provide Council with information about available shelter resources and collaboration with new partners to operate a severe weather shelter for unsheltered individuals to provide life saving measures.

Since the start of COVID, the previous model of added winter shelter capacity being operated by volunteer organizations has not been possible. Last year saw two quick response, employee run shelters opening during extreme weather conditions as there was no outside contractor able to operate one. This year Whatcom County is contracting with an agency to provide additional shelter capacity.

This discussion is to offer an update on both the daytime warming center and overnight shelter that will be opened during severe weather. Information will also be shared with council about when and how severe weather shelters will be activated as well as current shelter capacity in the community.

