

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**ESTABLISHING A STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND JUSTICE FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

WHEREAS, Whatcom County and its municipalities and Tribes desire to coordinate, contribute, and cooperate in enhancing public safety, and in particular our communities' behavioral health and criminal justice systems; and

WHEREAS, the County Council is taking leadership on the issue and would like to engage the community and other legislative bodies to guide future behavioral health and public safety/justice facility planning, and will seek constructive engagement with the public and other elected officials throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, all parties believe there is a need for an improved County jail that addresses the communities' full range of needs and values with a combined public health and public safety initiative that focuses on reducing our need for jail by funding treatments options first, and is built with community input; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council approved Resolution 2019-036 on August 7, 2019, adopting a statement of public health, safety, and justice facility planning principles for Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2019, the Whatcom County Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee discussed next steps for the Whatcom County Public Health, Safety, and Justice Initiative (Resolution 2019-036), including contracting for professional service to complete a needs assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facility Needs Assessment will include robust community participation to ensure the report reflects community values. A public engagement plan will include a variety of stakeholders and outreach techniques; and

WHEREAS, receiving input and recommendations through a Stakeholder Advisory Committee is necessary to ensure the needs assessment draws in feedback and participation from a variety of stakeholders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facility Needs Assessment project is hereby established as described in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2019.

ATTEST:

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Dana Brown Davis, Clerk of the Council

Rud Browne, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

EXHIBIT A

PURPOSE OF THE STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Established

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) for the Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facility Needs Assessment is hereby established.

Purpose

The purpose of the Public Safety, Health and Justice Facility Needs Assessment is to guide the development of a needs assessment for public health, safety and justice facility needs. SAC members will act as **liaisons** to the communities or agencies they represent. They will **share information** about the study, **bring feedback** to the SAC meetings, and **help build a plan** that is reflective of community values. Through engaging communities and agencies they represent, SAC members will help **develop community support** for the recommendations in the Needs Assessment.

Membership Appointment

The Whatcom County Council will appoint members of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee consisting of 21 voting members as follows:

1. Whatcom County Council Member
2. Whatcom County Administration
3. Bellingham City Councilmember
4. Bellingham Administration
5. Tribal Nations
6. Small Cities
7. Behavioral Health and Social Service Providers (4)
May include but not limited to:
 - Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
 - Housing Specialists
 - Domestic Violence Prevention
 - Re-entry Job Training
 - Philanthropic Specialists
8. Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (4)
9. Bellingham Police
10. Whatcom County Sheriff
11. Whatcom County Health Department
12. Citizen - Behavioral Health (mental health and substance use disorder (SUD)) Advocate
13. Citizen - Criminal Justice Advocate
14. Individual with lived experience in the criminal justice system
15. Jail Resources/Service Providers

Term of Office

The term of office for all committee members will be 2 years or as determined by further action of the Whatcom County Council.

Organization – Meetings

- A. SAC meetings shall be open to the public and shall be subject to the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW.
- B. Twelve members of the SAC shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- C. The SAC will generally meet on a monthly basis at a location to be determined. Additional meetings will be held as needed to facilitate the completion of the Needs Assessment.
- D. Written and audio recordings of meetings, findings, and recommendations shall be kept and available as a public record.
- E. The SAC will elect a chairperson or co-chairpersons from among its members to preside at its meetings.
- F. The SAC is authorized to develop subcommittees as needed to accomplish their goals.

Committee Staffing

Whatcom County designated staff in conjunction with the consultant team will provide general staffing support. The likely tasks will be leading the meetings (including creating agendas and presentations and leading activities/discussions) and creating meeting summaries.