



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Northwest Youth Services – SABG Opioid Outreach Team Contract
DATE: August 21, 2020

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Northwest Youth Services for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Youth who experience homelessness are at significant physical, mental, and emotional risk. Over 60% of youth surveyed in Whatcom County report experiencing anxiety in the past 30 days. One-third of Whatcom County youth also report depression, with nearly 20% reporting that they have considered suicide. Additionally, nearly one in three youth report using alcohol in the past month, while one in four report using marijuana in that same time frame. Homelessness, mental health issues and substance use are interrelated. Poor mental health can increase the risk of substance use and substance use has been shown to greatly increase rates of attempted and completed suicides. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) youth experience significantly higher rates of homelessness than their non-LGBTQ peers.

Northwest Youth Services (NWYS) is the primary service provider for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Whatcom County. Services provided include outreach and engagement for mental health stabilization and substance use disorders, recovery support, substance use disorder outreach and referral, housing assistance, emergency shelter, and vocational programming.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$160,000, is provided by the Federal Substance Abuse Block Grant Funds (CFDA 93.959) passed through the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization. These funds will be included in the 2020 budget. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

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

Encl.