



# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Whatcom County Council Members  
**From:** Mike Hilley, EMS Manager  
**Subject:** Community Paramedic Interlocal  
**Date:** July 29, 2019

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**Requested Action:**

We are asking the Council to approve the interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Fire District 7 for the purposes of expanding the successful Community Paramedic Program by adding one Community Paramedic to Fire District 7.

**Background and Purpose:**

Community Health programs are evolving with associated outreach programs that include the Ground Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) team. This agreement is for the Community Paramedic placed at Fire District 7.

The Community Paramedic program is supported by case workers from the GRACE Team which includes four case management specialists, a community health worker (CHW), a part-time Nurse Practitioner (ARNP), Program Manager and Administrative Assistants. The goal of the program is to direct patients to the right care at the right time in an effort to reduce frequent use of the 911 system for both EMS and Law Enforcement. To expand this program, WCEMS will be adding two Community Paramedics mid-year of 2019. Bellingham Fire Department will provide an additional Paramedic funded by the EMS Levy and Fire District 7 will provide a Paramedic financed by the North Region Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) through the Medicaid Demonstration Project as well as the EMS Levy.

**Funding Amount and Source:**

Revenues received through the North Region Accountable Communities of Health Medicaid Transformation Project Funds (\$152,000) will offset FD7 expenditures for the community paramedic program. Budget authority is provided through ASR 2019-6074 in the amount of \$140,000 and ASR 2019-5770 in the amount of \$170,000 for the community paramedic program.