WHATCOM COUNTY
Health and Community Services

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Memorandum

TO: SATPAL SIDHU

FROM: Perry Mowery, Special Projects Supervisor, Response Systems Division, Health Department

DATE: MARCH 21, 2023

RE: 2023-2025 CRIMINAL JUSTICE TREATMENT ACCOUNT (CJTA) PLAN

The CJTA Panel recently convened and is submitting the following plan for review and approval by the County Council. Pursuant to state law, the county legislative authority must approve the CJTA plan.

In 2002, Washington State adopted RCW 71.24.580 which established the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA). This law created an account to fund alternatives for treating nonviolent offenders with substance use disorders (SUD). In 2020, the state

Key provisions of the CJTA law include:

• Establishment of the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) which is funded via savings by the Department of Corrections for reducing prison sentences.

• Allocation of funding to counties for treatment, support, and recovery services for people with criminal charges who have SUDs.

• Development of a local criminal justice panel to submit a plan for the disposition of funds.

A local CJTA panel was established according to RCW in 2018. The Panel has met every 1 to 2 years and last met on February 14, 2023 to make recommendations to the Council on the 2023-2025 CJTA Plan. The recommended 20203-2025 plan remains mostly the same as the previous 2021-2023 plan with the exception of efforts to increase SUD assessments conducted on behalf of criminal/legal referents in order to expand re-entry and diversion services. These efforts are consistent with planning conducted by the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force and the needs and resources work that was prioritized by the Stakeholder Advisory Committee earlier this year.

Council Action Requested:

The County Council is asked to approve the 2023-2025 CJTA Plan for submission to the State is enclosed.

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