



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC – Integrated Care Network Agreement
DATE: March 13, 2023

Attached is an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Whatcom County participates in the North Sound Integrated Care Network (ICN) along with Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties. The North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (NS BH-ASO) administers the ICN to cooperatively provide a community health program and regional system of care, with the collective goal of consolidating administration, reducing administrative layering and reducing administrative costs, consistent with the State of Washington’s legislative policy as set forth in [RCW 71.24](#).

The purpose of this Agreement is to acknowledge & fund Whatcom’s participation in the ICN in order to promote a continuity of care for individuals, avoid service disruption, ensure the provision of behavioral health services and strengthen the regional service network.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this Agreement is \$449,191.10 through June 30, 2023. Funding is provided by the Dedicated Marijuana Account, Jail Services, Trueblood, Law Enforcement Co-Response Outreach Programs, and the federal Substance Abuse Block Grant (CFDA 93.959), each passed through the NS BH-ASO. These funds will be included in the 2023 budget. The Agreement includes terms for automatic annual renewals. Council approval is required as funding for this Agreement exceeds \$40,000, per WCC 3.06.010.

▪ **Differences between Previous Contracts**

This is a new Agreement; however, Whatcom County has participated in the ICN since 2019. There are no substantive changes to this new Agreement from the Agreement ending on 12/31/2022 (WC Contract #201904004).

Please contact Malora Christensen, Response Systems Manager at 360-778-6131 (MChriste@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Financial & Administrative Manager at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

