



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: City of Ferndale – Opioid Misuse Prevention & Abatement Agreement
DATE: January 25, 2023

Attached is an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and City of Ferndale for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Opioid misuse has been a growing concern in Whatcom County, consistent with the national epidemic. While abuse of prescription opioids has trended downward for the past few years, other synthetic opioids (e.g. Fentanyl) have experienced significant growth. With high potency opioids more available, overdose deaths and overdoses crises have increased. Poly drug use, use of opioids with other substances, has also been a growing concern.

In late February 2022, several pharmaceutical companies reached a \$26 billion settlement to compensate state and local governments for the costs associated with responding to the opioid epidemic. Funds will be provided to participating counties and cities in Washington State over an 18 year period.

This Agreement provides funding from the City of Ferndale for opioid misuse prevention and abatement strategies, to be coordinated by the County in the Ferndale community.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this Agreement is not to exceed \$15,434.66 and is provided by the City of Ferndale. These funds are included in the 2023 budget. Council approval is required per RCW 39.34030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

Please contact Joe Fuller, Program Specialist at 360-778-6045 (JFuller@whatcomcounty.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.

