

Whatcom County Council (Special)

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010**



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

10 AM

Hybrid Meeting

**HYBRID MEETING (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN
INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL
360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Council Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremmler

Absent: 1 - Todd Donovan

Announcements**Committee Discussion and Action**

AB2024-428 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) to expand the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program, in the amount of \$420,000

Erika Lautenbach, Health and Community Services Director, briefed the Councilmembers. She stated this action will allow them to accept the funding and then Council will see a supplemental request later in the summer to approve two additional Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program staff using the funding.

Malora Christensen, Health and Community Services, read a letter from a client that was helped by the LEAD program.

Galloway moved and Scanlon seconded that the Contract be AUTHORIZED.

Christensen answered how many staff they have right now in the program, and stated they currently have five intensive case managers, three outreach coordinators, and a supervisor, and they plan to expand the caseload with the two additional positions as well as just the administrative load.

Vanessa Martin, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, answered what the longer-term commitment is from the State for funding for the two positions.

Lautenbach spoke about why they needed a special meeting today and stated the Health Care Authority (HCA) would like to further fund the LEAD program so it can expand, and indicated to the County that they were going to provide additional funding. However, the HCA did not have the contract language in time for the June meetings. It was scheduled to go before the

Council in July, but the contract had to be executed and signed by the Executive by June 30 or the County would relinquish \$110,000 of the \$420,000. This special meeting allows the Executive to sign the contract before June 30.

Galloway and Buchanan spoke about their support for the LEAD program.

Galloway's motion that the Contract be AUTHORIZED carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Donovan

Other Business

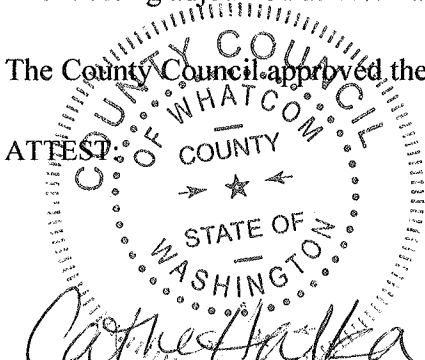
There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on July 9, 2024.

ATTEST



Dana Brown-Davis
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Barry A. Buchanan
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger
Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription