



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
**FROM:** <sup>ADD</sup> Regina A. Delahunt, Director  
**RE:** Max Higbee Center – Capital & Accessibility Improvements  
**DATE:** January 13, 2020

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Enclosed are two (2) originals of a contract between Whatcom County and Max Higbee Center for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The Max Higbee Center (MHC) is the only community organization in Whatcom County that provides a wide variety of social, health, and life skills programs on a weekly, year-round basis for low-income teens and adults with developmental disabilities (DD) in need of physical, emotional, and behavioral support. With significant participant increases in the last few years, the current MHC facility has become inadequate to continue to provide services to new participants, resulting in waiting lists for all programs offered by the MHC. MHC has secured a 10-year lease on a 5,000 square foot building located at 1400 N State Street in Bellingham, which will allow them to increase program capacity and accommodate future growth. The purpose of this contract is to provide funding for critical construction improvements at the new location which are ADA compliant and will ensure participant safety and enjoyment and increase the variety of recreation activities to occur simultaneously.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, is provided by DD Millage Funds. These funds are included in the 2020 budget. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Kathleen Roy at extension #6007 if you have any questions regarding this agreement.

Encl.

