



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: City of Bellingham – GRACE Program Interlocal Agreement
DATE: March 11, 2021

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This agreement establishes Whatcom County as the administrator of the Whatcom Ground-Level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) Program. Coordinated administration with the City of Bellingham is required to administer direct services and monitor successes of the GRACE Program.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

The GRACE Program is funded by PeaceHealth, the City of Bellingham and the County. Funding for the program also includes third party reimbursements, as appropriate. Through this Agreement, for any aspects of the GRACE Program that are not covered by other funding sources, the City of Bellingham will reimburse Whatcom County with a commitment to the GRACE Program of up to \$280,000 per year. Whatcom County has also made a financial commitment in the amount of \$316,546 per year through its contract with SeaMar Community Health Centers (Whatcom County Contract #201808030) to operate the GRACE Program. Council approval is required per RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

▪ **Differences Between Previous Agreements**

This agreement replaces the previous Interlocal Agreement between the parties (WC Contract #201902019). This agreement adds facilitation services for the planning, design and implementation stage for an expanded behavioral health crisis response, commits the addition of another GRACE Case Manager to work closely with the Bellingham Police Department, and increases the annual contributions to the GRACE Program for these expanded services.

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

Encl.

