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ROB NEY
Project & Operations Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Rob Ney, Project & Operations Manager

RE: Amended Memorandum of Understanding for the Way Station

DATE: January 11, 2022

▪ **Background and Purpose**

In November of 2020 the Executive's office brought forward a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Way Station. The Way Station is a collaborative effort between the County, Peace Health, Opportunity Council (OC), and Unity Care Northwest. The facility is intended to provide recuperative respite care, health care services, hygiene services, and case management services to unsheltered individuals. This use is intended to occupy the 1500 State Street Health facility. This MOU was approved by the Council and is attached to this agenda bill for reference via Granicus (Contract 202010015).

Staff also presented an update to the Council at the November 30, 2021 (AB2020-720).

The project is collaboratively funded by the partners in the MOU:

State Department of Commerce Grant (originally applied for by OC \$4,000,000
Peace Health \$400,000

Whatcom County State Street Project Based Budget existing balance \$2,400,000

Private and Community donations \$115,000

American Rescue Act County Funds \$1,500,000

City of Bellingham gap funding in anticipation of other federal funding in the future
\$1,000,000

Total anticipated investment- \$9,415,000

▪ **Purpose of today's action**

Although the Opportunity Council applied for and received the Commerce Grant, the grant has yet to be fully transferred to Whatcom County. As staff continues to work through that transfer, the County and partners want to utilize funding sources currently "in-hand" to further the project along. Approving the MOU will allow the transfer of moneys by the partner agencies to the County so further Architectural and Engineering services can be contracted for, in advance of the Commerce grant acceptance.

Please consider the attached amended MOU, allowing continued work on the Way Station project. Funding received by our partner agencies are anticipated to be placed in the State Street Project Based Budget.

Please contact Rob Ney at extension 5365, if you have any questions regarding this information.

Enclosures