



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Jack Louws, County Executive

**FROM:** Regina A. Delahunt, Director

**RE:** North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC – Interlocal Operating Agreement

**DATE:** December 18, 2018

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Enclosed are two (2) originals of a restated Interlocal Agreement between Whatcom County, the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC, and four other counties (Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Snohomish) within our region for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**  
The North Sound Behavioral Health Organization (NS BHO) was established in 2016 to provide behavioral health services coordination and management for the five regional County Authorities. A change to the Washington State health care system in 2017 requires certain services that are provided to Medicaid-insured individuals to be provided directly through Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organizations. The purpose of this agreement is to supersede and replace previous operating agreements with the NS BHO and restate them with the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (NS BH ASO) to operate as a regional Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization under the requirements established by the Washington State Health Care Authority.
  
- **Funding Amount and Source**  
This agreement establishes coordination and support for integrated managed health care activities; there are no costs associated with this agreement. Council approval is required per RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between Public Agencies.

Please contact Anne Deacon at extension #6054 if you have any questions regarding this agreement.

Encl.

