

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**ESTABLISHING A STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND JUSTICE FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

WHEREAS, Whatcom County and its municipalities and Tribes desire to coordinate, contribute, and cooperate in enhancing public safety, and in particular our communities' behavioral health and criminal justice systems; and

WHEREAS, the County Council is taking leadership on the issue and would like to engage the community and other legislative bodies to guide future behavioral health and public safety/justice facility planning, and will seek constructive engagement with the public and other elected officials throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, all parties believe there is a need for an improved County jail that addresses the communities' full range of needs and values with a combined public health and public safety initiative that focuses on reducing our need for jail by funding treatments options first, and is built with community input; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council approved Resolution 2019-036 on August 7, 2019, adopting a statement of public health, safety, and justice facility planning principles for Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2019, the Whatcom County Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee discussed next steps for the Whatcom County Public Health, Safety, and Justice Initiative (Resolution 2019-036), including contracting for professional services to complete a needs assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facility Needs Assessment will include robust community participation to ensure the report reflects community values. A public engagement plan will include a variety of stakeholders and outreach techniques; and

WHEREAS, receiving input and recommendations through a Stakeholder Advisory Committee is necessary to ensure the needs assessment draws in feedback and participation from a variety of stakeholders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facility Needs Assessment project is hereby established as described in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated by reference, until completion of the Needs Assessment as described in AB2019-469.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2019.

ATTEST:

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Rud Browne, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

EXHIBIT A

PURPOSE OF THE STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Established

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) for the Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facility Needs Assessment is hereby established.

Purpose

The purpose of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) is to guide the development of a needs assessment for public health, safety and justice facility needs. SAC members will act as **liaisons** to the communities or agencies they represent. They will **share information** about the study, **bring feedback** to the SAC meetings, and **help build a plan** that is reflective of community values. Through engaging communities and agencies they represent, SAC members will help **develop community support** for the recommendations in the Needs Assessment.

Membership

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee will consist of 23 voting members as follows:

1. Whatcom County Council Member
2. Whatcom County Administration
3. Bellingham City Councilmember
4. Bellingham Administration
5. Tribal Nations (2)
6. Small Cities (2)
7. Behavioral Health and Social Service Providers (4) *
May include but not limited to:
 - Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
 - Housing Specialists
 - Domestic Violence Prevention
 - Re-entry Job Training
 - Philanthropic Specialists
8. Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (acting as the Law and Justice Council (4)
9. Bellingham Police
10. Whatcom County Sheriff
11. Whatcom County Health Department
12. Citizen - Behavioral Health (mental health and substance use disorder (SUD)) Advocate*
13. Citizen - Criminal Justice Advocate*
14. Individual with lived experience in the criminal justice system*
15. Jail Resources/Service Providers*

Members are appointed by their agency, unless marked with an asterisk. Members marked with an asterisk will complete an online application form and submit it to the Whatcom County Council for appointment.

Term of Office

All terms will expire when the committee sunsets at the time all phases of the needs assessment are complete. The phases included in the Needs Assessment are described in a memo and exhibit

discussed and approved by the Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee on September 10, 2019 – see AB2019-469.

Organization – Meetings

- A. SAC meetings shall be open to the public and shall be subject to the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW.
- B. Twelve members of the SAC shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- C. The SAC will generally meet on a monthly basis at a location to be determined. Additional meetings will be held as needed to facilitate the completion of the Needs Assessment.
- D. Written and audio recordings of meetings, findings, and recommendations shall be kept and available as a public record.
- E. The SAC will elect a chairperson or co-chairpersons from among its members to preside at its meetings.
- F. The SAC is authorized to develop subcommittees as needed to accomplish their goals.

Committee Staffing

Whatcom County designated staff in conjunction with the consultant team will provide general staffing support. The consultant team will create agendas, lead meetings, and create meeting summaries. The County Executive's Office will designate a staff member to serve as the County Project Manager. The County Project Manager will serve as the main point of contact for the project and coordinate with the consultant team. The County Project Manager will schedule meetings, send out invitations, manage the website information, attend all meetings, and coordinate with SAC members, County staff, and the public to ensure progress and completion of the Needs Assessment. The County Project Manager will complete other tasks as described in AB2019-469.