



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu
Whatcom County Council

FROM: Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive *TS*

RE: Contract with Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, Inc. (HOK)

DATE: January 17, 2020

Attached Enclosed is a contract between Whatcom County and Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, Inc. (HOK) for the purposes of developing a Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility Needs Assessment.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Resolution 2019-036 unanimously approved by Council adopted a statement of public health, safety, and justice facility planning principals for Whatcom County and Resolution 2019-063 established the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility Needs Assessment. Efforts have been refocused to both improving existing jail facilities and developing a more integrated approach to behavioral health and public safety facilities.

The 2019-036 resolution identifies a need to plan for a criminal justice system that is built to address the root causes of incarceration and designed with rehabilitation as the goal. It acknowledges a desire to prioritize community-based preventative services, maximize successful re-entry, and minimize recidivism. It identifies a need to focus on reducing demand for jail by investing in behavioral health services. Additionally, the County Council identified a desire for a potential ballot initiative.

On September 10, 2019, Councilmember Barry Buchanan, the Executive's Office, the Sheriff and the Health Department presented to the Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee a further developed task list to complete a behavioral health and criminal justice needs assessment and design concepts for a new facility, all with broad participation from the public. In October 2019, Whatcom County published Request for Proposal #19076 for public services for the development of a Public Health, Safety and Justice Facilities Needs Assessment.

HOK, Inc. has been selected and have committed to preparing a needs assessment that incorporates a robust and public engagement component throughout a phased approach;

Phase I – Behavioral Health and Public Safety Needs Assessment

- Background Review of past info and studies
- Jail Options and Space

- Capital and Operating Costs
- Program Survey and Best Practices Review
- Justice & Correctional System Trends
- Jail and Behavioral Capacity Projections
- Evidence Based Behavioral Health Practices
- Space Requirements
- Final Needs Assessment Report

Phase II - Alternatives and Designs

- Functional & Design Workshops
- Financial Mapping and Strategies
- Site Selection and Considerations

There will be a Public Engagement Plan developed to be implemented across all phases.

In general, Phase I and II will:

- Identify universal criminal justice and behavioral health system needs
- Determine the viability of current facilities and possible location(s) and size of new facilities
- Explore treatment and diversion for the mentally ill and substance abusers
- Prepare a financial model and long-term cost analysis
- Develop a communications plan for the citizens of Whatcom County

The successful completion of Phase I and II will determine the scale and scope of Phase III which includes the development of a conceptual design and additional public outreach.

■ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this Needs Assessment will be through the Health, Safety and Justice Facility Fund formerly known as the New Jail Fund.

■ **Differences from Previous Contract**

No previous contract

Please contact Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive, at extension 5207, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.