

November 29, 2021

Re: Designated Crisis Responders

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Legislative Delegation:

Snohomish County is committed to ensuring that all of our residents have full access to the spectrum of behavioral health and public safety resources provided by the County. Snohomish County is an early adopter of behavioral health and diversion programs, such as designated crisis responders, who provide assistance to law enforcement officers when they engage with individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. The County is extremely appreciative of the investments that the Legislature has made in these programs in recent years, allowing Snohomish County and other local governments to continue providing these necessary services to constituents.

The success of these programs lies in trust and close collaboration between law enforcement officers and behavioral health professionals. This relationship is enabled by clearly defined statutory responsibilities when responding to a crisis. As the Legislature considers legislation for the upcoming 2022 session, Snohomish County supports efforts to clarify responsibilities for law enforcement officers and designated crisis responders in situations meeting criteria under the Involuntary Treatment Act. These changes will ensure the continuity of our successful partnership between our law enforcement officers and designated crisis responders.

Thank you for your work to improve the health and safety of Snohomish County residents.

Sincerely,