



County Authorities Executive Committee (CAEC) members present:

North Sound Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) staff present:

Guests present:

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – Chair Johnson
2. **Revisions to the Agenda** – Chair Johnson
3. **Approval of the January 10th, 2019, Minutes, Motion #19-07** – Chair Johnson.....**Tab 1**
 - *The February meeting was canceled due to inclement weather, so there are no Feb. Minutes requiring approval*
4. **Comments & Announcements** from the Chair
5. **Reports from Members**
6. **Comments from the Public**
7. **Summer Break/Monthly CAEC Meetings**-Chair Johnson
8. **Report from the Advisory Board** (March)
 - *No February report available, the February meeting canceled due to inclement weather*
9. **Report from the Executive Director ... (Available at Meeting)**.....**Tab 2**
 - Ombuds Report: Boone Sureepisarn, North Sound Ombuds Supervisor
 - Compliance Report: Charles DeElena, North Sound BHO Compliance Officer
10. **Correspondence**.....**Tab 3**
 - Legislative Letter
 - Answers from Health Care Authority (January 10th Q&A Session)
11. **Report from the Finance Officer****(Available at Meeting)**.....**Tab 4**
12. **Report from the Governance Operations Committee**

All matters listed with the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each Member for reading and study, are considered to be routine, and will be enacted by one action of the Executive Committee with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request of a Member.

Summary:

To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health claims paid from **January 1st**, 2019 through January 31st, 2019 in the amount of **\$16,328,050.17**. Payroll for the month of January in the amount of **\$244,267.75** and associated employer benefits in the amount of **\$157,663.87**.

Consent Agenda January– Jill Johnson – Motion #19-08....(Available at Meeting)Tab 5

Summary:

To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health claims paid from **February 1st**, 2019 through February 28th, 2019 in the amount of **\$12,546,030.45**. Payroll for the month of January in the amount of **\$248,005.64** and associated employer benefits in the amount of **\$164,051.91**.

Consent Agenda – Jill Johnson – Motion #19-15....(Available at Meeting)Tab 6

13. Action Items

For Executive Committee Ratification

Professional Service Contract

Summary:

- Compass Health provides training for our provider network in addition to the BHO provider training. We fund their training at 91% of the costs in Medicaid funding and Compass charges the attendees the balance, usually a nominal fee.
- Catholic Community Services NW is requesting startup funds to expand their Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISe) capacity in the North Sound Region, specifically in North Snohomish County, with the capacity to serve Camano Island.

Motion #19-09

- North Sound BHO-Compass Health-Training PSC-19 to conduct training for the North Sound Provider Network. The maximum consideration on this contract is **\$67,000** with a term of January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019.
- North Sound BHO-CCSNW-WISe PSC-19 to pay for the expenses to start up another WISe team. The maximum consideration on this contract is **\$408,000** with a term of January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019.

PATHFINDER Grant

Summary:

- Health Care Authority is contracting for State Targeted Response to Opioid Crisis (STR) PathFinder Services, these services are attached to our Snohomish and Whatcom PATH Grants. The contract provides the funding for four (4) months, December 15, 2018 through April 30, 2019. These funds are specifically to fund Peers with Substance Use Disorder experience.
- Compass Health provides the PathFinder services in conjunction with their PATH services in Snohomish and Whatcom Counties.

Motion #19-10

- HCA-North Sound BHO-Snohomish PathFinder-18-19 to provide the funding for the period of December 15, 2018 through April 30, 2019. The increase in funding is \$36,948 for a new maximum consideration of \$231,688 with a new term of July 15, 2017 through April 30, 2019.
- HCA-North Sound BHO-Whatcom PathFinder-18-19 to provide the funding for the period of December 15, 2018 through April 30, 2019. The increase in funding is \$36,948 for a new maximum consideration of \$231,688 with a new term of July 15, 2017 through April 30, 2019.
- North Sound BHO-Compass Health-PathFinder-18-19 to continue providing PathFinder services in Snohomish and Whatcom Counties. The increase in funding is \$73,896 for a new maximum consideration of \$463,376 with a new term of July 15, 2017 through April 30, 2019.

PATH Grant

Summary:

Compass Health's Snohomish County PATH program was on hold until we found the funding to provide the match and additional program costs. Compass Health is providing the match of \$41,816 and the BHO is providing Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) funds for the additional program costs through June 30, 2019.

Motion #19-11

- North Sound BHO-Compass Health-PATH-17-19 to provide homeless outreach in Snohomish County. The increase to this contract is \$125,449 in Grant funding and \$70,500 in MHBG funds for a new maximum, minus match, of \$195,949 with a new term of October 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019.

Interlocal

Summary:

Skagit County Auditor is the custodian of North Sound BHO funds. This Interlocal establishes the relationship and costs associated with their custodial responsibilities.

Motion #19-12

- Skagit County Auditor-North Sound BHO-Interlocal-19-20 to continue the responsibilities of the custodial responsibilities for the North Sound BHO. A monthly charge of \$3,500 will be paid to the Skagit County Auditor for services, the term of this Interlocal is January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Personal Services Contract

Summary:

Sam Magill, Consultant, will be engaged in a Leadership Team Retreat, individual coaching and a follow up retreat with leadership team post July 1, 2019.

Motion #19-14

- North Sound BHO-Magill-Consultation PSC-19 to provide leadership consultation and retreat facilitation. The maximum consideration on this contract is up to \$24,500 with a term of January 14, 2019 through August 30, 2019.

14. Adjourn

Next meeting: April 11th, 2019



County Authorities Executive Committee (CAEC) members present:

- Jill Johnson, Island County Commissioner; Board of Island County Commissioners, CAEC Chair
- Pat O'Maley Lanphear, North Sound Behavioral Health Organization; Advisory Board Chair
- Rud Browne, Whatcom County Council; Whatcom County
- Cammy Hart-Anderson, Snohomish County Human Services; designated alternate for County Executive Dave Somers
- Darcy Cheesman, Snohomish County Council Legislative Aid; designated alternate for Sam Low, Snohomish County Council
- Ken Dahlstedt, County Commissioner; Board of Skagit County Commissioners
- Russell Wiita, Snohomish County Council Legislative Analyst; designated alternate for Nate Nehring, Snohomish County Council Member
- Jackie Mitchell, Behavioral Health Program Specialist, Whatcom County; designated alternate for Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive
- Jamie Stephens, San Juan County Council Member; San Juan County
- Nicole Gorle, Legislative Analyst; Snohomish County, designated alternate for Stephanie Wright, Snohomish County Council

North Sound Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) staff present:

- Joe Valentine, Executive Director; North Sound BHO
- Bill Whitlock, Fiscal Officer; North Sound BHO
- Betsy Kruse, Deputy Director, North Sound BHO
- Colleen Bowls, Children's Program Manager, North Sound BHO
- Charles DeElena, Program Manager/Compliance Officer, North Sound BHO
- Joanie Williams, Administrative Manager/Clerk of the Board; North Sound BHO

Guests present:

- MaryAnne Lindeblad, Medicaid Director; Health Care Authority, State of Washington
- Rashi Gupta, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Jay Inslee; State of Washington (via phone)
- Anne Deacon, Whatcom County Human Services Manager; Whatcom County (via phone)
- Julie de Losada, Public Health Analyst, Division Manager, Prevention and Community Health Partnerships; Skagit County Public Health
- Jackie Henderson, Island County Administrative Director; Island County
- Philip Buri & Aaron Brinckerhoff, North Sound BHO Legal Counsel

Call to Order and Introductions – Chair Johnson

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order and initiated introductions.

Revisions to the Agenda – Chair

Chair Johnson asked if there were any revisions to the Agenda, there were none.

Integrated Care/Questions and Answers Session

MaryAnne Lindeblad participated a question and answer session regarding integration with questions and concerns from the board members. Rashi Gupta added comments regarding a pending bill.

Conversation bullets were captured, and follow-up items were noted.

The board members thanked Maryanne for coming and Rashi for attending via phone.

Approval of the December 13th, 2018, Minutes, Motion #19-01 – Chair Johnson

Rud Browne moved the motion for approval and Ken Dahlstedt seconded, all in favor, motion #19-01 carried

Comments & Announcements from the Chair

There were no comments or announcements from the Chair.

Reports from Members

- Cammy Hart-Anderson, Snohomish County, spoke about the Homeless Memorial Event held on December 21st. She added that Snohomish County had a 64% increase over 2018, of those who have died homeless on the streets, compared to 2017 deaths. She said a large percentage of the deaths are opioid related and 5 of the individuals were veterans.
 - Cammy also added that on December 20th various participants took part in the Open House for the Carnegie Resource Center, which will help assist people to make changes and get them off the streets in safe environments.
- Jamie Stephens, San Juan County, said Lopez Island Family Resource Center recently moved into a new facility, which offers multiple community programs. The property was initially purchased with the facility in mind, followed by being built to specifications, and donated by an individual who signed it over after the building was complete.
- Jackie Mitchell, Whatcom County, said they are anticipating breaking ground on a 32 bed Crisis Stabilization Facility around March.
- Jill Johnson, Island County, said that Jackie Henderson will be celebrating 40 years with Island County this month.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Report from the Advisory Board

Pat gave the Report from the North Sound BHO Advisory Board and referenced the PowerPoint Presentation that was given by Alice Lind and Jessica Diaz from Health Care Authority; Monitoring Methods for Integrated Managed Care.

- The Legislative Session visit was discussed, and Pat noted some of the Advisory Board Members will be attending Jan 31st-Feb. 1st. They will be speaking about the advocacy goals of the Advisory Board.
- The Advisory Board is encouraging the MCOs to attend their monthly meetings.
- Joe Valentine noted an Early Warning Dashboard will be created and brought to the Advisory Board and the CAECs' monthly meetings.

Report from the Executive Director

Joe Valentine gave the report from the Executive Director and covered the following topics:

- 1) Transition to Integrated Managed Care
 - a. Readiness Review
 - b. Integrated Care Planning
 - c. Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (BH-ASO) Legislation
 - d. Coordinated Care Contract for Behavioral Health Services to Foster Children
- 2) Behavioral Health Facilities Capital Request
- 3) Update on Behavioral Health Enhancement Fund (SB 6032)
- 4) Subleasing BHO office space to Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW)

Report from the Finance Officer

Bill gave the report from the Finance Officer and answered questions from the board members.

Report from the Governance Operations Committee

Pending litigation was discussed.

All matters listed with the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each Member for reading and study, are considered to be routine, and will be enacted by one action of the Executive Committee with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request of a Member.

To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health claims paid from December 1st, 2018 through December 31st, 2018 in the amount of \$14,814,375.25 Payroll for the month of December in the amount of \$240,473.05 and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$158,285.13.

Consent Agenda – Jill Johnson – Motion #19-02

Ken Dalhstedt moved the motion for approval, Jamie Stephens seconded, all in favor, motion #19-02 carried

Action

For Executive Committee Ratification

Dedicated Marijuana Account (DMA)

Summary:

These Contract Amendments extend the contract through June 30, 2019 and provide funding for six months, January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019. The DMA funds are used for youth drug prevention, intervention and brief SUD treatment in schools. BHO Medicaid funds are added to the contracts which requires a 9% match of local funds by the respective counties.

Motion #19-03

- North Sound BHO-Island County-PSC-18-19 Amendment 1 to increase funding by \$35,489 DMA funds and \$41,483 Medicaid funds for a new maximum consideration of \$76,972 with a new term of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.
- North Sound BHO-San Juan County-PSC-18-19 Amendment 1 to increase funding by \$35,489 in DMA funds and \$32,588 in Medicaid funds for a new maximum consideration of \$68,077 with a new term of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.
- North Sound BHO-Skagit County-PSC-18-19 Amendment 1 to increase funding by \$35,490 in DMA funds and \$59,743 Medicaid funds for a new maximum consideration of \$95,223 with a new term of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.
- North Sound BHO-Snohomish County-PSC-18-19 Amendment 1 to increase funding by \$142,459 in DMA funds and \$9,898 in Medicaid Funds for a new maximum consideration of \$152,357 with a new term of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

- North Sound BHO-Whatcom County-PSC-18-19 Amendment 1 to increase funding by \$41,719 in DMA and \$38,144 in Medicaid Funds for a new maximum consideration of \$79,863 with a new term of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Cammy Hart-Anderson moved the motion for approval, Darcy Cheesman seconded, all in favor, Motion #19-03 carried

Health Care Authority (HCA)

Summary:

Contract Amendments extending the contract through June 30, 2019 and allocating the 6 months funding for the following HCA contracts with the North Sound BHO.

- Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (Medicaid Funds)
- Behavioral Health State Contract (State Funds)
- Mental Health Block Grant (Federal Block Funds)
- Substance Abuse Block Grant (Federal Block Funds)

Motion #19-04

- HCA-North Sound BHO-PIHP-18-19 Amendment 1 to extend the contract and provide the Medicaid rates for six months with a new term of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.
- HCA-North Sound BHO-BHSC 18-19 Amendment 1 to extend the contract by 6-months and provide funding in the amount of \$10,251,873 for a new maximum consideration of \$20,887,326 with a new term of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.
- HCA-North Sound BHO-MHBG-18-19 Amendment 1 to extend the contract by 6-months and provide funding in the amount of \$552,740 for a new maximum consideration of \$2,204,000 with a new term of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019.
- HCA-North Sound BHO-SABG 18-19 Amendment 1 to extend the contract by 6-months and provide funding in the amount of \$1,644,719 for a new maximum consideration of \$11,838,287 with a new term of April 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019.

Rud Browne moved the motion for approval, Jamie Stephens seconded, all in favor, motion #19-04 carried

Transitional Housing

Summary:

- Lake Whatcom Center has doubled its transition bed capacity for individuals discharging from Western State Hospital.
- Compass Health will continue providing transitional bed capacity in Snohomish County for individuals discharging from Western State Hospital.

Motion #19-05

- North Sound BHO-LWC-Housing PSC-19 to continue transitional housing services in Whatcom County. The maximum consideration on this contract is \$36,000 with a term of January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019.
- North Sound BHO-Compass Health-Housing PSC-19 to continue transitional housing services in Snohomish County. The maximum consideration on this contract is \$15,000 with a term of January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019.

Jackie Mitchell moved the motion for approval, Ken Dahlstedt seconded, all in favor, motion #19-05 carried

Whatcom County Health Department

Summary:

- Whatcom County has requested Medicaid funding to furnish the Whatcom County Crisis Stabilization facility. The funding will purchase furniture for one of the two units at the facility. The county will be matching the Medicaid funds with 31% local funds.

Motion #19-06

- North Sound BHO-Whatcom County-PSC-19 to purchase furniture for the Whatcom Crisis Stabilization Facility. The maximum consideration on this contract is \$138,000 with a term of January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019.

Cammy Hart-Anderson moved the motion for approval, Jamie Stephens seconded, all in favor motion #19-06 carried

Julie deLosada announced that herself and Anne Deacon will be co-chairing the Association of County Human Services Behavioral Health Committee. There may be times they can bring county state wide reports to the CAEC.

Adjourn 3:12 p.m.

Next meeting: February 14th, 2019



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

March 4, 2019

CORRECTED

TO: Joanie Williams, Clerk of the Board
North Sound Behavioral Health Organization
County Authorities Executive Committee

FROM: MaryAnne Lindeblad, Medicaid Director *MAL*
Health Care Authority

SUBJECT: North Sound Behavioral Health Organization Executive Committee Follow-Up

Thank you again for hosting me at the January 10, 2019, North Sound Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) Executive Committee meeting. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and address some of your questions as North Sound transitions to a fully integrated region.

During our time together, a number of thoughtful questions were asked that I made a commitment to address. Many of those questions were related, so I've taken the liberty of combining them into individual topics, below.

Network Adequacy

Network adequacy is based on whether a provider is willing to accept new enrollees because it is within their current capacity to provide services – not on the number of enrollees a provider is willing to accept.

All five plans in this region must have enough of the six critical provider types to cover 80% of the full Medicaid population and network adequacy distance standards are specifically identified in our Integrated Managed Care contracts. Under the terms of the contract, the contractor's network of providers shall meet the distance and drive time standards in every service area. HCA will designate a zip code in a service area as urban or non-urban for purposes of measurement. By way of example, the following distance standards are currently in place:

- Primary Care Physicians
 - Urban: 2 within 10 miles
 - Non-urban: 1 within 25 miles
- Mental Health Professionals
 - Urban: 1 within 25 miles
 - Non-urban: 1 within 25 miles

- Chemical Dependency Professionals
 - Urban: 1 within 25 miles
 - Non-urban: 1 within 25 miles

In addition to testing distance standards across an entire region, HCA also measures network adequacy at the zip code level. The result is the plans must serve the entire region, not just the more populated parts of the county – this prevents a situation where 80% of Medicaid patients are considered served before Anacortes, Island or San Juan counties are even considered.

Plan Agreement on Capacity and Cost Reimbursement for Behavioral Health Facilities

It is not our usual process to require all five plans to come to an agreement on rates or payment methods. However, HCA does bring providers and plans together for knowledge transfer sessions, so that we have a common understanding of current practices that work in your region. In addition, a portion of plan rates is withheld and used as an incentive to increase the proportion of value-based payment to providers. HCA will continue to monitor the plans against these goals.

Financial Challenges Serving Non-Medicaid Individuals for IMD

Cost estimates are based on a review of the R&E reports and other expense information. We believe there is an adequate split between the amount of state only monies going to the BH-ASO and to the plans to cover their state only obligations. We will monitor those expenditures closely to determine if any adjustments need to be made in future years.

ASO Viability vs. Legislative Allocation and Slow Pay Process

ASO reserves are not dependent on the amount of left-over BHO reserves (BHO reserves will be swept and returned to the legislature). HCA has already set aside the allocation for North Sound ASO's reserves. We have found that slow payment, in terms of cash flow, has not been an issue in Southwest or North Central and we do not anticipate it will be an issue here.

Helping Homeless Teens Become Medicaid Eligible Due to Insufficient Identification

This is not a unique issue for HCA. Jessica Cottom (HCA) can assist in processing homeless teen applications. Her contact information is:

Jessica Cottom, Medical Assistance Specialist*
Telephone: (360) 725-2050
Fax: (360) 664-2186
E-mail: jessica.cottom@hca.wa.gov

*Only available during regular HCA office hours: Monday - Friday - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

By Telephone

If calling by telephone and the teen is with you, you may be able to get this accomplished in real time. If HCA contact person is available, application will be processed while on the telephone. This allows you to help the teen create their account while they are meeting with you.

- Please note that Jessica is not always available; you may need to leave a message.
- If the contact person is not available, the most expeditious way to get the application processed is to fax a paper application.

By Fax

If you are working with a teen outside of regular office hours, or were not able to reach HCA by telephone, please fax the application. Most faxed applications will be processed by the close of business, the following day.

- Remember to copy both sides of the application when you fax.
- If the assistor is expecting a confirmation from HCA on the application, you must include your name and contact information.

Emergent

If you have an emergent case, follow up with the fax with a telephone call and HCA will try to process the application on the same day.

Name and Location of Provider Networks (Tracking)

Plans are required contractually to have an online provider directory. The attached document included with this letter provides the web address for each plan and how to access this information.

Rates

Rates were an important part of our discussion during the January 10, 2019 meeting and it would be difficult, at best, for me to fully address that topic in this letter. However, HCA has a previously scheduled webinar for the 2019 regions on rate setting for behavioral health. *The North Sound webinar date is March 6, 2019 from 2:30-4:30.*

Actuaries will participate in the webinar and I believe it will be the best opportunity to gain a better understanding of how/why the plan's rates (including administrative rates) are different than BHO rates. If you or one of your delegates are interested in participating in this webinar, please don't hesitate to contact Jodie Polehonka (HCA) directly at jodie.polehonka@hca.wa.gov.

Thank you again. I look forward to keeping an open dialogue and our continued partnership. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me if you need further explanation of the topics covered in this letter.

Attachment: MCO Provider Portals

By email

cc: Joe Valentine, Administrator, North Sound BHO
Steve Dotson, Acting Deputy Director, MPOI, HCA
Alice Lind, Grants and Program Development Manager, MPOI, HCA
Alison Robbins, Managed Care Programs Section Manager, GPD, MPOI, HCA
Jessica Diaz, Payment Re-design Specialist, MCP&PRC, MPOI, HCA

Managed Care Organizations & Provider Directories

02/25/2019

Amerigroup Provider Portal - <https://providers.amerigroup.com/pages/providerdirectory.aspx>

1. Search Now
2. Search by Specialty
 - a. Select a state
 - i. Search by address, City + State, Zip or County + State
 - ii. Select a Product (what kind of provider are you looking for)
 - iii. Select a Specialty or Service
3. Search by Name
 - a. Enter Address, City + State, Zip or County + State
 - b. Distance
 - c. Enter Name

Community Health Plan of Washington Provider Portal - <https://www.chpw.org/provider-search/>

1. Type in a Zip, City or County to Begin
 - a. Click Here - <https://www.chpw.org/provider-search/> **for a Medicare Provider**
2. How to Use the Provider Search – Instructions on how to find:
 - a. Primary Care Provider
 - b. Pediatrician
 - c. Specialist
 - d. Mental Health or Substance Use
 - e. Mental Health or Substance Use for Kids/Teens
 - f. Dentist
 - g. Pharmacy

Coordinated Care Provider Portal - <https://www.coordinatedcarehealth.com/find-a-doctor.html>

1. Find a Doctor
 - a. By Phone (Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) Member Services at 877-644-4613 or AmBetter Member Services at 877-687-1197 (for clients wishing to access help finding a provider and making an appointment)
 - b. Online
 - i. Washington Apple Health
 - ii. Ambetter from Coordinated Care
 - iii. Having trouble finding a provider
 - c. Find an Apple Health Vision Provider
 - i. Search
 1. Enter address OR City and State Or Zip Code

Molina HealthCare Provider Portal - <https://www.molinahealthcare.com/members/wa/en-US/Pages/home.aspx>

1. Quick Tools for Molina Members – Search for a Doctor
2. Enter Your Location
 - a. Search by City or Zip
 - b. Search by County

- c. Search Near Street Address
- 3. Select a Coverage & Provider Type
- 4. Quick Name Search
- 5. More Search Options
 - a. Program/Plan Name
 - b. Specialty
 - c. Name, Language, Gender, Accept new patients
 - d. By Hospital/Facility
 - e. By Medical Group
 - f. Telehealth Services

United HealthCare Provider Portal - <https://www.uhcprovider.com/en/find-a-provider-referral-directory.html>

- 1. Find a Care Provider
 - a. Search for Doctors, Clinics or Facilities by Plan Type
 - i. What Type of Provider are you looking for?
 - 1. Medical Directory
 - a. Medicaid Plans
 - b. Medicare Plans
 - ii. Medicaid Plans by State
 - 1. Select a State
 - 2. Select a Medicaid plan in Washington
 - a. Washington Apple Health
 - i. Find Health Care by Category
 - 1. Primary Care
 - 2. Specialty Care
 - 3. Medical Groups
 - 3. Mental Health Directory
 - a. Change Location (if necessary)
 - b. Search by Doctor Name, Specialty, Facility Name, Clinic Name, Medical Group Name
- b. Search for Dental Providers by State, Network or Location
- c. Locate Providers: Mental Health or Substance Abuse Services



North Sound Behavioral Health Organization, LLC

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February 14, 2019

To: Members of the Legislature Representing Snohomish, Skagit, Island, San Juan and Whatcom Counties

RE: Request for Capital Funding for North Sound Behavioral Health Treatment Facilities

As the county elected officials responsible for overseeing the North Sound Behavioral Health Organization, we are requesting your support for the additional capital funding needed to complete the development of the new behavioral health treatment facilities that received initial funding in the 2018 Capital Budget. Attached is a summary of our request.

Thanks to your previous support we were able to begin the design and development of needed Crisis Stabilization, Drug and Alcohol Detox, and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facilities. If we are successful in procuring the additional funding, these facilities will be able to begin operation in 2020 and 2021.

The Behavioral health crisis that prompted our counties to take action in developing new behavioral health facilities still remains, and in some cases, has intensified. We are experiencing an increasing difficulty in accessing psychiatric treatment beds at Western State Hospital, and the opioid addiction crisis continues unabated.

As you know, the Governor has also proposed an ambitious plan to develop new community based behavioral health treatment facilities. The North Sound Counties, however, have already taken action to procure the necessary land and buildings and have contributed local dollars to meet the urgent crisis we are experiencing. The impact of untreated behavioral health disorders in our jails and local hospitals requires us to act now. A modest investment in completing these projects will quickly contribute to the State's goal of diverting persons from hospitals and jails.

We appreciate your support of our request.

Respectfully,

North Sound Behavioral Health Organization County Authorities Executive Committee

- **Jill Johnson**
County Commissioner, Island County 
- **Jamie Stephens**
County Council, San Juan County 
- **Ken Dahlstedt**
County Commissioner, Skagit County 
- **Dave Somers**
County Executive, Snohomish County 
- **Stephanie Wright**
County Council, Snohomish County 
- **Sam Low**
County Council, Snohomish County 
- **Nate Nehring**
County Council, Snohomish County 
- **Jack Louws**
County Executive, Whatcom County 
- **Rud Browne**
County Council, Whatcom County 