



NORTH SOUND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ORGANIZATION

Provider Bulletin – March 2020

WEBSITE LINKS:

Numbered Memorandums

<http://www.nsbhaso.org/for-providers/numbered-memorandums>

Data Dictionary

<https://www.nsbhaso.org/for-providers/data-dictionary>

Forms & Reports

<https://www.nsbhaso.org/for-providers/forms>

Policies

<http://www.nsbhaso.org/for-providers/policies-and-procedures>

Supplemental Provider Service Guide

<https://nsbhaso.org/for-providers/supplemental-provider-service-guide>

HCA Customer Service

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/apple-health-managed-care>

Contact Us:

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NORTH SOUND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ORGANIZATION (NORTH SOUND BH-ASO) PASSES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MONITORING REVIEW

On January 28, 2020, a team of Health Care Authority (HCA) reviewers conducted an on-site “Technical Assistance Monitoring” (TAM) review. The purpose of the visit was to assess how successfully the North Sound BH-ASO has implemented the provisions of the HCA-ASO contract after 6 months of operating as an ASO.

Of the 74 elements reviewed, only 6 were found in need of additional work. These are largely changes needed in wording or adding additional policy criteria and can be corrected prior to the regular annual review in September. The HCA review team praised North Sound BH-ASO staff on the quality and thoroughness of the materials we provided and complemented many of the strategies we have implemented.

NORTH SOUND BH-ASO CRISIS OVERSIGHT MEETINGS

North Sound counties have continued all five Local Crisis Oversight Meetings. Local Crisis Oversight Meetings focus on crisis operations and our partnerships with community hospitals, local law enforcement, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Triage/Stabilization programs. Local Crisis Oversight Meetings are facilitated and hosted by our county partners on a bi-monthly or quarterly basis. For more information please contact Michael McAuley at michael_mcauley@nsbhaso.org

NORTH SOUND BH-ASO OVERVIEW

For those who are curious, we have updated the history, purpose, goals and programs for the North Sound BH-ASO. An overview can be found on the BH-ASO website at https://nsbhaso.org/who-we-are/strategic_goals.

NORTH SOUND BH-ASO REGIONAL OPIOID COLLABORATIVE

On Friday, February 21st, 2020 North Sound BH-ASO, along with the North Sound Accountable Community of Health (ACH), hosted a Regional Opioid Collaborative meeting. In attendance were regional representatives from



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County health departments, behavioral and medical health providers, law enforcement, and Tribal partners who have experience and knowledge related to the treatment of opioid use disorders. Participants shared regional accomplishments in addressing the opioid crisis over the past several years, as well as their perceptions about ongoing needs and ideas for further collaboration and partnership development. Additional meetings are planned to further develop these goals of building a regional network which can collaborate and work together to address shared concerns. For more information please contact Linda Crothers at linda_crothers@nsbhaso.org.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE BLOCK GRANT (SABG) SURVEY

A shout out to all who took part in our SABG Provider survey. The survey provided valuable information on where SABG funding will have the greatest impact in our communities.

The results, prioritized, indicate the areas of greatest need for Non-Medicaid individuals:

- Individual Treatment & Intensive Residential Treatment
- Group Treatment & Acute Withdrawal Management
- Subacute Withdrawal Management & Opiate Outreach

These services are available to Non-Medicaid individuals. Please reach out to North Sound BH-ASO if you have any questions on how to access and/or submit data on the services listed above. For more information contact Linda Crothers of James Dixon at linda_crothers@nsbhaso.org or James_dixon@nsbhaso.org.

SABG BILLING GUIDE REMINDER

Providers can access reporting [templates](#) on the North Sound BH-ASO website and in the [Supplemental Provider Service Guide](#). Reports are due monthly, quarterly, biannually or annually depending on the service. If you have any questions about which deliverables apply to your contract, please send an email to deliverables@nsbhaso.org.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPLEMENTAL TRANSACTION DATA UPDATE

All Managed Care Organizations (MCO) and BH-ASO contracted providers will be required to collect and report “behavioral health supplemental data” in 2020. Most of this is similar to the non-encounter data sets that Behavioral Health Agencies (BHAs) were previously required to report to the Behavioral Health Organization (BHO). Links to the data set and new requirements can be found [here](#).

The Data Dictionary is located [here](#) on the North Sound BH-ASO website.

BH-ASO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In response to concerns from BH-ASOs, Counties and Behavioral Health Agencies, the proposed House and Senate Operating Budgets propose funding and review activities to identify and address gaps in services to Non-Medicaid persons. The House Budget would allocate an additional \$6,145,000 to BH-ASOs in both the current and next fiscal year to increase funding to over Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) court costs and strengthen crisis services. The Senate Budget directs the Health Care Authority to review and update its disbursement formula for non-Medicaid funds to consider ITA Court Costs, Crisis Services, and non-Medicaid services. Both budgets allocate \$380,000 to fund operating and non-Medicaid service costs at the new Island County Crisis Stabilization Center.



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TRIBAL CRISIS SERVICES COORDINATION AGREEMENTS

The North Sound BH-ASO is in the process of developing individual “Tribal Crisis Services Coordination Agreements” with each of the eight North Sound Tribal Authorities. The purpose of the agreements is to establish specific protocols to support communication and coordination between Tribal staff and Crisis Services responders.

The Upper Skagit Tribal Authority has already approved such an agreement and there is now active work with the Nooksack, Swinomish, Lummi, and Tulalip Tribes. Once the Tribes have approved the agreements, they will be reviewed at the various county crisis oversight committees and training provided to Crisis Line and Mobile Outreach staff.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

North Sound BH-ASO released an RFP for both Housing and Recovery through Peer Supports (HARPS) and Peer Path Finder Services. HARPS is a team of Peers providing transitional support to individuals discharging from Western State Hospital and other inpatient/residential facilities. The project is designed to prevent individuals from entering homelessness or to help them exit homelessness. The HARPS team receives housing subsidies from the Health Care Authority and Department of Commerce to secure temporary housing while pursuing permanent housing.

The Peer Path Finder project is an outreach project designed to engage individuals who are homeless and have a behavioral health disorder, its purpose is to connect them to services in the community or services they are entitled to, such as Veterans Benefits. Both projects are peer driven and are intended to move individuals and families out of homelessness and provide support to maintain their recovery and safety.

The RFP is located at the link below. We are encouraging Foundational Community Support providers to apply. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the timelines on the RFP will be adjusted.

For more information please go to: <https://nsbhaso.org/news-and-events>.

COVID-19

With the ongoing whirlwind of information about COVID-19, we thought it prudent to provide links to official sites nationally and locally. Stay Calm and Wash Your Hands!

Center for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

WA Department of Health (DOH): <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

Island County: <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/Pages/AllNewsAndAnnouncements.aspx?news=177>

San Juan County: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/1668/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>

Skagit County: <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/HealthDiseases/coronavirus.htm>

Snohomish County: <https://www.snohd.org/484/Novel-Coronavirus-2019>

Whatcom County: <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/3329/Novel-Coronavirus-COVID-19>