



# North Sound Behavioral Health Organization, LLC

301 Valley Mall Way, Suite 110, Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
<http://northsoundbho.org> • 360.416.7013 • 800.684.3555 • F 360.416.7017

North Sound BHO Contract Memorandum 2019-002

Date: January 4, 2019

To: Ann Goeson, Peace Health/United General  
Beth Williams-Gieger, Peace Health, San Juan  
Cheryle Johnson, Whidbey General Hospital  
Dr. Sisk, Evergreen Monroe  
Eva Mancewicz, Smokey Point Behavioral Hospital  
Heidi Saunders, Whidbey General Hospital  
Jan Flom, Swedish Hospital  
Jessica Bell, Skagit Valley Hospital  
Julie Zarn, Providence Hospital  
Kelly Pearson, Island Hospital  
Lene Schille, Cascade Valley Hospital  
Linda Gipson, Whidbey General Hospital  
Linda Krueger, Whidbey General Hospital  
Richard R. Geiger, Fairfax Hospital

From: Sandy Whitcutt, Quality Specialist

Subject: Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Placement Changes

Greetings Regional Hospital Emergency Department (ED) Directors

This is to inform you that **effective January 22, 2019**, changes will occur regarding ITA placements.

Please find attached a North Sound memorandum with information regarding the changes to ITA placements and the attestation form that will be required with the effective date.

Please ensure all appropriate staff receive this information.

Sincerely,

Sandy Whitcutt

cc: Chris Starets-Foote  
Gregg Von Fемpe  
Contract file



# North Sound Behavioral Health Organization, LLC

301 Valley Mall Way, Suite 110, Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
<http://northsoundbho.org> • 360.416.7013 • 800.684.3555 • F 360.416.7017

---

## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

---

**TO:** HOSPITAL ED MEDICAL DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** SANDY WHITCUTT, QUALITY SPECIALIST, CRISIS MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** ATTESTATION REQUIREMENT  
**DATE:** JANUARY 4, 2019  
**CC:** CHRIS STARETS-FOOT AND GREGG VON FEMPE

---

Starting January 22, 2019, North Sound Behavioral Health Organization (North Sound BHO) will be implementing some slight changes to Involuntary Placement, following an evaluation from the Designated Crisis Responder (DCR).

The practice for contacting the DCR will remain the same. Hospitals will call Volunteers of America (VOA) Care Crisis Line at 1-800-747-8654. Care Crisis Professionals will triage the call, take all available information and look up the individual in preparation of dispatch of the DCR.

All receiving hospitals require medical clearance to be determined prior to acceptance to their facility. In order to expedite these transfers, medical clearance, prior to dispatch, must be established. VOA will now request an attestation form of lab work completion is faxed to them at 425-259-3073. Information included in the attached attestation:

- a. Attestation form with lab work completion;
- b. If the physician has determined the individual is medically cleared with no labs needed, an attestation to that clearance with explanation of why no labs could be completed; and
- c. Signed and dated.

The DCR will then be dispatched to your facility. They will contact you and advise of an approximate estimated time of arrival (ETA) and begin the fact gathering during the call to your facility.

After the DCR has completed the evaluation, they will contact VOA with the disposition and the bed search will begin. This is current practice.

If the individual is in your ED and can be placed in your facility (there is an inpatient psych unit, as part of your facility and a bed is available), the DCR or social worker will assist in transferring the individual to that unit at your facility.

If the individual must be transferred to another regional inpatient psych bed, VOA will begin the active search for that bed. VOA has established the bed census in the region and will be working through that list with pre-established protocols for placement established with each facility. As always, there will be times that an individual must be excluded from acceptance. VOA will then move to the next available bed. The DCRs will no longer continue to look for these beds; this will become the role of VOA.

Current established practice of the work done between the ED, DCR and social workers will continue. What is changing is the role for locating placement.

If there are no available beds, single bed certs (SBCs) will continue to be used, but active transfers will continue after the SBC to attempt to move the individual to an inpatient psych unit.

For hospitals who do not have the ability to attest to an SBC, walk away procedures will continue. VOA will actively engage the hospital until the individual has been transferred or no longer meets Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) grounds for evaluation. DCRs will continue to come back to the hospital as clinically warranted to do another evaluation.

The attached manual and electronic attestation form will also be available on the North Sound BHO website. You can locate the form at: <http://northsoundbho.org/Forms> and scroll down to ICRS Forms.

If you are having any clinical concerns related to placement issues, please contact the VOA Care Crisis at 1-800-747-8654.

If you have any questions related to these changes, please feel free to contact Sandy Whitcutt at 360 416-7013.



# North Sound Behavioral Health Organization, LLC

301 Valley Mall Way, Suite 110, Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
<http://northsoundbho.org> • 360.416.7013 • 800.684.3555 • F 360.416.7017

All receiving hospitals require medical clearance to be determined prior to acceptance to their facility. In order to expedite these transfers, medical clearance, prior to dispatch must be established. Volunteers of America (VOA) will now request an attestation be completed.

1. Lab Work has been done.  Yes  No
2. Physician has determined the individual is medically cleared with no labs needed because (provide explanation below:

---

---

Printed Name of Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Day (military time): \_\_\_\_\_

This must be faxed to VOA at (425) 259-3073.

The Designated Crisis Responder (DCR) **will be dispatched** by VOA and in contact with you **after receipt of attestation.**



# North Sound Behavioral Health Organization, LLC

301 Valley Mall Way, Suite 110, Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
<http://northsoundbho.org> • 360.416.7013 • 800.684.3555 • F 360.416.7017

All receiving hospitals require medical clearance to be determined prior to acceptance to their facility. In order to expedite these transfers, medical clearance, prior to dispatch, must be established. Volunteers of America (VOA) will now request an attestation be completed.

1. Lab Work has been done.      Yes      No
2. Physician has determined the individual is medically cleared with no labs needed because (provide explanation below:

Printed Name of Physician:

Signature of Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

Time of Day (military time):

This must be faxed to VOA at (425) 259-3073.

The Designated Crisis Responder (DCR) **will be dispatched** by VOA and in contact with you **after receipt of attestation.**

Original Draft Date: 1/3/19

Revised Date: 1/3/19