

**1. GOVERNOR INSLEE'S 2023-2025 RECOMMENDED BUDGET – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

- The Governor's 2023-2025 recommended budget includes proposals related to behavioral health and BH-ASO services. Some of these are:
  - ✓ Enhance and expand mobile crisis services and crisis stabilization services in line with best practices;
  - ✓ Additional funding for BH-ASOs including a rate increase for non-Medicaid services;
  - ✓ Funding authorization for the new American Rescue Act Block Grant funds and to continue funding for programs that had been supported by Block Grant funds;
  - ✓ Increase Medicaid behavioral health provider rates again effective January 1, 2024. HCA will be required to use direct payments or other methodologies to “direct” the funding to behavioral health providers;
  - ✓ Funding for the operating costs of 10 behavioral health crisis facilities funded in the 2022 supplemental capital budget;
  - ✓ Establish a Substance Use Disorder [SUD] professional/peer scholarship program in BIPOC communities to address workforce shortages in disparately impacted communities.

**2. WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION BOARD: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE 2022 REPORT**

- The Washington Training and Education Board [WTEB] has released its 2022 report with updated recommendations for legislative action, see [\[Behavioral Health Group | Washington Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board\]](#)
- Some of the key recommendations for the Legislature include:
  - ✓ Appropriate additional funds to support behavioral health loan repayment awards via the Washington Health Corps to address immediate retention challenges.
  - ✓ Appropriate funds to support the administration of the Washington Health Corps
  - ✓ Expand awareness of, and assistance with, the Public Sector Loan Forgiveness program to increase participation by behavioral health workers.
  - ✓ In addition to increasing Medicaid behavioral health rates, provide continuation funding to develop a sustainable, prospective payment system for comprehensive behavioral health services by refining the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model [CCBHC].

**3. NORTH SOUND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- The final report of the North Sound Behavioral Health Needs Assessment, developed by Percival Health is ready for review. It will be presented at the January meetings of the Advisory Board and the Board of Directors.

- The Executive Summary is attached. [Attachment 1]
- 4. UPDATE ON HOMELESS OUTREACH STABILIZATION TEAM [HOST]**
- Evergreen Recovery, the North Sound contractor for the HOST program, has been participating in monthly training sessions with other HOST teams state wide and engaging in one on one technical assistance trainings with Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) in Seattle.
  - As of November, they have 7 of 9 positions filled, and are working with the Everett PD Embedded Social Work program to identify outreach opportunities.
  - The HOST program is based on the model of homeless outreach services used by the Downtown Emergency Services Center in Seattle.
  - It uses a multi-disciplinary team to provide intensive outreach services to persons who are homeless and suffering from substance use or co-occurring substance use disorders and behavioral health conditions.
- 5. CRISIS SERVICES UPDATE**
- The Weekly Crisis Capacity Indicator snapshot through is attached [Attachment 2].
  - Also attached is the monthly Dashboard [Attachment 3].
- 6. NEW NORTH SOUND BH-ASO STAFF PERSON: ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT COORDINATOR**
- We have appointed **Garrison Whaley-Sharp** to the new position of Assisted Outpatient Treatment Coordinator.
  - This position is separately funded by the legislature to establish an Assisted Outpatient Treatment [AOT] program in the region.
  - Garrison will be working with courts, counties, and providers to establish the program. We may have to start by piloting it in one or two counties to demonstrate to other stakeholders the benefits of the program.
  - Garrison has worked with Compass Health and VOA and has direct experience with the LRA system [Less Restrictive Alternative court orders].
- 7. END OF STATE COVID EMERGENCY ORDER**
- The Governor’s COVID Emergency Declaration ended October 31. Our Attorney has researched our options for continuing to use a “hybrid” model for Board of Director meetings under the Open Public Meetings Act since our current Interlocal Agreement only allows for voting in person.
  - He recommended that the interlocal agreement be modified to allow for voting on a virtual platform as well. He will be presenting the proposed modification at the January Board of Directors meeting.