

**1. RECOVERY NAVIGATOR PROGRAM**

- Staff have been hired and services are now being provided in all 5 counties.
- Attached are some of the success stories collected so far. [Attachment 1]

**2. EXTENSION OF COVID RELIEF FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUNDS EXPENDITURE PERIOD**

- CMS has agreed to extend the period the state can use the COVID relief Mental Health Block Grant funds through September 2023.
- HCA anticipates that a similar extension will be approved for Substance Abuse Block Grant [SABG] as well. This will give us more time to fully draw down all these funds.

**3. CRISIS SERVICES UPDATE**

- The Weekly Crisis Capacity Indicator snapshot through October 22 is attached [Attachment 2].
- The number of crisis calls and outreach services continue to be at the average level for the year though trending up a little over the last 4 weeks.
- Also attached is the monthly Dashboard [Attachment 3].

**4. UPDATE ON BALANCED BILLING ACT – HB 1688**

- North Sound staff are one of three ASOs participating in the state workgroup developing recommendations on how the provision in 1688 that commercial health plans reimburse providers of behavioral health crisis services providers would be implemented.
- It is possible that one of the recommendations be that the ASOs would be the intermediary in billing and collecting the reimbursements from commercial carriers.
- There are numerous technical challenges that have yet to be resolved including the additional administrative capacity ASOs would need to perform this function.

**5. NEW NORTH SOUND BH-ASO POSITION OPENINGS POSTED**

- We have posted the position openings for the two new BH-ASO positions approved by the Board of Directors: Accountant and Assisted Outpatient Treatment [AOT] Coordinator.
- Interviews of the top candidates are now taking place.

**6. OCTOBER PROVIDER BULLETIN**

- Attached is the October North Sound BH-ASO Provider Bulletin [[Attachment 4](#)].