



Board of Directors

Hybrid Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2022

Board of Directors Members Present:

**North Sound Behavioral Health
Administrative Services Organization
(North Sound BH-ASO) Staff Present:**

Guests Present:

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – Chair
2. **Revisions to the Agenda** – Chair
3. **Approval of the March 10, 2022, Minutes, Motion #22-17** – Chair..... Attachment
4. **Comments & Announcements from the Chair**
5. **Reports from Members**
6. **Comments from the Public**
7. **Report from the Advisory Board**Available at Meeting
8. **Annual Crisis Assessment (Michael McAuley)**.....Available at Meeting
9. **Report from the Finance Officer**.....Available at Meeting
10. **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 Board of Directors 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

Consent AgendaAvailable at Meeting

Motion #22-18

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from March 1, 2022, through March 31, 2022, in the amount of \$.
- Payroll for the month of March in the amount of \$ and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$.

11. Action Items

For Board Approval

Summary:

Federal Block Grant/Peer Outreach Follow up Services

- In our MH & SUD approved COVID Federal Block Grant plans we set aside \$150,000 for Peer/Outreach Workers for crisis follow up for individuals with serious behavioral health challenges. The ASO is adding the peer outreach services to VOA's crisis follow up services. With the addition of peers/outreach workers VOA will be expanding the referral base for the program

Motion #22-19

- North Sound BH-ASO-VOA-ICCN-19-22 Amendment 7 to provide funding to hire two peer/outreach workers for the follow up service team at VOA. The maximum consideration on this Amendment is \$150,000. The contract term is July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2022, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Summary:

Recovery Navigator Program (RNP)

- North Sound has two LEAD programs in the region, in Snohomish and Whatcom counties. The RNP will be an enhancement to LEAD services. We will be contracting with the Snohomish County Prosecutors office and the Whatcom County Prosecutor's office.
- The Regional Navigator Program (RNP) will collaborate with Whatcom and Snohomish County LEAD programs to expedite implementation. Our goal of the first year is to increase capacity by adding additional staff and resources. For year two, if possible, we plan to place RNP's in other locations throughout those counties to provide broader range of coverage.
- The funding for each program is \$512,455 annually. Snohomish County will be receiving additional funds in July 2022 in a legislative proviso.
- Whatcom County contract term is on the same cycle as the other RNP contracts. Snohomish County requested a calendar year term.

Motion #22-20

- North Sound BH-ASO-Whatcom County-RNP-22 for the purpose of adding the staffing and resources to provide recovery navigator services to the LEAD program. The contract term is March 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023, with an automatic one-year renewal on March 1, 2023, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- North Sound BH-ASO-Snohomish County-Interlocal RNP-22 for the purpose of adding the staffing and resources to provide recovery navigator services to the LEAD program. The contract term is January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, with an automatic one-year renewal on January 1, 2023, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Summary:

Amerigroup

- The ASO has begun negotiations with the Managed Care Organizations to increase our per member per month (PMPM) to cover the costs of their members for a 24/7/365 crisis service.
- Amerigroup has agreed to increase their PMPM from \$1.47 to \$3.05, their members have higher acuity and higher utilization of services

Motion #22-21

- Amerigroup Washington, Inc.-North Sound BH0-ASO-ASA-Amendment 2 for the purpose of increasing the monthly PMPM from \$1.47 to \$3.05 per member.

Summary:

Personnel Action

- Authorizing a 2.75% COLA for the Executive Director.

Motion #22-23

- Authorizing a 2.75% COLA to the Executive Director salary with an effective date of May 1, 2022.

12. Resolution Items

Summary:

Marie Jubie Resolution

- For Marie's 29 plus years of dedication to the North Sound Regional Advisory Board we are here to pass a resolution honoring her service.

Resolution #22-001

- Resolution #22-001 honoring Marie Jubie's service to the North Sound Regional Advisory Board.

13. Introduction Items

City of Mt Vernon-Mount Vernon Police Department

- The Health Care Authority set aside \$100,000 in COVID Block Grant Funds (\$25,000 Substance Abuse Grant and \$75,000 Mental Health Grant) for a co-responder project. The contract specified the funding must go to a law enforcement agency. The Mount Vernon Police Department had submitted a proposal to help fund their integrated co-responder outreach program. The total funding for this project is \$250,000, \$100,000 set aside for co-responder projects with Law Enforcement and \$150,00 in a mix of COVID Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grant funds. The funding will specifically fund staffing for the team, one mental health professional and one substance use disorder professional. The ASO funds are braided with other funding sources that the Mount Vernon Police Department is using.
- The model Mount Vernon Police Department is implementing a model that will achieve the following goals:
 - Change the capacity and capability for Mount Vernon Police Department to effectively respond and reduce the unhoused population who encounter the criminal justice system.
 - Provide an alternative to police officer responses, with non-police personnel, to calls where poverty, substance use disorder or behavioral health are primary factors versus criminal intent.
 - Provide outreach services specialists intensive case management support in order to offer wrap around services to the unhoused or high service utilizers who encounter the criminal justice system because they are not connected or inconsistently connected to traditional care providers.

Whatcom County-Co-Responder

- Whatcom County was the only bidder for the Whatcom Co-Responder RFP. The evaluation team met and reviewed the proposal and recommended the ASO move forward with a contract. The team made some recommendations to the ASO to consider while standing up these programs, specifically on how to measure success and acquire feedback from individuals having contact with the teams. The funding for this project is \$223,563 in COVID Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grant funds. The contract will be on the May 12, 2022, Board of Directors agenda for approval.

- Elements of the Whatcom County project are as follows:
 - Whatcom County First Responder Co-Response Outreach Program model pairs Whatcom County Sheriff Behavioral Health Deputies with co-responder crisis staff to respond to behavioral health-related calls for service.
 - The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office has two established behavioral health deputies trained in behavioral health call response. The addition of two, Masters level co-responder crisis staff will utilize the combined expertise of the deputies and co-responder crisis staff to provide early engagement interventions with person-centered de-escalation that uses least invasive interventions.
 - The co-response team will employ field-based strategies to identify individuals with substance use disorders and mental health needs in a culturally competent, recovery oriented, trauma sensitive manner.
 - The intent is to implement two approaches: 1) behavioral health deputy and co-responder crisis staff deploy together in the same vehicle for time periods of high call volume and 2) during low call volume periods, the co-responder crisis staff are available for calls by behavioral health deputies following dispatch, and the call is handled collaboratively.

14. Discussion Items

Child, Youth and Family Mobile Crisis

- Our July 2022 HCA contract amendment requires the ASOs to establish new or expand mobile crisis teams for adults, youth and children by July 1st, 2022. The team models are to include Mental Health Professionals (MHPs) and Peers trained in crisis services. We will also be required to incorporate the standards of the Mobile Response and Stabilization Service (MRSS) model. The goals of this model include: supporting individuals, children and families in their current living situation, provide trauma informed care, promote and support safe behaviors in school/community, reduce the use of emergency department and criminal justice systems and assist in linkages to ongoing age-appropriate support and services as needed. All services are required to be submitted under the new transaction code for Mobile Crisis Response transaction by July 1, 2022.
 - Next steps
 - Feedback was provided to HCA on the Child, Youth and Family Mobile Crisis contract requirements expected in our July amendment.
 - Clinical staff have been researching best practices. Once the contract requirements are finalized our program design will be completed.
 - Operations Committee is setting up a workgroup to develop the materials for the Request for Information and subsequently the Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
 - Advisory and Board of Director/designee participation will be requested on the review of the RFQ.

15. Report from the Executive Director Attachments

16. Adjourn

Next Meeting: May 12th, 2022



Board of Directors

Hybrid Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2022

Board of Directors Members Present:

- **Peter Browning Chair**, Commissioner, Skagit County; Chair
- **Jill Johnson**, Commissioner, San Juan County, North Sound BH-ASO Chair
- **Cindy Wolf**, Council Member, San Juan County
- **Cammy Hart-Anderson**, Snohomish County Human Services; designated alternate for Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive
- **George Kosovich**, Skagit County Public Health; designated alternate for Peter Browning
- **Nicole Gorle**, Legislative Analyst, Snohomish County; designated alternate for Nate Nehring, Snohomish County Council
- **Heidi Beazizo**, Sr. Legislative Analyst, Snohomish County; designated alternate for Jared Mead, County Council
- **Pat O'Maley Lanphear**, North Sound BH-ASO Advisory Board, Vice Chair
- **Jackie Mitchell**, Behavioral Health Program Specialist, Whatcom County, designated alternate for Satpal Sidhu
- **Sam Low**, County Council, Snohomish County
- **Kathy Kershner**, County Council, Whatcom County

North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (North Sound BH-ASO) Staff Present:

- **Joe Valentine**, Executive Director, North Sound BH-ASO
- **Margaret Rojas**, Assistant Director, North Sound BH-ASO
- **Darrell Heiner**, Senior Accountant, North Sound BH-ASO
- **Joanie Wenzl**, Clerk of the Board, North Sound BH-ASO

Guests Present:

- Katelyn Morgan, Ombuds

Call to Order and Introductions – Chair

Chair Browning initiated introductions and called the meeting to order. He asked the Clerk of the Board to read the names of the attendees that were participating in person and via Zoom

Revisions to the Agenda – Chair

The Chair asked if there were any revisions to the agenda. Joe Valentine commented that the agenda has been revised to accommodate the Board's request for more time for discussion on Action Items. The Board was in agreement with the revision.

Approval of the February 10th, 2022, Minutes, Motion #22-11 – Chair

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Sam Low seconded, none opposed, no abstentions, motion #22-11 carried.

Comments & Announcements from the Chair

Chair Browning spoke about the County's concerns regarding CMS and hospital funding

Reports from Members

Chair Browning asked if there were reports from the counties. Whatcom, Island, Snohomish, San Juan, and Skagit all gave updates from their respective counties

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public

Report from the Advisory Board

Pat, O'Maley Lanphear, Advisory Board Chair, gave the report from the Advisory Board

Ombuds Presentation: Katelyn Morgan

The Ombuds 2021 Annual Report was presented. Questions were answered

Report from the Finance Officer

Joe Valentine and Darrell Heiner gave the Report from the Finance Officer. They answered questions from the Board members

Report from the Governance Operations Committee

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Consent Agenda

Motion #22-12

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from February 1st, 2022, through February 28th, 2022, in the amount of **\$2,769,287.51**.
- Payroll for the month of February in the amount of **\$158,044.62** and associated employer benefits in the amount of **\$74,029.70**.

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Sam Low seconded, none opposed, none abstained, all in favor, motion #22-12 carried

Action Items

For Board Approval

Summary:

Behavioral Health Enhancement Funds (BHEF)

BHEF is a reoccurring legislative proviso specific to workforce retention and recruitment in the behavioral health system. North Sound has focused the funding on our crisis continuum of care. The six-month proviso allocation is **\$389,594**, the additional funding of **\$199,098** is from federal block grants funds designated for workforce initiatives. We solicit provider proposals with each six-month allotment. Proposals for the period of January through June 2022 resulted in the following allocations and specific actions.

- Compass Health BHEF funding is focused on the Mobile Crisis Outreach, Evaluation & Treatment and Triage workforce.
 - Funds will be used for increases in staff wage scales to improve retention and recruitment through a market-competitive pay structure. Newly developed wage scales offer accelerator scales at the first and third year of employment to encourage retention. In addition to wage increases, Compass is offering a 20% premium to on-call staff to increase our on-call pool for coverage, to support regular full and part time employees reduce burnout.
- Volunteers of America BHEF funding is focused on the crisis hotline workforce.
 - Credentialing reimbursement (DOH Licensing)
 - Retention bonus: >12 mo. bonus
 - Hiring Bonuses for 10 FTEs
- Pioneer Human Services BHEF funding is focused on the workforce at the Island County Ituha Stabilization Facility and Whatcom County Triage Facility.
 - PHS will increase the shift differential for both swing and graveyard shifts in order to encourage staff to stay with the programs. Additionally, the increase in wages is intended to

increase the number of individuals who are applying for any vacant positions for the withdrawal management and crisis stabilization programs.

- Telecare BHEF funding is focused on the Skagit County North Sound Evaluation and Treatment Center workforce.
 - Telecare will continue a retention bonus for our full-time prescriber as it has been challenging to maintain consistent. The retention bonus has resulted in consistent prescriber coverage 7 days a week for those hours. The recruitment portion is a 13-week program where the on-call pool, and other community-based RNs can be paid at a heightened scale to work a fixed number of shifts each week that have been difficult to staff.
- Evergreen Recovery Centers BHEF funding is focused on Lynnwood Acute Withdrawal Management workforce.
 - Funds will be used for added recruitment costs, signing bonuses, attendance, and retention rewards, paid sick leave for new employees with inadequate accrual to cover sick leave and retention bonuses to keep existing nurses in place.

Motion #22-13

- North Sound BH-ASO-Compass Health-ICCN-19-22 Amendment 8 providing BHEF in the amount of **\$200,000** for the period of January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022. The contract term is July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2022, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- North Sound BH-ASO-Volunteers for America-ICCN-19-22 Amendment 6 providing BHEF in the amount of **\$29,934** for the period of January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022. The contract term is July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2022, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- North Sound BH-ASO-Pioneer Human Services-ICCN-19-22-Amendment 8 providing BHEF in the amount of **\$70,200** for the period of January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022. The contract term is July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2022, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- North Sound BH-ASO-Telecare-ICCN-19-22 Amendment 4 providing BHEF in the amount of **\$215,058** for the period of January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022. The contract term is July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2022, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- North Sound BH-ASO-Evergreen Recovery Centers-ICCN-19-22 Amendment 6 providing BHEF in the amount of **\$73,500** for the period of January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022. The contract term is July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2022, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Cammy Hart-Anderson moved the motion for approval, Jackie Mitchell seconded, none opposed, no abstentions, all in favor, motion #22-13 carried

Summary:

Recovery Navigator Program (RNP)

Recovery Navigator Program is a new legislative proviso delineated in the Blake Bill (ESB 5476), the funding is to establish a RNP in all five counties. The RNP is an outreach and engagement service to individuals with substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders who are risk of arrest and/or have frequent contact with law enforcement. Services include, but are not limited to, facilitation and coordination of community resources, coordination and communication with law enforcement, prosecutors, program staff and other partners. Intensive case management and care coordination are the cornerstones of the services. The funding is renewable and fully funded for one year. The RNP funding was added to our off-cycle amendment in November, however the funding is for a one-time annual allocation, covering July 2021 – June 2022.

The three contracts below are a result of the Request for Qualifications [RFQ] released in January for Island, San Juan, and Skagit Counties. The responses to the Request for Qualifications were reviewed and scored by the BH-ASO RFQ evaluation committee on January 28. The committee was represented by two Advisory Board members, two county coordinators, one ASO staff member and two LEAD Technical Assistants (TAs). The March 1, 2022 contract start date is due to the RFQ finalization process during the month of February. For the other two counties, Snohomish, and Whatcom, the RNP will be contracted through the respective LEAD programs.

Motion #22-14

- North Sound BH-ASO-Island County-RNP-22 for the provision of RNP services in Island County. The annual funding for this contract is \$528,855. The contract term is March 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023, with an automatic one-year renewal on March 1, 2023, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- North Sound BH-ASO-Community Action of Skagit County-RNP-22 for the provision of RNP services in Skagit County. The annual funding for this contract is \$528,855. The contract term is March 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023, with an automatic one-year renewal on March 1, 2023, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- North Sound BH-ASO-Compass Health-RNP-22 for the provision of RNP services in San Juan County. The annual funding for this contract is \$528,855. The contract term is March 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023, with an automatic one-year renewal on March 1, 2023, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Kathy Kershner moved the motion for approval, Cindy Wolf seconded, none opposed, none abstained, all in favor, motion #22-14 carried

Summary:

Community Behavior Health Rental Assistance (CBRA)

The funding for rental assistance is provided by the Department of Commerce. Island County is the final contract being presented for approval; the other four counties were approved at the November 2021 Board meeting. All five counties have received CBRA funds for individuals discharging from inpatient/residential/corrections facilities. The rental assistance is intended to stabilize the individual in permanent supportive housing; however, short term housing can be accessed with these funds until a long-term housing solution is found. Each provider has additional funds for case management funded through

our federal block grant. The CBRA and FBG funding is renewable and is provided in six-month allocations. The providers for each county are listed below.

- Island County-Pioneer Human Services
- San Juan County-Compass Health
- Skagit County-Catholic Community Services and Lifeline Connections (HARPS provider)
- Snohomish County-Compass Health and Bridgeways
- Whatcom County-Lifeline Connections (HARPS provider) and Lake Whatcom Center

Motion #22-15

- North Sound BH-ASO-PHS-CBRA-22 for the provision of rental assistance to individuals with behavioral health challenges returning to Island County. The maximum on this contract is \$140,182 for period of March 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022. The contract term is March 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023, with an automatic one-year renewal on March 1, 2023, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Sam Low seconded, none opposed, no abstentions, all in favor, motion #22-15 carried

Summary:

Volunteers of America (VOA)

The Advisory Board asked the ASO to inquire of VOA if funding would be beneficial for the crisis hotline staff to help with work life balance during the pandemic. The Advisory Board has excess funding in their budget due the pandemic and wanted it to be used to help alleviate some of the stress and burnout crisis hotline staff might be experiencing. They offered \$10,000 in one time funding.

VOA is thankful to the Advisory Board for recognizing their work and is honored to be recognized by the Board. VOA employees identified the incentives listed below.

The proposal submitted and approved by the Advisory Board is as follows:

- Nutritional snack & food items available for all shifts (24/7/365) at no cost to the employees.
- Placing art/décor in the work setting to make the space more appealing and calming to staff. VOA would like to partner with local and indigenous artists. Since VOA will be moving into a new facility, this will help make the office environment a more welcoming place.

Motion #22-16

- North Sound BH-ASO-VOA-ICCN-19-22 Amendment 6 to provide one time funding of \$10,000 from the Advisory Board budget to help VOA with morale and retention of crisis hotline staff. The contract term is July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2022, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract

This motion was tabled until next month. The Board asked that the ASO speak to the auditor first. The information from the auditor will be brought back to the Board next month (April 14th, 2022).

Introduction Items

- Federal Block Grant/Peer Outreach Follow up Services

Background: In 2020, VOA instituted a suicide prevention and follow up service program through a SAMHSA (ERSP) Grant. The ERSP program funded through SAMHSA focused primarily on serving individuals in behavioral health crisis that need support and follow up, but do not qualify for the services offered by our regional mobile crisis outreach teams. Much of the referral base for the ERSP program came from area hospital emergency departments. The Grant was a short-term grant and expired in 2021, because the program was so popular with local hospitals VOA applied for Federal Block Grant funds to keep the program in existence. The program fit well in the suicide prevention funds set aside in the Mental Health COVID Grant. VOA submitted a proposal and was awarded the grant in November 2021. The funding continues the staffing provided in the SAMHSA Grant, three FTEs, two follow up crisis counselors/navigators and one follow up crisis coordinator. These funds were approved in VOA's January amendment.

April Action Item: In our MH & SUD approved COVID Federal Block Grant plans we set aside \$150,000 for Peer/Outreach Worker for crisis follow up for individuals with serious behavioral health challenges. It was determined by our Operations Team & Leadership Team the suicide prevention funds for follow up services were a nice enhancement to the VOA project. Our clinical team reached out to VOA to discuss the idea of adding peers to the crisis follow up service. VOA expressed interest in adding peers/outreach workers, it had been on their "wish list" for some time. The ASO determined it was a good fit to add the peer outreach services to VOA's crisis follow up services. With the addition of peers/outreach workers VOA will be expanding the referral base for the program.

Summary:

- Authorizing a 2.75% COLA for the Executive Director

Background: The Executive Director's performance evaluation was conducted in February, and it was determined the 2.75% COLA would be applied to the Executive Director's salary.

April Action Item: The motion will give the ASO authority to add the 2.75% COLA with an effective date of May 1, 2022.

There was conversation among the Board members regarding the ED's COLA. The feedback was that the COLA be retro to the start of the year, as the budget approved it accordingly, (even though his performance evaluation didn't take place until February).

Discussion Items

Proposal to provide an updated overview of the current BH-ASO structure and scope of services to each of the five North Sound County Councils/Commissions

All five counties took part in the discussion above.

- Skagit: would like the overview
- San Juan: would like the overview
- Snohomish: Heidi Beazizo will talk to Jared Mead and see if there is interest
- Whatcom: would like the overview and would like their Incarceration Task Force to be invited

Report from the Executive Director

Joe Valentine gave the report from the Executive Director. It included the following topics:

- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LEGISLATIVE BILLS
- LEGISLATIVE BUDGET PROPOSALS
- COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RENTAL ASSISTANCE [Update]
- HOMELESS OUTREACH STABILIZATION TEAM [HOST]
The Board asked that the Counties be invited to the upcoming HOST meeting
- WHATCOM COUNTY FIRST RESPONDER CO-RESPONSE OUTREACH PRORAM RFQ UPDATE
- CRISIS SERVICES UPDATE
- CRISIS SERVICES ASSESSMENT
- CLOSURE OF GREENHOUSE RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY
- UPDATE ON CHANGES TO BH-ASO ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
- SUCCESSION PLANNING
- SOFT RE-OPENING OF NS BHASO OFFICE

Joe shared with the Board that we are proposing a soft-reopening of the BH-ASO office on April 1st. We are working on a “hybrid” business model that would balance in-office attendance requirements with telecommuting.

One proposal is to require staff to come into the office at least two days a month from April – June.

The Board asked that Joe and the ASO re-look at the proposal and take action to require staff to come into the office more often to support better synergy and interaction between staff. The concern is that relying primarily on virtual meetings will not support the energy and dynamics necessary to better plan and manage programs.

The other concern is that staff could become isolated in their work without immediate access to one another on a face-to-face basis. Board members shared that County offices have been open for quite a while now and that the ASO, like them, serves the public and there is an expectation to be available to serve.

Adjourn: 2:51 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 14th, 2022

North Sound BH ASO Executive Director's Report

April 14, 2022

1. RETIREMENT OF MARIE JUBIE FROM NORTH SOUND BH-ASO ADVISORY BOARD

- Long time North Sound Behavioral Health Advisory Board member, Marie Jubie, has announced her intent to resign from the Advisory Board.
- Marie has represented Snohomish County on the Advisory Board for 29 years as it transitioned from a RSN to a BHO to a BH-ASO.
- She has been a vigorous and effective advocate for views and perspectives of persons with lived experience.
- She has also been a well-known and respected legislative advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities in Olympia and has coordinated and led delegations of North Sound Advisory Board member on annual advocacy trips to the legislature.
- Her passion, knowledge and experience will be sorely missed.

2. FINAL LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND PROVISOS

- The final budget passed by the Legislature [5693], added over \$250 million for behavioral health services.
- This included the 7% rate increase for Behavioral Health agencies effective January 2023. It also included \$100 million in relief funds for BHAs to bridge them over to the January rate increase. There was a subsequent decision to also provide these relief funds **to cover non-Medicaid services as well.**
- The budget bill also included **130 provisos** related to behavioral health. [See Attachments # 1 and 2]

3. NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS ASSIGNED TO BH-ASOS FOR FY 2021-2023

Program	Status
Recovery Navigator Program	Implemented in FY 2022; FY 2022 Supplemental Budget provides increased funding for Snohomish County
Community Behavioral Health Assistance [CBRA]	Funded for FY 2021-2022, funding will continue in FY 2022-2023, North Sound contracts in place.
Homeless Outreach Stabilization Team	Funded for FY 2022-2024. RFQ will be issued in April for to select contractor for North Sound
Co-Responder Grant	State GF-S proviso grant of \$100,000 included in FY 2021-2023 for North Sound. Contract offered to Mt. Vernon Police Department

Whatcom County Co-Response Program	To be funded with COVID Block Grant Funds. RFP complete, contract with Whatcom County will be proposed for Board of Directors approval
Whatcom County Diversion Pilot	State Proviso Dollars provided \$200,000 for FY 2021-2022 and another \$200,000 in the FY 2022 Supplemental Budget
Children and Youth Mobile Crisis Team	Funding provided for FY 2022-2024. Requirement to stand up the crisis teams by July 2022 included in our January 2022 HCA-ASO contract amendment
Youth Inpatient Navigator	2022 Supplemental budget funds 4 regional youth inpatient navigator teams for FY 23 and 6 more to be added by FY 2025. North Sound has chosen to wait until next fiscal year for implementation
Assisted Outpatient Treatment [AOT]	HB 1733 Establishes an expanded AOT program. BH-ASOs required to create an AOT Coordinator to be funded by monies allocated by the FY 2022 supplemental budget. Signed by Governor on March 30.

4. PROPOSED STATEWIDE BH-ASO LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2023:

- Continuing the request for dedicated funding for ITA court costs based on the results of the cost study ITA called for in the 2022 Operating Budget bill
- Ensuring that the role and expertise of BH-ASOs in managing regional crisis systems are fully taken into account in planning for implementation of the 988 system
- Ensuring there is adequate funding to cover the costs of an expanded use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment as called for in HB 1733
- Ensuring there is network adequacy for behavioral health services, especially for crisis services

5. QUARTERLY BH-ASO “CHECK IN” MEETING WITH HCA LEADERSHIP

- The Quarterly North Sound BH-ASO check in meeting with HCA was held on April 13.
- Agenda topics proposed by the North Sound included: clarifying the role of an ASO given all of the new program and reporting responsibilities being assigned to them, the challenges in implementing so many new programs given workforce shortages and overlap between programs, and HCA expectations for expanding crisis teams.

6. HOMELESS OUTREACH STABILIZATION TEAM [HOST]

- An RFQ for the HOST program will be released at the beginning of April.
- Representatives from the Advisory Board, Counties, and Board of Directors will be invited to participate on the RFQ review panel.

7. PROPOSED RFQ FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH MOBILE CRISIS TEAMS

- As of July 1, our new HCA-ASO contract will requires us to implement at least one Children and Youth Mobile Crisis Teams
- It will need to be based on the “Mobile Crisis Stabilization Services” model developed in other states [this will be introduced as a discussion item for the April Board meetings].

8. PLAN TO IMPROVE COORDINATION BETWEEN BH-ASO FUNDED PROGAMS AND COUNTY FUNDED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGAMS

- As a follow up to the discussion at the March 10 Board of Directors meeting, we have begun to work on a plan to improve coordination between BH-ASO programs and County behavioral health programs.
- A draft of the plan will be reviewed at the May 6 County Coordinators meeting and then introduced for discussion at the May 12 Board of Directors meeting.
- Recommended strategies will include developing an inventory of BH-ASO programs and County funded programs that appear to be serving similar populations and have similar goals.

9. CRISIS SERVICES UPDATE

- Weekly Crisis Capacity Indicator Report – through April 2 [attachment #3]. The number of Calls to the Crisis Line and dispatches of mobile crisis teams have fluctuated over the last few weeks, but the general trend line continues to climb. There has been an increase in particular in the dispatch of mobile crisis teams.
- The monthly dashboard, through the month of February, can be found in the April Advisory Board meeting packet at: <https://www.nsbhaso.org/who-we-are/boards-and-committees/advisory-board> .

10. RE-OPENING OF NORTH SOUND BH-ASO OFFICE

- We have officially re-opened the North Sound BH-ASO Office for staff and visitors as of April 4.
- We will continue to follow whatever the current COVID safety protocols are that are recommended by the Department of Health and Labor & Industries.
- Completion of the COVID-19 Self-Screening checklist will continue to be required for visitors. Staff will be required to complete the Self-Screening check list at least through the month of April.
- Staff who cannot provide proof of vaccination will be required to wear masks while in the office. Staff who are vaccinated will not be required to wear masks but will be supported if they choose to.
- We will transition to a “hybrid” model combining in-office office attendance requirements with tele-commuting arrangements. During the month of April, staff will be required to come into the office 4 days a month, and 8 days a month thereafter.

- Meetings involving external visitors or committee members will need to be scheduled in advance since we only have one conference room that can safely accommodate more than two persons.

11. PRESENTATION OF THREE YEAR BH-ASO UPDATE FOR NORTH SOUND COUNTY COUNCILS AND COMMISSIONS

- A presentation has been developed to update the North Sound County Councils and Commissions on the current scope of responsibilities of the North Sound BH-ASO and how BH-ASO administered programs affect counties [attachment #4].

DRAFT



North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization: Three Year Update

Prepared by:

Joe Valentine, Executive Director

For

North Sound County Elected Officials

Spring, 2022

Presentation Goals

- What is the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization [BH-ASO]?
- Brief History
- Overview of Programs
- Crisis Services
- How do BH-ASO Programs Affect Counties?
- Questions

What is the North Sound BH-ASO?

- One of seven (7) County-Administered Regional BH-ASOs
- Health Care Authority contracts with BH-ASOs to administer Crisis Services and other non-Medicaid behavioral health programs
- The North Sound BH-ASO is a Limited Liability Corporation administered by the five counties through an interlocal agreement
- County Elected Officials serve on the Board of Directors
- An Advisory Board is composed of at least 51% of its members with lived experience. There are also two law enforcement representatives

Brief History

Milestone Date	Event
1988	Legislation to create “Regional Support Networks” [RSNs] to administer community based mental health services
1989	Five (5) North Sound counties sign the first Interlocal Agreement to create North Sound RSN
1994	State creates a Medicaid “capitated” financing system allocating a fixed amount of funding for each person on Medicaid
2006	Mental health financing moved to a managed care model – RSNs “at risk” for hospital costs
2016	State integrates Medicaid funding for both Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services – RSNs are converted to Behavioral Health Organizations. North Sound BHO is re-organized as Limited Liability Corporation – new Interlocal Agreement Signed
July 2019	Medicaid funding for behavioral health services moved to the 5 Medicaid Managed Care Organizations – the North Sound BHO is converted to a BH-ASO. Interlocal Agreement is updated.

North Sound BH-ASO Operating Budget: 2018 - 2022

North Sound BH-ASO 2022 Operating Budget:

<https://nsbhaso.org/who-we-are/boards-and-committees/board-of-directors>

Year	Revenues	Expenditures
2018 Adopted	\$147,775,296	\$147,775,296
2020 Adopted	\$24,619,370	\$24,619,370
2021 Amended	\$31,338,766	\$31,338,766
2022 Adopted	\$38,951,174	\$38,951,174

North Sound BH-ASO

Operating Budget: Fund Sources

- Medicaid – capitated reimbursements from MCOs for Crisis Services
- State General Fund – Flexible
- State General Fund – Provisos
- Federal Mental Health Block Grant
- Federal Substance Abuse Block Grant
- Department of Commerce Housing Assistance
- Federal Opioid Treatment Grant

North Sound BH-ASO Programs: Crisis Services

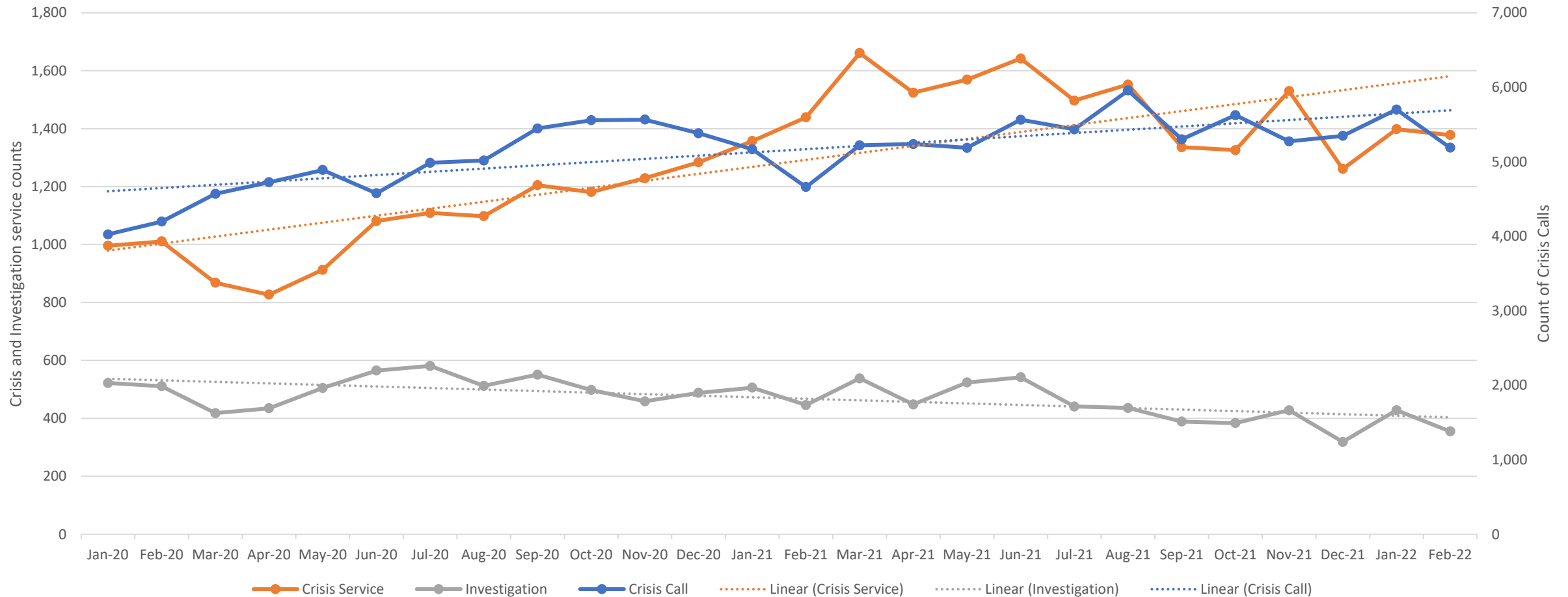
- 24-hour crisis line operated by Volunteers of America
- Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams – Snohomish County Human Services and Compass Health
- Involuntary Treatment Commitment Services provide by Designated Crisis Responders
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Crisis Stabilization Facilities
- (2) Evaluation & Treatment Facilities
- Involuntary Hospitalization

North Sound BH-ASO Programs: Non-Medicaid Services

- Outpatient Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment
- Inpatient Residential Treatment
- Community Outreach and Co-Responder
- Case Management Services
- Jail Transition and Diversion Services
- Psychiatric Hospital Transition Services
- Pregnant and Parenting Housing Support Services
- Housing Rental Assistance and Case Management Services

Crisis Services: 2020 – 2022

North Sound BH-ASO Crisis Data - dates Jan-20 to Feb-22



How do BH-ASO Programs Affect Counties?

- Over \$38 million investment in regional behavioral health programs
- Supports sustainability of the behavioral health network of agencies and facilities – including county owned behavioral health facilities for which the former NS BHO provided \$6 million seed money
- BH-ASO funding complements programs funded with county local dollars such as 1/10 of 1% dollars
- BH-ASO funded crisis services and community outreach programs help divert persons from jail and hospitals

How do BH-ASO Programs Affect Counties?

- Improve and support the coordination of behavioral health services with First Responders
- Outreach and engagement with homeless persons struggling with behavioral health problems such as substance abuse
- Reduction in suicide risk and violent behaviors due to behavioral health disorders

Challenges Facing the BH-ASO and Counties

- Behavioral Health Workforce Shortages
- Lingering affect of COVID on behavioral health – especially among youth
- Continued high rates of Opioid and polysubstance abuse addiction
- Continued high rates of homelessness and shortages of supportive housing
- Fragmented behavioral health system – lack of coordination between Medicaid funding, State General Fund, Federal Block Grant and County local dollars

Questions?

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Note: The current *North Sound BH-ASO Board of Directors Roster* has been included as a separate attachment for your reference.



Empowering individuals and families to improve their health and well-being.

Serving Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom Counties