



Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

September 14th, 2023

Board of Directors Members Present in Person:

- **Barry Buchanan**, County Council;
Whatcom County
- **George Kosovich**, Public Health,
Skagit County; designated
alternate for Peter Browning,
Commissioner

Members Present via Zoom:

- **Darcy Cheesman**, Legislative Aid,
Snohomish County; designated
alternate for Sam Low, County Council
- **Pat O'Maley Lanphear**, North Sound
BH-ASO Advisory Board Chair
- **Jami Mitchell**, Human Services
Manager, San Juan County; designated
alternate for Jane Fuller, County
Council
- **Nicole Gorle**, Legislative Analyst,
Snohomish County; designated
alternate for Nate Nehring, County
Council
- **Perry Mowery**, Behavioral Health
Supervisor, designated alternate for
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive;
Whatcom County
- **Cammy Hart-Anderson**, Human Services,
designated alternate for Dave Somers
County Executive, Snohomish County
- **Lynda Austin**, Human Services,
designated alternate for Jill Johnson
Commissioner, Island County
- **Sam Low**, County Executive;
Snohomish County

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

- **Darrell Heiner**, Senior Accountant, North
Sound BH-ASO
- **Margaret Rojas**, Assistant Executive
Director, North Sound BH-ASO
- **Michael McAuley**, Clinical Director, North
Sound BH-ASO

- **Maria Arreola**, Senior Administrative Assistant, North Sound BH-ASO
- **Joanie Wenzl**, Administrative Manager/Clerk of the Board, North Sound BH-ASO

Guests Present:

JanRose Ottaway Martin

Call to Order and Introductions – Chair

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order and initiated introductions.

Tribal Acknowledgement – Chair

[Tribal Behavioral Health | North Sound BH-ASO \(nsbhaso.org\)](https://nsbhaso.org)

The Vice-Chair read the Tribal Acknowledgement

Revisions to the Agenda – Chair

The Vice-Chair asked if there were any revisions to the agenda. There were none mentioned.

Approval of the August 10th, 2023, Minutes, Motion #23-46 – Chair

George Kosovich moved the motion for approval (with the addition of Jane Fuller’s name added to the August Minutes as an attendee via Zoom) Perry Mowery seconded the motion, all in favor no abstentions, motion #23-46 approved.

Comments & Announcements from the Chair

The Vice-Chair noted that he is anticipating JanRose beginning work at the ASO next week in the Executive Director capacity.

Reports from Members

Updates were given from the respective counties regarding the latest happenings around behavioral health and substance use disorder happenings.

Comments from the Public

No members of the public were present.

Report from the Advisory Board

Pat O’Maley Lanphear gave the Report from the Advisory Board. Topics of discussion included the anticipated coordination and advocacy of the Advisory Board in the Opioid Abatement Council decisions regarding spending the settlement funds. Snohomish shared some opportunities for AB Member involvement.

Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion (DREI) was also included in the AB Brief. Nominations for the 2024 AB Officers will be open in October. The Report from the Executive Director was also part of the AB meeting for September.

Report from the Finance Officer

Margaret gave the Report from the Finance Officer. She spoke about the Budget Amendment. She covered the other topics listed on the Finance Officer Report.

Report from the Governance Operations Committee

Motion approved to recommend payment of the August bills.

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 Member.

Consent Agenda

Motion #23-47

To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from August 1st, 2023, through August 31st, 2023, in the amount of \$2,636,795.93.

Payroll for the month of August in the amount of \$174,526.10 and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$84,827.32.

Cammy Hart-Anderson moved the motion, George Kosovich seconded, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion #23-47 carried.

Action Items

For Board Approval

Conquer

Conquer was the successful bidder for the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Request for Proposals (RFP) in the North Sound Region. Conquer will provide AOT services in Snohomish County. The annual funding is \$902,994.

Motion #23-48

North Sound BH-ASO-Conquer Addiction-ICN-23 to provide AOT services in Snohomish County. The contract term is August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on August 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Cammy Hart-Anderson moved the motion for approval, George Kosovich seconded, no discussion, all in favor, no abstentions, none opposed, motion #23-48 carried.

Touchstone Behavioral Health

Touchstone Behavioral Health is a provider of youth services in Whatcom County. This contract is for youth outpatient services. The contract is a Fee for Service Contract.

Motion #23-49

North Sound BH-ASO-Touchstone Behavioral Health-ICN-23 to provide youth outpatient services in Whatcom County. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on September 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Barry Buchanan moved the motion, Perry Mowery seconded, all in favor, none opposed, all in favor, motion #23-49 carried.

Evergreen Recovery Centers

ERC is requesting funding to start up Substance Use and Mental Health Outpatient services in Skagit County. The request for one-time startup funds in the amount of \$42,000.

Motion #23-50

North Sound BH-ASO-ERC-ICN-23 Amendment 2 for the purpose of providing \$42,000 in one-time start-up funds for establishing outpatient services in Skagit County. The contract term is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, with an automatic one-year renewal on January 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

George Kosovich moved the motion, Perry Mowery seconded, no discussion, none opposed, all in favor, no abstentions, Motion #23-50 carried.

Professional Service Contracts

The following contracts are being presented for approval. These contracts are being renewed on a Federal Grant from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) an agency of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The services provided are Medication Assisted Treatment and Opioid outreach to east and west Skagit County.

Mount Baker Presbyterian Church (MBPC)

The MBPC has been a partner in our opioid outreach program and our Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant for Medication Assisted Treatment in east Skagit County. MBPC conducts outreach and engagement in the Concrete area and will be expanding into Sedro Woolley. The annual budget total is \$125,000, \$30,000 of HRSA grant funds and an increase of \$95,000 in Federal Block Grant Funds.

Motion #23-51

North Sound BH-ASO-MBPC-PSC-23 to provide outreach and engagement to individuals struggling with their substance use and/or mental health. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

George Kosovich moved the motion for approval, Jami Mitchell seconded, all in favor, no discussion, no abstentions, motion #23-51 carried.

Lifeline Connections

Lifeline provides Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Nurse Care Managers. The annual funding for this contract is \$89,500.

Motion #23-52

North Sound BH-ASO-Lifeline Connections-PSC-23 for the purpose of providing MAT services in east and west Skagit County. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Barry Buchanan moved the motion for approval, Cammy Hart-Anderson seconded, no discussion, all in favor, no abstentions, Motion #23-52 carried.

NW ESD 189

The NW ESD provides a prevention specialist in the Coupeville School District. The annual funding for this contract is \$87,734.

Motion #23-53

North Sound BH-ASO-NW ESD 189-PSC-23 for the purpose of providing a prevention specialist in the Coupeville School District. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Lynda Austin moved the motion for approval, Perry Mowery seconded, all in favor, no abstentions, none opposed, motion #23-53 carried.

Compass Health

Compass Health provides a Mental Health Professional as a co-responder with the Skagit Sheriff’s Department in east Skagit County. The annual for funding for this contract is \$178,000, \$89,000 in HRSA funds and \$89,000 in Federal Block Grant Funds.

Motion #23-54

North Sound BH-ASO-Compass Health-PSC-23 for the purpose of providing a mental health professional as a co-responder with the Sheriff’s Department in east Skagit County. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Jami Mitchell moved the motion, George Kosovich seconded, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, Motion #23-54 carried.

Introduction Items

Health Care Authority (HCA)

This is the continuing contract for Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH). This is an outreach program targeting individuals with a serious mental illness who are unhoused. The annual funding for this service is \$219,026.

The continuing contract for Peer Pathfinder Homeless Outreach Programs. Funding is used to support outreach and engagement services for those who are, or who are risk of homelessness and have or are suspected to have an Opiate Use Disorder and/or stimulant use disorder. The annual funding for these services is \$117, 207.

Motion #XX-XX (introduction)

HCA-North Sound BH-ASO-PATH-23 for the purpose of funding PATH services in Snohomish County. The contract term is October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

Motion #XX-XX (introduction)

HCA-North Sound BH-ASO-K6453-23 for the purpose of providing peer pathfinder services in Whatcom County. The term of the contract is September 30, 2023, through September 29, 2024.

The following two contracts are the downstream contracts for PATH and Peer Pathfinder services.

Bridgeways

Bridgeways is the provider of PATH services in Snohomish County. The annual funding amount is \$219,026 of grant funding and \$73,000 in State funds for case management services for a total of \$292,034.

Motion #XX-XX (introduction)

North Sound BH-ASO-Bridgeways-PATH-23 for the purpose of providing PATH outreach and case management services in Snohomish County. The term of this agreement is October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Lifeline Connections

Lifeline Connections is the provider of Peer Pathfinder Services. The annual funding for this contract is \$117,207.

Motion #XX-XX (introduction)

NS BH-ASO-Lifeline Connections-FBG-23 Amendment 1 to provide funding to the Peer Path Finder services under this contract. The contract term is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, with an automatic one-year renewal on January 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

North Sound BH-ASO Administrative Budget Amendment

These are the factors requiring a budget amendment-

- Skagit County will not pay our warrants if our budget revenues and expenses do not balance.
- Significant expenses, such as IT servers, repayment of 650K+ of Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) funds to HCA and professional services for recruitment and a needs assessment are major factors.
- We also received new revenue in the amount of \$550K, from the Department of Commerce (DOC) Grant which needs to be noted in the budget.
- The ASO has the funds to cover the expenses, we only need to amend our budget to show the Skagit County Treasurer the funds are available to pay our bills. We are requesting \$2M to be moved from reserves, \$650K of restricted funds from the RNP, \$550K from new revenue (DOC) and \$800K from unrestricted reserves.

Motion #XX-XX (introduction)

To approve the transfer of \$2,000,000.00 from reserves, \$650,000.00 from RNP restricted reserves, \$550,000.00 from Department of Commerce revenue and \$800,000.00 from unrestricted reserves.

The Introduction Items above were reviewed. It was noted that the items will come to the BOD for approval during the October Board Meeting.

Report from the Executive Director

o Annual BOD Member Response/RCW 43.160.040/Conflicts of Interest—Code of Ethics
Margaret Rojas noted that the ASO's Clerk of the Board will be sending out the annual Conflict of Interest/Code of Conduct Attestation Notices soon.
Members were encouraged to look for them in their email, fill out the brief questions and return them to Joanie.

The Report from the Executive Director was given by Margaret Rojas.

Topics included:

- o Health Care Authority (HCA) Team Monitoring
- o Opioid Abatement Council
- o Western State Hospital & the Pechman Ruling Update
- o Touchstone Behavioral Health
- o ASO Funding
- o 988/Regional Crisis Lines (RCL) Alignment
- o Audits (HCA Fiscal Audit, State Auditor Audit)

Adjourn: 2:18 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 12th, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanie Wenzl
Clerk of the Board