



Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

April 10th, 2025

Board of Directors Members Present in Person:

- Barry Buchanan, County Council, Whatcom County: NS BH-ASO Board Chair
- Peter Browning, Commissioner; Skagit County
- Amanda Franke, Human Services, designated alternate for Dave Somers; Snohomish County
- Jill Johnson, Commissioner; Island County

Members Present via MS Teams:

- Justin Paulsen, County Council; San Juan County
- Nicole Gorle, Legislative Analyst, designated alternate for Nate Nehring, County Council; Snohomish County
- Kara Allen, Advisory Board Chair, Snohomish County
- Sam Low, County Council; Snohomish County
- Jami Mitchell, Human Services Manager, designated alternate for Justin Paulsen, County Council; San Juan County
- Cynthia Foley, Sr. Legislative Analyst, designated alternate for Strom Peterson, County Council; Snohomish County

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

- JanRose Ottaway Martin, Executive Director
- Margaret Rojas, Assistant Executive Director
- Kim Nakatani, Sr. Accountant
- Charles DeElena, Business Improvement/Compliance Manager
- Maria Arreola, Sr. Administrative Assistant
- Joanie Wenzl, Administrative Manager/Clerk of the Board

Guests Present:

There were no guests present

Call to Order and Introductions – Chair

The Chair called the meeting to order and initiated introductions

Tribal Acknowledgement – Chair

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

The Chair read the Tribal Acknowledgement

Revisions to the Agenda – Chair

There were no revisions to the agenda

Approval of the March 14th, 2025, Minutes, Motion #25-12 – Chair.... Attachment

Peter Browning moved the motion for approval, Amanda Franke seconded, none opposed, all in favor, motion #25-12 approved.

Comments & Announcements from the Chair – Chair

The 2025 Board of Directors Annual Retreat was discussed during the Governance Operations Meeting. It was recommended that the take place during the month of September due to an overlap with the legislative session and other pertinent topics. It will be held on the day of the Board meeting, September 11th.

Barry Buchanan moved a motion for it to take place on September 11th, Peter Browning seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

BOD summer break: Discussion took place during the Governance & Operations regarding taking the month of August off versus the usual month of July off. The reason for the change is regarding legislative happenings that need attention.

Barry Buchanan moved the motion for approval, Peter Browning seconded, all in favor, with the contingency to meet, if need be, in August. The board will decide during the July meeting.

The Chair moved a motion for the May board meeting to be virtual only due to conference travel and other various time constraints.

Amanda Franke seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

Reports from Members – Chair

Board members gave updates on the current behavioral health happenings in their respective counties

Comments from the Public – Chair

No one from the public was in attendance

Report from the Advisory Board

Kara Allen, Advisory Board Chair

Kara gave the Report from the Advisory Board

Report from the Finance Officer

Margaret Rojas, Assistant Director

The Report from the Finance Officer was given and questions were answered.

Report from the Governance Operations Committee – Chair

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 – Chair

Motion #25-13

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from March 1st, 2025, through March 31st, 2025, in the amount of \$3,607,224.28.
- Payroll for the month of March in the amount of \$237,029.38 and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$122,684.29.

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Peter Browning seconded, none opposed, all in favor, motion #25-13 carried

Action Items – Margaret Rojas, Assistant Director

For Board Approval

North Star Connect – Stronger Together Symposium

Skagit County is seeking funding to support the inaugural North Star Symposium. North Star is a multi-sector collaborative bringing together county and city elected officials, community service providers, healthcare professionals, faith-based communities, and individuals with lived experience to identify more effective ways to respond to homelessness in Skagit County. This effort aims to improve the behavioral health system and expand the availability of affordable housing. Funding will assist with covering costs associated with venue, food, and symposium speakers.

Motion #25-14

NORTH SOUND BH-ASO-SKAGIT COUNTY-PSC-25 in the amount of \$35,000.00 Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) Funds for the North Star Symposium. The contract term is April 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025.

Peter Browning moved the motion for approval, Amanda Franke seconded, none opposed, all in favor, motion #25-14 carried.

Evergreen Recovery Centers – Homeless Outreach Stabilization & Transition (HOST Program)

Evergreen Recovery Centers received start-up funding in July 1, 2024, to expand the HOST Program into Skagit and Island Counties. They have exhausted start-up funds and have requested the ongoing funding for the Skagit Island (SKIL) Host Program. Funding will be prorated through June 30, 2025. Any unspent funds will not roll over.

Motion #25-15

NORTH SOUND BH-ASO-EVERGREEN RECOVERY CENTERS-ICN-23 AMD 6 in the amount of \$261,000 to provide additional funding for the SKIL HOST Program. Funding will be available through June 30, 2025.

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Peter Browning seconded, none opposed, all in favor, motion #25-15 carried

Lifeline Connections – Housing and Recovery through Peer Services (HARPS)

Lifeline Connections receives funding for HARPS subsidies and the HARPS team. Lifeline Connections has fully utilized their HARPS subsidy funding. North Sound BH-ASO has unallocated HARPS funds that Lifeline may utilize through June 30, 2025. Any unspent funds will not roll over.

Motion #25-16

NS BH-ASO-LIFELINE CONNECTIONS-FGB-23 AMD 7 in the amount of \$50,000 to provide additional HARPS funding through June 30, 2025.

Amanda Franke moved the motion for approval, Jill Johnson seconded, none opposed, all in favor, motion #25-16 carried.

American Rescue Plan ACT (ARPA) Funding – Notice of Suspension

Effective March 24, 2025, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) terminated multiple COVID-19 pandemic-related grants, including those funded under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Act. North Sound BH-ASO received notification from Health Care Authority (HCA) on March 27, 2025, suspending funds for activities under our contract, those activities are suspended immediately.

North Sound BH-ASO sent notification on March 28, 2025, to the below downstream contracts that their organization will no longer receive ARPA funding, effective March 24, 2025, for the identified programs/services pursuant to the terms and conditions of their contract. Invoices will be paid through March 24, 2025, any balance remaining on our ARPA grant will be returned to the Health Care Authority.

- Evergreen Recovery Centers
 - Mental Health Infant Specialist
- Lifeline Connections
 - Peer Pathfinders Transition from Incarceration Pilot
 - Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Island County
 - Peer Pathfinder Support Services Funds
- Northwest Education Service District (NWESD)
 - School Prevention Specialist (Coupeville School District)
- Snohomish County Superior Court
 - Juvenile Treatment Services (ARPA funding only)
- Volunteers of America (VOA)
 - Crisis Line – Emergency Response for Suicide Prevention (ERSP) Program

Motion #25-17

NORTH SOUND BH-ASO-EVERGREEN RECOVERY CENTERS-ICN-23 AMD 6 to terminate ARPA funding for Mental Health Infant Specialist services in Snohomish County. This was an annual funding allocation in the amount of **\$100,000.00**.

NS BH-ASO-LIFELINE CONNECTIONS-FGB-23 AMD 7 to terminate ARPA funding in the amount of **\$71,020.00** for Peer Pathfinders Transition from Incarceration Pilot (Whatcom/Skagit counties), **\$60,000.00** for MAT in Island County, and \$7,818.00 in **Peer Pathfinder Support Funds**. All funding allocations were annual.

NORTH SOUND BH-ASO-NORTHWEST EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT-PSC-23 AMD 2 to terminate ARPA funding for a School Prevention Specialist in Coupeville School District (Island County). This was an annual funding allocation in the amount of **\$25,000.00**.

NORTH SOUND BH-ASO-SNOHOMISH COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT-ICN-23 AMD 6 to terminate ARPA funding for Juvenile Treatment Services in Snohomish County. This was an annual funding allocation in the amount of **\$95,444.00**.

NORTH SOUND BH-ASO-VOA-ICCN-23 AMD 6 to terminate ARPA funding for 24-hour Crisis Line. This was an annual funding allocation in the amount of **\$66,666.00**.

Peter Browning moved the motion for approval, Barry Buchanan seconded, motion #25-17 carried.

Introduction Items

None at this time

Report from the Executive Director

JanRose Ottaway Martin, Executive Director, gave an update on the following topics:

- Weekly Crisis Metrics
- BH-ASO Reserve Funds
- ARPA/COVID SAMHSA Grants
- HB 1813
- House and Senate Budgets

Adjourn – Chair 2:34 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 8th, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanie_Wenzl

Joanie Wenzl