



Board of Directors

Hybrid Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2022

Board of Directors Members Present:

- **Peter Browning Chair**, Commissioner, Skagit County; Chair
- **Jill Johnson**, Commissioner, Island County
- **Cindy Wolf**, Council Member, San Juan County; Vice Chair
- **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
- **Darcy Cheeseman**, Legislative Aid to Council Member, Sam Low

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
- **Michael McAuley**, Clinical Director, North Sound BH-ASO
- **Maria Arreola**, Administrative Assistant II, North Sound BH-ASO

Guests Present:

- **Marie Jubie**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – Chair

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

2. Revisions to the Agenda – Chair

The Chair asked if there were any revisions to the agenda. Marie Jubie's resolution moved to the start.

3. Approval of the March 10, 2022, Minutes, Motion #22-17 – Chair..... Attachment

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval with revision to change her county to Island County, Cindy Wolf seconded, none opposed, no abstentions, motion #22-17 carried.

4. Comments & Announcements from the Chair

Chair Browning spoke about how being part of this Board helps county elected officials to be more involved in addressing behavioral health issues. .

5. Reports from Members

Chair Browning asked if there were reports from the counties. The following updates were provided:

- Island County
 - Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) work session was held. The program is in the process of being put together.
- San Juan County
 - The majority of individuals that are in danger of becoming homeless are those staying with family and friends. Individuals that are homeless are living in substandard RVs or boats and cars. This suggests a certain approach on how to serve these individuals.
- Skagit County
 - Portable showers are being placed in various areas. First Steps program is going well. The North Star program is a mental health program that will work with the cities. This program is to ensure individuals are being referred to the appropriate places.
- Snohomish County
 - Are having difficulty recruiting a Designated Crisis Responder (DCR). Exploring options of hiring incentives. Compass Health will be contracting a part time embedded social worker in Mukilteo. Conversations with Volunteers of America (VOA) Sultan and Monroe about a mental health outreach concept.
- Whatcom County
 - A Response System Division is being developed. Currently the GRACE and Lead programs are incorporated in the Response System Division. The Co-Responder and the Alternative Response Team will also be included. Working on streamlining services within the Crisis Stabilization Center.

6. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public

7. Report from the Advisory BoardAttachment
Pat O'Maley Lanphear, Advisory Board Chair, gave the report from the Advisory Board.

8. Annual Crisis Assessment (Michael McAuley).....Attachment
Michael McAuley presented on the 2021 Annual Crisis Assessment. Questions were answered.

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

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

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 \$2,556,706.70. Payroll for the month of March in the amount of \$158,258.84 and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$74,725.47.

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Cindy Wolfe seconded, none opposed, none abstained, all in favor, motion #22-18 carried

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.

Cammy Hart-Anderson moved the motion for approval, Nicole Gorle seconded, none opposed, none abstained, all in favor, motion #22-19 carried

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.

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Cindy Wolfe seconded, none opposed, none abstained, all in favor, motion #22-20 carried

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.

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Jackie Mitchell seconded, none opposed, none abstained, all in favor, motion #22-21 carried

Summary:

Personnel Action

- Authorizing a 2.75% COLA for the Executive Director.

Motion #22-22 (3)

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

Cammy Hart-Anderson moved the motion for approval with an effective date of January 1, 2022. Cindy Wolfe seconded, none opposed, none abstained, all in favor, motion #22-22 carried

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.

Cammy Hart-Anderson moved the resolution for approval, Jill Johnson seconded, none opposed, none abstained, all in favor, motion #22-001 carried

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.

The following discussion ensued regarding the Child, Youth and Family Mobile Crisis Team:

- How do we look at making adaptations to research-based models?
- What will staffing structure look like?
- Discussed the need to develop criteria for how to best serve different geographic areas of the region, including rural areas and other underserved areas.
 - There are currently only state general funds dollars to support this program. How will managed care organizations (MCOs) contribute services to members?
- How will we be able to implement this program if there are not enough children and youth behavioral health specialists?
- Is there funding to extenders the model to other areas of the region?
- Focus on areas of high-risk populations.

15. Report from the Executive Director Attachments

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

- Final Legislative Budget and Provisos
- New Behavioral Health Programs Assigned to BH-ASOs for FY 2021-2023
- Proposed Statewide BH-ASO "Check In Meeting with HCA Leadership
- Homeless Outreach Stabilization Team [HOST]
- Proposed RFQ for Children and Youth Mobile Crisis Teams
- Plan to Improve Coordination Between BH-ASO Funded Programs
- Crisis Services Update
- Re-Opening of North Sound BH-ASO Office
- Presentation of Three Year BH-ASO Update for North Sound County Councils and Commissions

16. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:58

Next Meeting: May 12th, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,



Maria Arreola
Administrative Assistant II