



Board of Directors

Hybrid Meeting Minutes

February 9th, 2023

Board of Directors Members Present in Person:

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

Members Present via Zoom:

- **Lynda Austin**, Human Services, Island County; designated alternate for Jill Johnson, Commissioner
- **Darcy Cheeseman**, Legislative Aid to Council Member, Sam Low, Snohomish County
- **Perry Mowery**, Behavioral Health Supervisor, designated alternate for Satpal Sidhu, County Executive; Whatcom County
- **Nicole Gorle**, Legislative Analyst, Snohomish County; designated alternate for Nate Nehring, County Council
- **Jane Fuller**, County Council; San Juan County
- **Malora Christensen**, designated alternate for Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, Whatcom County
- **Carola Schmid**, Human Services, designated alternate for Dave Somers, County Executive, Snohomish County
- **Pat O'Maley Lanphear**, Advisory Board Chair

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

- **Joe Valentine**, Executive Director, North Sound BH-ASO
- **Darrell Heiner**, Senior Accountant, North Sound BH-ASO
- **Margaret Rojas**, Assistant Executive Director, North Sound BH-ASO

- **Charles DeElena**, Business Improvement Manager/Compliance Officer, North Sound BH-ASO
- **James Dixon**, Regional Recovery Navigator Coordinator, North Sound BH-ASO
- **Kimberly Nakatani**, Accountant, North Sound BH-ASO
- **Maria Arreola**, Administrative Assistant II, Advisory Board Coordinator, NS BH-ASO
- **Joanie Wenzl**, Clerk of the Board, North Sound BH-ASO

Guests Present:

Michelle Osborne, Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion (DREI)

Nora Korena, Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion (DREI)

Toni Belcher Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion (DREI)

Call to Order and Introductions – Chair

The chair called the meeting to order and initiated introductions.

Revisions to the Agenda – Chair

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

Approval of the January 12th, 2023, Minutes, Motion #23-08 – Chair

Barry Buchanan moved the motion for approval, Nicole Gorle seconded, all in favor, none opposed, motion number #23-08 carried.

Comments & Announcements from the Chair

- Chair Browning introduced the new board members, Barry Buchanan (Whatcom County) Jane Fuller (San Juan County) and noted that Strom Peterson was also appointed (Snohomish County)
- The Chair requested that board members keep on top of the legislative bills pertaining to behavioral health and substance use disorder outpatient care.
Hoping to keep top notch care on the frontline he added.

Reports from Members

Members gave reports from their respective counties regarding behavioral health happenings.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public

Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion (DREI) Workgroup Update/Strategic Plan

- Michelle Osborne, Toni Belcher, Nora Karena

The DREI consultants gave a presentation that included the update on the Strategic Plan as well as the efforts of the workgroup participants.

Regional Navigator Program (RNP) Update: James Dixon

- [Recovery Navigator Program \(RNP\) | North Sound BH-ASO \(nsbhaso.org\)](#)
- [Washington 2-1-1 | Search \(wa211.org\)](#)

Joe Valentine introduced James Dixon, North Sound BH-ASO's Regional Recovery Navigator Coordinator. He gave an update on the Regional Navigator Program as well as an overview of the Washington 2-1-1 services that are available.

Report from the Advisory Board

Pat O'Maley Lanphear (Advisory Board Chair) gave the report from the Advisory Board and answered questions from Board Members.

Report from the Finance Officer

Joe Valentine gave the report from the Finance Officer and answered questions.

Report from the Governance Operations Committee

- Joe Valentine announced his retirement and noted it will take place at the end of June. It was also noted that Board Members will be coordinating their efforts to recruit and interview applicants for his replacement. Board members spoke of their gratitude for Joe's highly effective contribution in leading the ASO for the past 11 years.
- The latest happenings with the Opioid Abatement Council (OAC) were discussed. Board members were asked to assist in moving the process forward in their respective counties; signatures on the MOU, and the selection process of the member who will sit on the OAC (one per county) as well as identifying one member from a city within each of the individual counties.

Joe Valentine gave a status on each of the counties. Below is the outcome as of today, February 9th:

- The **Snohomish County** Representative is Jason Biermann. The appointed city for Snohomish County is **Everett** and the representative is Julie Willie. The signed MOU has not been received by the ASO as of today.
- **Skagit County's** appointed city is **Sedro Woolley** and **Charlie Bush** will be the OAC city representative. The Skagit County rep has not been sent to the ASO as of yet. The signed MOU has not been received by the ASO as of today.
- **Whatcom County's** representative still needs to be received by the ASO, as well as the city rep. The signed MOU has been received.
- **San Juan County's** representative still needs to be received by the ASO, as well as the city rep. The signed MOU has been received.

- **Island County's** representative still needs to be received by the ASO, as well as the city rep. The signed MOU has not been received as of today.

The Chair added that it would be ideal to see this completed within the next 2 months.

- The Chair spoke about the Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement. The email from the ASO's attorney stated that the letter was sent out this week and awaiting return signatures.

The Chair added that it would be ideal to see this be completed within the month.

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.

Motion #23-09

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from January 1st, 2023, through January 31st, 2023, in the amount of **\$4,837,340.84**.
- Payroll for the month of January in the amount of **\$185,789.97** and associated employer benefits in the amount of **\$81,241.39**.

Jane Fuller moved the motion for approval, Darcy Cheesman seconded, all in favor, none opposed, motion #23-09 carried

Action Items

For Board Approval

Summary (Personnel):

At the December Board of Directors meeting a 5% COLA was approved for employees as part of the annual administrative budget. The Executive Director position serves at the will of the Board which requires a separate motion to approve the 5% COLA for the position.

Motion #23-10

- Approve a 5% COLA for the Executive Director position with an effective date of January 1, 2023.

Barry Buchanan moved the motion for approval, Perry Mowery seconded, all in favor, none opposed, motion #23-10 carried

Summary:

Vote for Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations received as of 2/8/2023 were for Peter Browning (Chair) and Barry Buchanan (Vice Chair)

Motion #23-11

- Approve Peter Browning as Chair and Barry Buchanan as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for 2023

A motion was made by Perry Mowery to approve Barry Buchanan as Vice Chair for 2023. The motion was seconded by Darcy Cheesman. All in favor, none opposed. Another motion was made by Barry Buchanan to approve Peter Browning as Chair, Darcy Cheesman seconded, all in favor none opposed. Motion #23-11 carried.

Report from the Executive Director

Joe Valentine gave the report from the Executive Director which including from the following topics:

- LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATING COUNCIL
- NORTH SOUND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT
- ISLAND COUNTY CO-RESPONDER PROGRAM
- APPLE HEALTH REDETERMINATIONS
- CRISIS SERVICES UPDATE
- MODIFICATION TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT TO ALLOW USE OF HYBRID MEETINGS

Adjourn: 2:42 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 9th, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanie Wenzl

Clerk of the Board