



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**September 9,
2021**

Board of Directors Members present:

North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (ASO) staff present:

Guests present:

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions – Chair**
- 2. Revisions to the Agenda – Chair**
- 3. Approval of the August 12th, 2021 Minutes, Motion #21-40 – ChairAttachment**
- 4. Comments & Announcements from the Chair**
- 5. Reports from Members**
- 6. Comments from the Public: Chair**
- 7. Report from the Advisory Board - Advisory Board Chair...[\(Available at Meeting\)](#).....Attachment**
- 8. Report from the Executive Director- Joe Valentine[\(Available at Meeting\)](#).....Attachment**
 - Ombuds Presentation: Katelyn Morgan
- 9. Report from the Finance Officer-Joe Valentine and Darrell Heiner[\(Available at Meeting\)](#)...Attachment**
- 10. 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 Executive Committee 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.....[\(Available at Meeting\)](#).....Attachment

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from August 1st, 2021, through August 31st, 2021, in the amount of \$
Payroll for the month of August in the amount of \$ and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$.
(Available at Meeting)

11. Action Items

For Board Approval

Summary:

Lifeline Connection is the provider for Peer Pathfinder services in Skagit and Whatcom counties. This amendment is passing through the funding of \$12,727 and requirement for a new deliverable due August 1, 2022. This contract includes the HARPS program as a companion to the Peer Pathfinder program.

Motion #21-42

- NS BH-ASO-Lifeline Connections-MHBG-20 Amendment 2 for the provision of additional funding and the requirement of a new deliverable due August 1, 2022. The contract term is November 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2022, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

For Ratification

Summary:

Health Care Authority (HCA) is amending the Peer Pathfinder Contract with the ASO to include funding of \$12,727 for a new deliverable in the payment and performance chart, the deliverable is due on August 1, 2022. The amendment extends the contract for a new end date of August 1, 2022.

Motion #21-43

- HCA-NS BH-ASO-K4864-Amendment 1 for the provision of funding for a new deliverable and extending the end date from September 30, 2021, to August 1, 2022.

12. Discussion ItemAttachment

- COVID Block Grant Plan- Joe Valentine

13. Adjourn

Next meeting: October 14th, 2021



BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

August 12,
2021

Board of Directors Members present:

- Jill Johnson, County Commissioner; Island County, Board Chair
- Peter Browning, County Commissioner; Skagit County
- Cammy Hart-Anderson, Snohomish County Human Services; designated alternate for Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive
- Rud Browne, County Council Member; Whatcom County
- Sarah Hinman, Skagit County Public Health; designated alternate for Peter Browning
- Heidi Beazizo, Sr. Legislative Analyst, Snohomish County; designated alternate for Jared Mead, Snohomish County Council
- Cindy Wolf, County Council Member; San Juan County
- Barbara LaBrash, Human Services Manager, San Juan County; designated alternate for Cindy Wolf, County Council Member
- Sam Low, County Council Member, Snohomish County
- Jackie Mitchell, Behavioral Health Program Specialist, Whatcom County; designated alternate for Satpal Sidhu
- Duncan West, Chair; North Sound BH-ASO Advisory Board Chair

North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (ASO) staff present:

- Joe Valentine, Executive Director; North Sound BH-ASO
- Darrell Heiner, Accounting Specialist; North Sound BH-ASO
- Joanie Williams, Clerk of the Board; North Sound BH-ASO

Guests present:

No guests were present

Call to Order and Introductions – Chair Johnson

Chair Johnson was having technical issues with her computer and asked Cindy Wolf to chair the meeting, to which she complied. The Clerk of the Board (Joanie Williams) read the names of the meeting participants via the MS Teams platform.

Revisions to the Agenda – Chair

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

Approval of the June 10, 2021, Minutes, Motion #21-33 – Chair

Peter Browning moved the motion for approval, Sam Low seconded, all-in favor, no abstentions, motion #21-33 carried

Comments & Announcements from the Chair

Jill Johnson noted that the Stabilization Center is open, fully operational and at capacity.

Reports from Members

Members gave reports from their respective counties, which included the impacts and concerns regarding HB 1310 and recent impacts of COVID

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public

Report from the Advisory Board

Duncan West (Advisory Board Chair) gave the report from the Advisory Board

Report from the Executive Director

- Update on Recovery Navigator Program [James Dixon]

James Dixon gave an update on the Recovery Navigator Program. He answered questions from Board Members.

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

- COVID FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT PLAN
- OTHER 2021-2022 STATE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS [NEW PROGRAMS]
- WORKFORCE SHORTAGES UPDATE
- CRISIS SERVICES [old]
- IMPACT OF NEW LEGISLATION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISES
- UPDATE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITIES

Report from the Finance Officer

Joe Valentine gave the report from the Finance Officer. He answered questions from Board Members

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 Executive Committee 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 #21-34

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from June 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$1,344,746.19.
 - Payroll for the month of June in the amount of \$151,890.76 and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$60,363.24.
- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from July 1, 2021, through July 31, 2021, in the amount of \$3,884,636.04.
 - Payroll for the month of June in the amount of \$147,764.60 and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$70,615.93.
- Review and approve budget adjustment.

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Peter Browning seconded, all-in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion #21-34 carried.

Action Items***For Board Approval*****Michele Osborne & Associates****Summary:**

In April 2021 the ASO released a Request for Qualifications for a consultant to work with the ASO on Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Only one bid was submitted, however, this consulting firm has worked with the ASO previously on a Family Youth System Partner Round table (FYSPRT) project.

The scope of the work will be an examination of internal policies, practices, and culture. The consultant will also work with the ASO to develop a process and the tools to review our external provider network to ensure their policies, practices and culture are non-discriminatory and anti-racist as well. The project is fluid, working at a pace for individual and organization reflection and action over an 18-month period.

Motion #21-35

- NS BH-ASO-OSborne & Assoc.-PSC-21 for the provision of DEI consultation work. The effective date of the contract is October 1, 2021, with a maximum consideration of \$147,000.

Peter Browning moved the motion for approval, Rud Browne seconded, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion #21-35 carried

North Sound BH-ASO FTE**Summary:**

The 2021 legislative session has recognized the growing need for additional behavioral health programs by bringing innovative programs to our communities. One such program is the regional Community Behavioral Rental Assistance (CBRA) grant from Department of Commerce; this program requires coordination and oversight of the rental assistance program. Additionally, with the expansion of Federal Block Grant funds and several proviso services, we see a need to create this position. Ideally the position would be filled by October 1, 2021.

North Sound BH-ASO is requesting approval one FTE to coordinate and oversee the CBRA program, FBG expansion and proviso services.

Motion #21-36

- Approve one FTE position to develop and oversee the CBRA, FBG and proviso programs in the North Sound Region.

Motion #21-36 tabled

For Ratification**Consejo Counseling and Referral Services****Summary:**

Consejo is a Behavioral Health Agency located in King County. They reached out to the ASO about providing telehealth services in our region. With the workforce shortages and limited access to services, engaging Consejo as a telehealth provider will provide additional access to services in the region. Eventually Consejo will have a physical presence in the region. This is a Fee for Service (FFS) contract.

Motion #21-37

- NS BH-ASO-Consejo-ICN-21 for the provision of telehealth services in the North Sound Region. This contract is encounter based; payments are made on services submitted through an electronic record. The contract term is July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2022, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Cammy Hart Anderson seconded, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion #21-37 carried

Department of Commerce-Community Behavioral Health Rental Assistance (CBRA)

Summary:

An allocation of \$1,366,830.00 is provided for rental assistance to eligible households who meet criteria. Criteria is-

- Have a documented behavioral health condition,
- Eligible for a long-term supports program, i.e., HARPS, Foundation Community Supports, DSHS Aging & long-term supports, etc. and,
- Have a need for long-term housing support with no other payment alternative

The downstream contracts will be with Lifeline Connections our HARPS provider and housing agencies in the region. We will be reaching out to the housing agencies identified by Department of Commerce.

Motion #21-38

- Department of Commerce-North Sound BH-ASO-CBRA-21 for the provision of funding in the amount of \$1,366,830 for behavioral health rental assistance. The term of the Grant Agreement is July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Rud Browne seconded, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion #21-38 carried.

Following discussion, it was noted that the ASO will send a letter to Providers asking them if there was additional flexibility, what would that look like

Mental Health Block Grant

Summary:

Tulalip Tribes is a provider of outreach services and traditional healing services for the at-risk youth. This contract was inadvertently left off the June Board of Director's agenda.

Motion #21-39

- North Sound BH-ASO-Tulalip Tribes Family Haven-19-22 for the provision of funds to continue the at-risk youth outreach project. The funding for a one-year period is \$74,850. 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.

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Rud Browne seconded, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion #21-39 carried

Introduction Items

- 2021 – 2022 Federal Block Grant Plan
- 2021 – 2023 COVID Federal Block Grant Plan

Joe Valentine spoke about the Federal Block Grant Plan and the COVID Federal Block Grant Plan. He noted that an early draft will be sent out to the Board for input.

Adjourn 3:05 p.m.

Next meeting: September 9, 2021

DRAFT

1. COVID BLOCK GRANT PLAN

- A draft COVID Block Grant Plan has been drafted based on the priorities identified in the stakeholder survey and Advisory Board. An ad-hoc committee of the Advisory Board has reviewed and provided additional input into the draft plan.
- The Plan will be submitted to the Advisory Board at their meeting on September 7 and also reviewed by the Board of Directors on September 9.

2. WORKFORCE SHORTAGES UPDATE

- HCA staff provided an update to the bi-weekly statewide MCO/ASO Clinical Coordination group on their workplan to implement some of the recommendations in the state Behavioral Health Workforce Report. [the link below is to the full state report]

<https://www.wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/health-workforce-council/behavioral-health-group/>

- The purpose of their presentation was to discuss with the MCOs and ASOs how we can assist with implementing some of these recommendations with both funding and coordination.
- Some of the key themes that emerged from the presentation and discussion were:
 - Focusing on retention of existing behavioral health staff
 - Conducting focus groups with line staff to get their input on what would support retention
 - Encouraging providers to use a full continuum of skill levels, e.g., Bachelor level and Certified Peers, so that masters level clinicians can be used more for persons with higher acuity;
 - Providing assistance to providers in making changes to their business model to take advantage of “team based care” approaches
 - Helping providers improve their electronic billing systems since many are still losing revenue;
 - And continuing to streamline the billing and data reporting requirements that providers must deal with.
- The MCO/ASO Clinical Coordination Group is forming an ad-hoc workgroup to identify the specific areas where we can assist. I have volunteered to facilitate this ad-hoc group.

3. CRISIS SERVICES

a. Weekly Crisis Capacity Indicator Report – through August 28 [attachment #1]

- The trend line for the number of calls to the Crisis Line continues to gradually increase.
- The number of dispatches of mobile crisis outreach teams remains at the historically high level.
- Utilization of crisis services by youth have jumped again in the last 2 weeks.

- There appears to be a temporary decrease in DCR staffing capacity and in the last two weeks, the average time for crisis team dispatch has exceeded the 2 hour target.
- b. **North Sound Crisis System Metrics Report– through July 2021** [attachment #2-summary page only]
- The North Sound Crisis Metrics report shows that all key metrics have been met through July.
 - Calls to the Crisis Line in July were higher than the average for the previous 12 months.
 - The number of ITA investigations and detentions were consistent with the average for the previous 12 months. Average dispatch time had increased but will still below the 2 hour target
- c. **North Sound Crisis System Dashboard-through July 21, 2021** [attachment #3]
- The North Sound Crisis System Dashboard displays an unduplicated number of persons receiving crisis services by county.
 - It also shows that up through July 21, crisis services had been increasing gradually every month.
- 4. CONTINUING IMPACT OF HB 1310 ON LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE**
- New legislation passed this session has caused law enforcement agencies to review their policies regarding dispatch to behavioral health crisis episodes in the community. HB 1310 restricts the use of physical force by law enforcement when there is no crime being committed or no “imminent” threat of physical injury.
 - This has led to reports from Designated Crisis Responders, hospitals, and some behavioral health treatment facilities of local law enforcement deciding not to dispatch either by themselves or in conjunction with a DCR.
 - It has also led to some law enforcement agencies declining to transport persons in a behavioral health crisis to hospital emergency rooms or crisis stabilization facilities.
 - HCA has engaged both the AG’s office and Governor’s office in discussions on the need to respond to this situation. Along with other ASOs we are collecting documentation from our DCR teams on specific incidents in which law enforcement is declining to respond, or declining to engage with a person in crisis and/or transport them to the hospital.
- a. **RECOVERY NAVIGATOR PROGRAM** [attachment #4]
- HCA has issued the program guidelines for the Recovery Navigator Program as well as the regional allocations.
 - The allocation for the North Sound region is **\$2,619,377**. This allocation is intended to cover the cost of 2 outreach recovery navigators per county, project managers, supervisors, and some support costs such as transportation.

- James Dixon, the North Sound Regional Recovery Program Coordinator is developing the proposed “Regional Recovery Navigator Program Plan” based on the guidelines issued by HCA and input from a wide variety of regional stakeholders.
- The plan is due to HCA by October 1. Once HCA approves the plan, they will release the program funds.

5. SUBSTANCE USE RECOVERY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- ESSB 5476 with created the Regional Recovery Services Navigator Program also called for the establishment of a “Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee”.
- This committee is to *develop measures to help individuals with substance use disorder access outreach, treatment, and recovery support services.*
- The committee is to include persons with lived experience and an application to be considered is posted on the HCA website at:
- [State v. Blake: ESB 5476 and behavioral health expansion | Washington State Health Care Authority](#)
- Applications are due to HCA by **September 10.**

6. COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM [CBRA]

- We have issued a Request for Letters of Interest for housing services providers who would like to be considered for a contract to manage the new CBRA funds.
- This request for letters of interest as well as the Department of Commerce [DOC] guidelines are also posted on our website at: <https://nsbhaso.org/formsreports>
- The Department of Commerce [DOC] has allocated \$**1,308,750** to the North Sound region for long term housing assistance. Attached is how this allocation might be distributed to the counties based on percentage of Medicaid population. [attachment # 5]
- We are also having individual conversations with interested organizations about the program requirements.

7. FY 2021-2022 GF-S/PROVISO SPENDING PLAN

- We have submitted our proposed spending plan to HCA to cover the July-December 2021 time period. The plan proposes how we intend to “spend down” the remaining General Fund balances from the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.
- The challenge to fully leverage all state allocated funds continues to be in certain categories of “proviso funds”, such as “Assisted Outpatient Treatment”, Trueblood misdemeanor funds, and Dedicated Marijuana Account dollars.
- The internal BH-ASO Fiscal Workgroup is developing strategies to better leverage proviso dollars.