



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**May 13, 2021**

**Board of Directors Members present:** Chair

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

**Guests present:** Chair

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – Chair
2. **Revisions to the Agenda** – Chair
3. **Approval of the April 6th, 2021 Minutes, Motion #21-20** – Chair.....Attachment
4. **Comments & Announcements from the Chair**
5. **Presentation from the North Sound OMBUDs**.....(Available at Meeting).....Attachment
6. **Reports from Members:** Chair
7. **Comments from the Public:** Chair
8. **Report from the Advisory Board:** Chair (Duncan or Arlene) .....(Available at Meeting).....Attachment
9. **Report from the Executive Director:** Joe ...(Additional Attachments Available at Meeting).....Attachments
  - North Sound BH-ASO Compliance Report
10. **Report from the Finance Officer:** Joe and Darrell .....(Available at Meeting).....Attachment
11. **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,** Chair: .....(Available at Meeting).....Attachment

**Motion #21-21**

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in the amount of **\$2,433,743.74**. Payroll for the month of April in the amount of **\$151,890.76** and associated employer benefits in the amount of **\$72,924.08**.

**12. Action Items: Joe**

***For Board Approval***

**Summary**

**Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)**

North Sound released a Request for Information (RFI) on the PATH Grant and received two responses. Bridgeways is a Behavioral Health Agency (BHA) in Snohomish County and Second Chance Foundation is a Non-Profit in Snohomish County. In discussions with the Health Care Authority (HCA) it was requested the provider be a BHA. The reason stated is a BHA can provide billable BH services. Bridgeways was a North Sound BHO network provider prior to July 2019.

Additionally, HCA has approved moving the Whatcom County PATH funds to the Snohomish County project and North Sound ASO is paying the Federal Match with General Funds-State (GF-S) in the amount of **\$73,009** annually.

**Motion # 21-22**

North Sound BH-ASO-Bridgeways-PATH-21-22 for the provision of outreach and engagement services to individuals with serious mental illness who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The consideration for this contract is **\$219,026** in Federal Grant and **\$73,009** in ASO GF-S for a maximum consideration of **\$292,035**. The contract term is May 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 with an automatic one-year renewal on October 1, 2021 based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

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**Summary**

**Collective Medial Technologies (CMT)**

CMT is a health data platform to provide our crisis providers with important information on individuals they encounter, information such as their assigned MCO, treatment relationships, and other pertinent information. The participating BHAs will upload information into their respective MCO portals, which will give the crisis providers access to all five (5) MCO's member information. Four of the five MCOs have already pledged funding to the annual cost of **\$10,000**. We are awaiting the fifth MCO to affirm their financial participation. North Sound will pay the **\$10,000** annual platform fee and invoice all MCOs participating.

▪ **Motion #21-23**

Collective Medical Technologies-North Sound BH-ASO-Agreement-21 for the provision of access to the CMT health platform. The annual reoccurring fee is \$10,000. This contract will auto-renew annually unless terminated by either party.

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- 13. Discussion Item:** Joe .....Attachment
- Discuss the April 14 Letter from MaryAnne Lindeblad providing the Health Care Authority’s response to our March 21 meeting regarding our proposed resolution of the remaining BHO Close Out liability.

**14. Adjourn**

*Next meeting: June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

DRAFT



# NORTH SOUND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ORGANIZATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2021

### Board of Directors Members present:

- Jill Johnson, County Commissioner; Island County, Board Chair
- Anne Deacon, Human Services Manager, Whatcom County; designated alternate for Satpal Sidhu
- Darcy Cheesman, Legislative Aid; designated alternate for Sam Low, Snohomish County Council Member
- Cammy Hart-Anderson, Human Services; designated alternate for Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive
- Cindy Wolf, County Council Member; San Juan County
- Russell Wiita, Legislative Aid, Snohomish County, designated alternate for Nate Nehring, Snohomish County Council
- Sarah Hinman, Skagit County Public Health; designated alternate for Peter Browning
- Barbara LaBrash, Human Services Manager, San Juan County; designated alternate for Cindy Wolf
- Duncan West, Chair; North Sound BH-ASO Advisory Board Chair
- Arlene Feld, Vice-Chair; North Sound BH-ASO Advisory Board
- Rud Browne, County Council Member; Whatcom County
- Jackie Mitchell, Whatcom County Behavioral Health Program Specialist
- Nicole Gorle, Legislative Analyst, Snohomish County; designated alternate for Nate Nehring, Snohomish County Council

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

- Joe Valentine, Executive Director; North Sound BH-ASO
- Margaret Rojas, Assistant Director; North Sound BH-ASO
- Charles DeElena, Compliance Officer; North Sound BH-ASO
- Darrell Heiner, Accounting Specialist; North Sound BH-ASO
- Joanie Williams, Administrative Manager/Clerk of the Board; North Sound BH-ASO

### Guests present:

- Laurel Lee/Molina
- Victoria Evans/Molina
- Caitlin Safford/Amerigroup
- Amanda McLendon/Coordinated Care
- Whitney Howard/Molina
- Bea Dixon/United Health Care

### Call to Order and Introductions – Chair Johnson

The Chair had the Clerk of the Board read the names of the attendees that were present via GoToMeeting.

### Revisions to the Agenda – Chair

One revision was requested. The date on the agenda needed changed. It said April 9<sup>th</sup> and should have reflected April 8<sup>th</sup>. The Clerk noted the change.

Approval of the March 12, 2021, Minutes, **Motion #21-16** – Chair Johnson

Anne moved the motion for approval, Cammy seconded, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion #21-16 carried.

### **Comments & Announcements from the Chair**

The Chair noted the opening of the Stabilization Center is delayed until June.

### **Reports from Members**

Cammy/Snohomish:

- The 32 Bed SUD Adult In-patient Treatment Program is on target to open in July.
- Snoho Council provided revenue for two new Dedicated Crisis Responders (DCRs) and a Supervisor.

Anne Deacon/Whatcom:

- The Crisis Stabilization Center is up and running.
- The Recovery House is opening.
- Expanding the GRACE Program.

Barbara LaBrash/San Juan:

- Thanked NS BH-ASO and Compass for the expansion of the voluntary part of the Crisis Program.

### **Round Table Discussion with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)**

There was a round table discussion with the MCOs that included a Question-and-Answer session.

The questions below were asked:

1. Do they feel there are currently gaps in your behavioral health network that need to be addressed?
2. How can the ASO and the Counties assist in addressing these gaps?
3. Do they have any suggestions on how we can work together on addressing the current behavioral health workforce shortages?
4. What challenges do they face in trying to pay for services now coming online in the new behavioral health facilities?

### **Report from the Advisory Board**

Duncan West gave brief overview from the last Advisory Board Meeting and referenced the new brochure.

### **Report from the Executive Director**

- North Sound BH-ASO Compliance Report

Due to time constraints, Joe Valentine said this report will be part of next month's Agenda.

He briefly referenced the Report from the Executive Director (topics below) and the accompanying attachments.

He encouraged members to read the portion of the report that speaks about the Block Grant money.

1. LEGISLATION
2. BUDGET
3. NEW FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUNDS
4. CRISIS SERVICES
5. EXPANSION OF MOBILE CRISIS OUTREACH
6. EXPANSION OF MEDICATED ASSISTED TREATMENT TO EAST SKAGIT
  
7. UPDATE ON PEER PATHFINDER PROGRAM
8. BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX [B&O]
9. BHO CLOSE-OUT LIABILITY DISCUSSIONS

### **Report from the Finance Officer**

Due to time constraints, this report was briefly referenced.

### Report from the Governance Operations Committee

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### Consent Agenda

#### Motion #21-17

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 in the amount of **\$1,951,206.30**. Payroll for the month of March in the amount of **\$151,155.76** and associated employer benefits in the amount of **\$59,925.81**.

Anne Deacon moved the motion for approval, Rud Browne seconded, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion 21-17 carried.

### Action Items

***For Board Approval***

#### Pioneer Human Services

PHS is requesting startup funding for the Snohomish County Denny Facility in the amount of **\$143,790.32** for IT equipment and a vehicle for program use. 32 beds being transferred from Pioneer Center North to the Everett facility, 16 beds for SUD residential treatment with a focus on Opioid addiction, and 16 beds for co-occurring mental health/substance abuse treatment. PHS is also applying for a grant to cover smaller capital costs.

This would be a cost reimbursement contract.

- Vehicle **\$31,995.32**
- IT Equipment **\$111,795**

#### Motion #21-18

North Sound BH-ASO-PHS-ICN-19-21 Amendment 5 for the provision of adding startup costs for the Snohomish County Denny Facility. The maximum amount is **\$143,790.32**. The contract term is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021 with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2021 based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

#### Behavioral Health Enhancement Funds (BHEF)

This funding is a legislative proviso to help providers recruit and retain staff. After surveying providers, we requested proposals on the usage of the funds. We receive **\$992,088.00** per year in BHEF. The asks were higher than our allocation, so we have allocated the funds based on the provision of ASO services they are currently providing.

Here are the 6-month allocations.

- Lake Whatcom Center
  - **\$124,000**
- Sunrise

- \$2,000
- Compass Health
  - \$300,000
- Lifeline
  - \$50,000
- Sea Mar
  - \$20,000

Cammy Hart-Anderson moved the motion for approval, Rud Browne seconded, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion 21-18 carried.

#### **Motion #21-19**

- North Sound BH-ASO-LWC-ICN-19-21 Amendment 1 for the provision of adding Behavioral Health Enhancement Funds to the contract for the period of January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$124,000. The contract term is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021 with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2021 based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- North Sound BH-ASO-Sunrise Services-ICN-19-21 Amendment 2 for the provision of adding Behavioral Health Enhancement Funds to the contract for the period of January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$2,000. The contract term is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021 with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2021 based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- North Sound BH-ASO-Compass Health-ICN-19-21 Amendment 5 for the provision of adding Behavioral Health Enhancement Funds to the contract for the period of January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$300,000. The contract term is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021 with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2021 based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- North Sound BH-ASO-Lifeline Connections-ICN-19-21 Amendment 3 for the provision of adding Behavioral Health Enhancement Funds to the contract for the period of January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$50,000. The contract term is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021 with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2021 based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- North Sound BH-ASO-Sea Mar-ICN-19-21 Amendment 2 for the provision of adding Behavioral Health Enhancement Funds to the contract for the period of January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$20,000. The contract term is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021 with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2021 based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.  
Anne Deacon moved the motion for approval, Rud Browne seconded, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion 21-19 carried.

Adjourn 3:00 p.m.

*Next meeting: May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

*The July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting will be canceled.*



## 1. FINAL LEGISLATION AND BUDGET

- This has been a significant legislative year for behavioral health policy initiatives and funding. [attachment #1- "Behavioral Health Bill List"]
- Two major policy bills for behavioral health have been passed:
  - E2SHB 1477 [the 988 bill]
  - EHSB 5476 [responding to the Blake decision]
- There have also been a number of new allocations and funding increases for behavioral health, including additional funding for BH-ASOs [attachments # 2 & 3- "2021 behavioral health budget highlights" and "2021-2023 Omnibus Operating Budget-HCA Agency Detail].
- There is also proviso funding for 3 North Sound projects:
  - 1) \$300,000 in both FY 2022 and FY 2023 to provide "trauma informed counseling services to children and youth in Whatcom County schools;
  - 2) \$200,000 in both FY 2022 and FY 2023 to establish the "Whatcom county crisis stabilization center as a pilot project for diversion from the criminal justice system to appropriate community-based treatment"; and,
  - 3) \$750,0000 to "provide a one-time grant to Island county to fund a pilot program to improve behavioral health outcomes for young people in rural communities."

## 2. WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

- There has been an acceleration of workforce shortages among North Sound Behavioral Health Agencies [BHAs] in the last month. There are almost no adult mental health outpatient appointments outside of Snohomish County.
- This was a topic of discussion at the April 21 Integrated Provider meeting where providers were invited to share their specific challenges and ideas for solutions. [Attachment #4 is a consolidated list of ideas from this meeting and 3 other sources].
- A subsequent directive from HCA has required us to come up with a strategy to address the lack of openings for new appointments by May 4.
- There was an emergency meeting of the Joint Operating Committee on April 26 to begin discussing solutions. We reviewed the results of an "access" survey regarding the availability of appointments for both mental health and SUD services that was sent to all providers.
- Additional feedback from providers was obtained at a follow up behavioral health provider meeting on May 4. Their input reinforced the idea that providers are having trouble competing with other organizations such as private practice clinics. They also reported on a dearth of qualified applicants for job openings. Changes in practice models were discussed such as more use of group sessions using virtual platforms and using more bachelor level clinicians who are provided additional training.

- One of the ideas discussed was ways to increase the capacity of the number of providers serving the North Sound region. One BHA – Consejo out of King County – approached us independently about contracting with us to serve San Juan County. Because they can provide both mental health and SUD telehealth services, we are interested in a regional contract that would allow them to serve other parts of the region in the future.

### 3. **CRISIS SERVICES**

- **Weekly Crisis Capacity Indicator Report** – through May 1 [attachment #5]
  - Calls to the Crisis Line remain at historically high levels and have begun trending up upwards again for the last 4 weeks.
  - The number of mobile crisis outreach team dispatches have also been climbing for the last 3 weeks, along a continued upwards trend line.
  - Both Crisis Service calls and mobile crisis outreaches for youth continue to climb
  - The use of Telehealth for ITA investigations has been high for the last 9 weeks
  - Hospital placements at Providence Everett remain very high – about 16-23 placements a week.

### 4. **APRIL 14 HCA LETTER REGARDING BHO CLOSE OUT LIABILITY**

- On April 14, MaryAnne Lindeblad sent a letter outlining HCA’s response to the proposal we discussed on a phone call with HCA on March 31 regarding a resolution to the remaining BHO close out liability.
- This letter will be discussed at the May 13 Board of Director’s meeting [attachment #6].

### 5. **TEAMonitor REVIEW**

- HCA has sent us the list of questions we must address for their 2021 “TEAMonitor” Review.
- We need to provide all of the required responses and supporting documents by July 13. The onsite review is scheduled for September 28.



**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

April 14, 2021

Jill Johnson  
Island County Commissioner, District 2  
North Sound BH-ASO Board of Directors, Chair  
North Sound BH-ASO  
2021 E. College Way, Suite 101  
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

*Sent electronically to: [Jill.Johnson@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:Jill.Johnson@islandcountywa.gov)*

**RE: North Sound BHO Negative Reserve Balance & Closeout**

Dear Jill:

Thank you for meeting with us on March 31, 2021 to discuss recent motions approved by the Board of Directors of the North Sound BH-ASO regarding the fiscal close of the North Sound Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) contract with the Health Care Authority (HCA).

During the meeting, and based on the letter from North Sound BH-ASO dated March 17, 2021, you indicated the North Sound BH-ASO Board approved the following actions on March 11, 2021:

- 1) Authorized North Sound BH-ASO to reimburse the North Sound BHO account to prepaid rent and equipment, in the amount of \$854,850.38.
- 2) Remit to HCA the remaining North Sound BHO cash balance of **\$1,999,364.95**, which includes the \$854,850.38 reimbursement from North Sound BH-ASO to HCA.
- 3) Reimburse, from the North Sound BH-ASO account, the North Sound BHO account for the portion of seed money that North Sound BHO had allocated to Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, and Island counties in 2016 to develop new behavioral health facilities, in the amount of **\$4,886,720.77**.

At the March 31 meeting, North Sound legal representative Philip Buri was present. During the meeting, North Sound stated that the North Sound BH-ASO Board and legal representative have reviewed the relevant bylaws and assert the authority under those bylaws to take all of the actions described above. It was further stated that these assets benefit the BH-ASO and can therefore be transferred to the BHO to meet the obligations of the BHO.

According to executive director Joe Valentine, the use of these new assets as behavioral health facilities and the resulting increase in services conforms with Section 5.1.11 of the BH-ASO's contract with HCA, which provides as follows:

Jill Johnson  
Island County Commissioner, District 2  
North Sound BH-ASO Board of Directors, Chair  
April 14, 2021  
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The Contractor shall ensure that all funds provided pursuant to this Contract (other than the 10 percent allowed for administration [and] 5 percent for direct service supports and up to 1.75 percent for B&O tax for actual expenditures paid directly to government entities specifically for B&O taxes) including interest earned, are to be used to provide services as described in this Contract. Direct service supports and B&O tax expense allowances are up to the percentage indicated and not a percentage of GFS funding as is calculated for administrative costs.

It is solely and exclusively up to the North Sound BH-ASO as to any determination of the legality of the actions that the BH-ASO wants to take. HCA cannot give legal advice to the BH-ASO in this regard. HCA acknowledges that the BH-ASO Board has authorized the actions described above. HCA's acknowledgement must not be construed as giving a legal imprimatur to the actions.

HCA accepts the steps noted above as the path forward toward resolving the matter of the BHO's outstanding reserves balance, as well as the inpatient stay balance that is currently due to HCA. HCA emphasizes and stresses that Section 2.36.1 of the BH-ASO contract requires the BH-ASO to maintain a reserve balance as specified within the contract.

We appreciate the Board's willingness to resolve the outstanding issues and to continue to work to serve the people of the North Sound region.

We would like to continue the discussion regarding the findings of the [Accountability Audit Report](#) dated February 18, 2021, related to staff retention bonuses. We are internally reviewing this matter and the materials provided by your legal representative. We anticipate reaching out to you by the end of the month to facilitate further discussion.

We look forward to talking to you soon.

Best regards,



MaryAnne Lindeblad, BSN, MPH  
Medicaid Director

By email

cc: Megan Atkinson, CFO, FS, HCA  
Annette Schuffenhauer, Chief Legal Officer, DLS, HCA  
Catrina Lucero, Deputy CFO, FS, HCA  
Jason McGill, Assistant Director, MPD, HCA  
Teresa Claycamp, Program Manager, MSA, HCA  
Michele Wilsie, Community Budget Manager, FS, HCA