



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES VIRTUAL MEETING

April 9, 2020

Board of Directors Members present *via phone*:

- Jill Johnson, County Commissioner; Island County, Board Chair
- Ken Dahlstedt, County Commissioner; Board of Skagit County
- 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
- Nicole Gorle; Legislative Analyst, designated alternate for Stephanie Wright, Snohomish County Council
- Bill Watson; Council Member; San Juan County
- Rud Browne, County Council Member; Whatcom County
- Jackie Mitchell, Behavioral Health; Whatcom County, designated alternate for Satpal Sidhu
- Heidi Beazizo, Sr. Legislative Analyst; Snohomish County, designated alternate for Nate Nehring
- Anne Deacon, Whatcom County Human Services Manager, designated alternate for Rud Browne
- Barbara LaBrash, County Coordinator; San Juan County, designated alternate for Bill Watson

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

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

Call to Order and Introductions (Including Public) – Chair

Jill Johnson (Chair) called the meeting to order and initiated introductions.

Meeting Structure-Joe Valentine

Joe noted this was a public meeting even though it was being held virtually (due to COVID-19). It was also noted there would be no action items during this meeting (see Governor's Proclamation is below).

Revisions to the Agenda, (No Action Items) – Chair

The Chair asked if there were any revisions to the Agenda and there were none.

Comments & Announcements from the Chair

- The Chair said conversations are underway with Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) regarding a more collaborative approach and process with Health Care Authority (HCA) and potential shared outcomes for all.
- The Chair said that Island County allocation of operating funds in the State Budget money is not going to Commerce, it is going to the ASO, the pass through is good news for the building project that is underway.

Reports from Members-Chair

Cammy/Snohomish County: A 100 bed isolation center has been set up (April 1st) in response to the virus, Pioneer Human Services providing the oversight. The Diversion Center is closed temporarily while the quarantine center is open. Commerce Grant funds are being used to cover the associated costs of the center.

Cammy added that the Designated Crisis Responders (DCR)s are still actively engaged in the field. Emergency Departments (ED)s are still conducting Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) investigations.

Heidi /Snohomish County said that the Lake Stevens school has a support line to assist during the pandemic.

Anne/Whatcom County: Whatcom is setting up an isolation and quarantine facility in response to the COVID Pandemic. The GRACE Team has been redeployed to manage the operations of the facility.

Ken/Skagit County: A hotel was rented for a quarantine center for those who need it. There is concern over the Corona Virus Shelter in Place Order and graduating high school seniors, sports, isolation, mental health concerns, suicide, social and emotional wellbeing and the potential negative behavioral impacts.

Comments from the Public-Chair

The Chair asked if there were any comments from the public, there were none.

Report from the Finance Officer-Joe Valentine

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

Report from the Executive Director-Joe Valentine

Joe gave the report from the Executive Director and answered questions from the Board Members.

He covered the following topics below:

- EXTENSION OF NORTH SOUND BH ASO FACILITY CLOSURE: COVID-19 RESOURCES CRISIS SERVICE
- OPIOID OUTREACH SERVICES
- NORTH SOUND BH-ASO FUNDING FOR TRIAGE FACILITIES
- CRISIS COUNSELING PROGRAM
- SAMHSA EMERGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GRANT
- GOVERNOR'S BUDGET VETOES
- DISCHARGE OF WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL PATIENTS
- NORTH SOUND BH-ASO STAFF MASK SEWING PROJECT
- COVID WEEKLY DASHBOARD

Introduction Items: Joe Valentine

a. Snohomish County Triage Facility

The Snohomish County Triage facility has not received proviso funding and has been running at a loss since July 2019. We know from July 2019 through December 2019 the costs incurred for Non-Medicaid individuals is approximately \$348K, which North Sound will cover along with funding for January 2020 through June 2020 services, this amount is still being determined, but Compass indicates it will be less than the previous period. The services for Non-Medicaid individuals will be covered with GF-S.

b. Skagit Crisis Center

The Skagit Crisis Center has not received proviso funding and has been running at a loss since July 2019. We intend to fund Pioneer at the Skagit Crisis Center in the amount of \$100K with SABG funds for January 2020 through June 2020 for the Non-Medicaid individuals showing up at their facility.

Margaret Rojas and Joe Valentine spoke to the Introduction Items above. Questions were answered from the Board Members.

Discussion Items: Chair

a. County Needs For BH-ASO COVID-19 Response

Joe asked the Board Members to email him if they have needs because of COVID-19.

b. Restructuring North Sound BH ASO Board of Director Meetings to Facilitate Participation by County Elected Officials

The topic above was discussed. It was noted that COVID-19 will impact Elected participation right now. Scheduling was mentioned as possible hurdles. It was also noted that the if the possibility of some of the meetings being virtual was added, versus all being in-person, this might help with Elected Official participation.

The consensus was that direct contact with the Elected Officials was the option of choice, versus a survey.

Adjourn 2:59 p.m.

Next meeting: May 14th, 2020 (in person meeting or virtual meeting is to be determined)

Emergency Proclamation Regarding Open Public Meetings Act

Governor Inslee's [Proclamation 20-28](#), issued March 24, temporarily prohibits public agencies from conducting any in-person meetings and requires all remote meetings to provide an option for public attendance via telephonic, electronic, internet, or other means of remote access and provide the ability for all persons attending the meeting to hear each other at the same time. Agencies are also prohibited from taking "action," as defined in [RCW 42.30.020\(3\)](#), unless those matters are necessary and routine matters or are matters necessary to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and the current public health emergency, until such time as regular public participation under the Open Public Meetings Act is possible.

For further information regarding this Proclamation, see MRSC's blog post: [Governor Suspends In-Person Requirements in OPMA and PRA During COVID-19 Emergency](#).

AGO Guidance for Public Meetings During COVID-19 Outbreak

The Washington State Attorney General's Office released on March 6 some [General Guidance](#) on how to conduct public meetings during the COVID-19 outbreak, followed by [supplemental guidance issued March 26](#) to reflect the governor's Emergency Proclamation 20-28.

FAQs on Public Meetings During COVID-19 Outbreak

For answers to frequently asked questions, see MRSC's [COVID-19 FAQs on Public Meetings and Public Hearings](#).