
October 10th, 2024

**Board of Directors Members Present
in Person:**

Members Present via MS Teams:

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

Guests Present:

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – Chair
2. **Tribal Acknowledgement** – Chair
[Tribal Behavioral Health | North Sound BH-ASO \(nsbhaso.org\)](https://www.nsbhaso.org)
3. **Revisions to the Agenda** – Chair
4. **Approval of the September 12th, 2024, Minutes, Motion #24-43** – Chair....
Attachment
5. **Comments & Announcements from the Chair** - Chair
6. **Reports from Members** - Chair
7. **Comments from the Public** – Chair
8. **State Auditor Exit Conference** (Available at Meeting) Attachment
9. **Compensation Survey for NS BH-ASO**
10. **Report from the Advisory Board** (Available at Meeting) Attachment
Kara Allen, Advisory Board Chair
11. **Report from the Finance Officer** (Available at Meeting) Attachment

Margaret Rojas, Assistant Director

12. 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 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.

Consent Agenda - Chair (Available at Meeting)Attachment

Motion #24-44

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from September 1st, 2024, through September 30th, 2024, in the amount of \$1,599,305.72.
- Payroll for the month of September in the amount of \$199,245.42, and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$97,576.68.

13. Action Items – Margaret Rojas, Assistant Director

For Board Approval

Health Care Authority (HCA)

- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH). This is an outreach program targeting individuals with a serious mental illness who are unhoused in Snohomish County. The annual funding for this service is \$219,026.00. North Sound provides a mandatory match annually of \$73,000.00.
- Peer Pathfinder Homeless Outreach Programs. Funding is used to support outreach and engagement services for those who are, or who are risk of homelessness and have or are suspected to have an Opiate Use Disorder and/or stimulant use disorder in Whatcom County. The annual funding for these services is \$131,480.00.
- Additional ARPA Peer Pathfinder funds are included in the amount of \$71,020.00 annually to specifically work with individuals exiting correctional facilities who have a serious mental illness or co-occurring conditions in Whatcom County.

Motion # 24-45

HCA-North Sound BH-ASO-PATH-24 for the purpose of funding PATH services in Snohomish County. The contract term is October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

Motion #24-46

HCA-North Sound BH-ASO-Peer Path Finder-24 for the purpose of providing peer pathfinder services in Whatcom County. The term of the contract is October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

- The following two contracts are the downstream contracts for PATH and Peer Pathfinder services.

Bridgeways

- Bridgeways is the provider of PATH services in Snohomish County. The annual funding amount is \$219,026.00 of grant funding and \$73,000.00 in matching State funds for case management services for a total of \$292,026.00.

Motion #24-47

North Sound BH-ASO-Bridgeways-PATH-24 for the purpose of providing PATH outreach and case management services in Snohomish County. The term of this agreement is October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Lifeline Connections

- Lifeline Connections is the provider of Peer Pathfinder Services in Whatcom County. The total annual funding for this service is \$202,500.00

Motion #24-48

NS BH-ASO-Lifeline Connections-FBG-23 Amendment 4 to provide funding to the Peer Path Finder services under this contract. The contract term is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on January 1, 2025, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

14. Introduction Items Attachment

Margaret Rojas, Assistant Director

Skagit County Recovery Café

- Skagit County Recovery Café has requested one time funding to offer an additional recovery circle and food for the members. The request is \$24,000.00

Motion #XX-XX

North Sound BH-ASO-New Earth Recovery-PSC-23 Amendment 1 for the purpose of adding additional funds to support the center’s operations.

15. Discussion Items

JanRose Ottaway Martin, Executive Director

- North Sound Behavioral Health Legislative Summit

16. Draft Report from the Executive Director Attachment

JanRose Ottaway Martin, Executive Director

17. Adjourn - Chair

Next Meeting: November 14th, 2024

September 12th, 2024

**Board of Directors Members Present
in Person:**

- **Barry Buchanan**, County Council, Whatcom County
- **Cammy Hart-Anderson**, Human Services, Designated Alternate for Dave Somers, County Executive; Snohomish County
- **Jill Johnson**, Commissioner, Island County
- **George Kosovich**, Community Services Division Manager, Designated Alternate for Peter Browning, Commissioner, Skagit County

Members Present via MS Teams:

- **Cindy Wolf**, Council Member; San Juan County
- **Cynthia Foley**, Sr. Legislative Analyst, Designated Alternate for Strom Peterson, County Council; Snohomish County
- **Nicole Gorle**, Legislative Analyst, Designated Alternate for Nate Nehring, County Council; Snohomish County
- **Jami Mitchell**, Human Services Manager, Designated Alternate for Cindy Wolf, County Council; San Juan County
- **George Kosovich**, Skagit County Public Health, Designated Alternate for Peter Browning, Commissioner, Skagit County
- **Malora Christensen**, Response System Division Manager, Designated Alternate for Satpal Sidhu, County Executive; Whatcom County
- **Darcy Cheesman**, Legislative Aid, Designated Alternate for Sam Low, County Council; Snohomish County
- **Kara Allen**, Advisory Board Chair

(North Sound BH-ASO) Staff Present:

- **Michael McAuley**, Clinical Director
- **Margaret Rojas**, Assistant Director
- **Darrell Heiner**, Senior Accountant
- **Kim Nakatani**, Accountant
- **Charles DeElena**, Business Improvement Manager/Compliance Officer
- **Maria Arreola**, Sr. Administrative Assistant
- **Joanie Wenzl**, Administrative Manager, Clerk of the Board

Guests Present:

Lori Fleming, Snohomish County Rual Behavioral Health Consortium

Call to Order and Introductions – Chair

The Chair called the meeting to order and initiated introductions.

It was noted that JanRose Ottaway-Martin (NS BH-ASO Executive Director) is on vacation today and Margaret Rojas, (NS BH-ASO Assistant Executive Director will be speaking in her absence).

Tribal Acknowledgement – Chair

[Tribal Behavioral Health | North Sound BH-ASO \(nsbhaso.org\)](https://www.nsbhaso.org)

The Chair read the Tribal Acknowledgement.

Revisions to the Agenda – Chair

No revisions to the agenda were requested.

Approval of the August 8th, 2024, Minutes, Motion #24-38 – Chair

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Cammy Hart-Anderson seconded the motion, Barry Buchanan abstained, as he was on vacation during the August Board meeting, all others were in favor, none opposed, motion #24-38 carried.

Comments & Announcements from the Chair – Chair

The Chair said he is glad to see everyone today.

Reports from Members – Chair

The Board members gave updates regarding the behavioral health efforts and successes that are taking place in their respective counties.

Comments from the Public – Chair

There were no comments from the public

Report from the Advisory Board

Kara Allen, Advisory Board Chair

Kara gave the report from the Advisory Board's September meeting.

Report from the Finance Officer

Margaret Rojas, Assistant Director

Margaret gave the Report from the Finance Officer.

Report from the Governance Operations Committee – Chair

During the Governance and Operations Meeting, the Warrants were reviewed and approved to be forwarded to the full board.

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.

Consent Agenda - Chair

Motion #24-39

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from August 1st, through August 31st, 2024, in the amount of \$5,765,840.04.
- Payroll for the month of August in the amount of \$199,056.82 and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$97,653.37.

Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Cammy Hart-Anderson seconded, all in favor, no abstentions, motion #24-39 carried.

Action Items – Margaret Rojas, Assistant Director

For Board Approval

Proviso 86-Behavioral Health Housing and Services

- An additional \$738,833.00 was allocated in the ASO July HCA amendment. This doubles our annual allotment for Proviso 86 funds. These funds are intended for rental assistance and/or behavioral health services for individuals involved with the criminal justice system. Effective date of funding availability is July 1, 2024.
- The following motion is the downstream contracts allocating the additional Proviso 86 behavioral health rental assistance and services in four counties, San Juan County is served by Compass Health with HARPS rental assistance funds.
 - Bridgeways Proviso 86 rental assistance and services in Snohomish County.
 - July addition of Proviso 86 funds \$45,000.00
 - Total Proviso 86 12-month allocation \$206,000.00.
 - Compass Health Proviso 86 rental assistance/services Snohomish County.
 - July addition of Proviso 86 funds \$45,000.00
 - Total Proviso 86 12-month allocation \$195,000.00.
 - Lifeline Connections Proviso 86 rental assistance and services in Skagit and Whatcom County.
 - July addition of Proviso 86 funds \$45,000.00
 - Total Proviso 86 12-month allocation \$227,935.00.
 - Lake Whatcom Center Proviso 86 rental assistance and services in Whatcom County.

- July addition of Proviso 86 funds \$120,000.00
- Total Proviso 86 12-month allocation \$270,000.00.
- Opportunity Council rental assistance and services in Whatcom County.
 - July addition of proviso 86 funds \$120,000.00
 - Total Proviso 86 12-month allocation \$276,000.00
- Pioneer Human Services Proviso 86 rental assistance and services in Island County.
 - July addition of Proviso 86 funds \$120,000.00
 - Total Proviso 86 12-month allocation \$302,935.00.

Motion #24-40

NS BH-ASO-Bridgeways-CBRA-23 Amendment 3 for the provision of additional Proviso 86 funds for rental assistance and services in Snohomish County. The contract term is July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2025, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

NS BH-ASO-Compass Health-CBRA-23 Amendment 3 for the provision of additional Proviso 86 funds for rental assistance and services in Snohomish County. The contract term is July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2025, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

NS BH-ASO-Lifeline Connections-FBG-23 Amendment 5 for the provision of additional Proviso 86 funds for rental assistance and services in Skagit and Whatcom County. The contract term is July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2025, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

NS BH-ASO-Lake Whatcom Center-CBRA-23 Amendment 3 for the provision of additional proviso 86 funds for rental assistance and services in Whatcom County. The contract term is July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2025, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

NS BH-ASO-Opportunity Council-CBRA-23 Amendment 3 for the provision of additional Proviso 86 funds for rental assistance and services in Whatcom County. The contract term is July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2025, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

NS BH-ASO-Pioneer Human Services-CBRA-23 Amendment 3 for the provision of additional Proviso 86 funds for rental assistance and services in Island County. The contract term is July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2025, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

[Jill Johnson moved the motion for approval, Peter Browning seconded, all in favor, none opposed, motion #24-40 carried.](#)

ARPA Federal Block Grant

- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Federal Grant award will expire on September 30, 2024.
 - The program has expanded services in Skagit & Island Counties.
 - Expansion of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Concrete and Oak Harbor
 - Lifeline Connections \$60,000.00 for MAT services
 - Expansion of our Opioid Outreach teams in east Skagit County
 - Mount Baker Presbyterian Church \$235,000.00 for Opioid Outreach
 - Supporting a prevention specialist in the Coupeville School District
 - NW ESD 189 \$25,000.00 for School Prevention
 - Funding a Co-Responder with Skagit Sheriff's Office

- Skagit County Public Health \$150,907.00 for Co-Responder Services
- San Juan County Recovery Café Peer Support
 - Lopez Island Family Resource Center-Heart & Soul Café \$28,260.00
- Juvenile Treatment Services
 - Snohomish County Superior Court \$51,000.00 for expansion of services for juveniles and families referred to Snohomish County probation.

Motion #24-41

NS BH-ASO-Lopez Island Heart and Soul-PSC-23 Amendment 1 to provide additional funding for the Recovery Café on Lopez Island. The term of this agreement is November 1, 2023, with a new expiration date of June 30, 2025, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

NS BH-ASO-Lifeline Connections-ICN-23 Amendment 5 to provide the funding for MAT services under this contract. The contract term is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025, with an automatic one-year renewal on January 1, 2026, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

NS BH-ASO-Mount Baker Presbyterian Church-ICN-23 Amendment 1 to provide funding for Opioid Outreach services under this contract. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2025, with an automatic one-year renewal on September 1, 2025, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

NS BH-ASO-Skagit County-Interlocal-23 Amendment 5 to provide the funding for Co-Responder services under this contract. The contract term is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025, with an automatic one-year renewal on January 1, 2026, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

NS BH-ASO-NW ESD 189-PSC-23 Amendment 1 for the purpose of providing a prevention specialist in the Coupeville School District. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

NS BH-ASO-Snohomish County Superior Court-ICN-23 Amendment 4 to provide additional funding to continue services under this contract. The contract term is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025, with an automatic one-year renewal on January 1, 2026, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Cammy Hart-Anderson moved the motion for approval, Jill Johnson seconded, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion #24-41 carried.

Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT)

- Compass Health has two (2) PACT teams, in Skagit & Snohomish counties serving up to 150 individuals. The need continues to expand for these services. Compass Health is requesting seven (7) additional rotating slots, currently they have (8) eight slots. The slots are reserved for individuals moving on and off Medicaid due to reoccurring spend downs. The cost of the additional PACT slots is up to \$358,548.96 annually, for a total of \$768,319.20 annually for 15 rotating slots.

Motion #24-42

NS BH-ASO-Compass Health-ICCN-23 Amendment 5 to provide funding to add additional PACT service funds under this contract. The contract term is January 1, 2023, through December 31,

2025, with an automatic one-year renewal on January 1, 2026, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Peter Browning moved the motion for approval, Jill Johnson seconded, all in favor, no abstentions, none opposed, motion #24-42 carried.

Introduction Items

Margaret Rojas, Assistant Director

Health Care Authority (HCA)

- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH). This is an outreach program targeting individuals with a serious mental illness who are unhoused in Snohomish County. The annual funding for this service is \$219,026.00. North Sound provides a mandatory match annually of \$73,000.00.
- Peer Pathfinder Homeless Outreach Programs. Funding is used to support outreach and engagement services for those who are, or who are risk of homelessness and have or are suspected to have an Opiate Use Disorder and/or stimulant use disorder in Whatcom County. The annual funding for these services is \$131,480.00.
- Additional ARPA Peer Pathfinder funds are included in the amount of \$71,020.00 annually to specifically work with individuals exiting correctional facilities who have a serious mental illness or co-occurring conditions in Whatcom County.

Motion #

HCA-North Sound BH-ASO-PATH-24 for the purpose of funding PATH services in Snohomish County. The contract term is October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

Motion #

HCA-North Sound BH-ASO-Peer Path Finder-24 for the purpose of providing peer pathfinder services in Whatcom County. The term of the contract is October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

- The following two contracts are the downstream contracts for PATH and Peer Pathfinder services.

Bridgeways

- Bridgeways is the provider of PATH services in Snohomish County. The annual funding amount is \$219,026.00 of grant funding and \$73,000.00 in matching State funds for case management services for a total of \$292,026.00

Motion #

North Sound BH-ASO-Bridgeways-PATH-24 for the purpose of providing PATH outreach and case management services in Snohomish County. The term of this agreement is October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Lifeline Connections

- Lifeline Connections is the provider of Peer Pathfinder Services in Whatcom County. The total annual funding for this service is \$202,500.00

Motion #

NS BH-ASO-Lifeline Connections-FBG-23 Amendment 4 to provide funding to the Peer Path Finder services under this contract. The contract term is January 1, 2023, through

December 31, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on January 1, 2025, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract

Margaret Rojas gave an overview of the Introduction Items, there were no questions.

Discussion Items

Margaret Rojas, Assistant Director

- The NS BH-ASO Compensation Study has been added to the October Agenda for discussion with the full board

- Capital Requests will be added to the October Agenda for a discussion with the full board

An overview was given by Margaret Rojas regarding the discussion items that will be discussed next month during the October Board Meeting.

She added that the ASO's Proposed Budget will be prepared next month.

Report from the Director

Margaret Rojas, Assistant Director

Margaret gave the Report from the Director

Adjourn – Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 10th, 2024

Weekly Crisis Metrics Report:

See attached.

First Annual North Sound Behavioral Health Legislative Summit

We held the first annual legislative summit on October 1st.

North Sound's Regional Legislative Priorities were identified as:

1. ASO Flexibility in Proviso Funding Appropriations
2. Regional Capital or Program Start-Up Funding Needs
3. Building and Strengthening Access to Care for Youth
4. Supporting WSAC Behavioral Health Priority to establish a process, recommendations and timeline for Medicaid re-procurement that would address expectations to MCOs and Access Issues

We are working on a communication that will go out to all attendees and all legislators that were not at the meeting. We will include county documents and priorities in that communication. Many legislators who were not able to attend asked for this as a follow-up. I will be offering 1:1 meetings with me if any legislators want to discuss the identified priorities.

Assessing Crisis System and any gaps

We are in the process of identifying gaps and issues in the Crisis System (DCRs and MRRCT) and have started to engage with providers and partners throughout the region to see where we may need to add additional staff, teams or resources.

Hired two new positions

North Sound ASO is currently hiring for two new positions:

- Clinical Manager: With the expansion of clinical programs in the last couple years, we acknowledged the need for a new Clinical Manager on the clinical team. This position will supervise staff and allow our Clinical Director to focus on larger system's work and improvement. We hired Megan Drake for this position.
- Youth Navigator Coordinator: The first position we are hiring for the Youth Navigator Program is the Coordinator position to assist in designing this new program. We hired Angela Fraser-Powell for this position.

Youth Navigator Program (aka Kids' Mental Health):

Our clinical staff (Michael McAuley and Angela Fraser-Powell) are working on the next steps for establishing the North Sound Youth Navigator Program. This includes beginning the

recruitment process for the Youth Navigator Coordinator position. This position is completely funded through the Youth Navigator Program state funding through the HCA. Angela will present more information about this program in upcoming County Coordinator and Advisory Board meetings to discuss current plans and identify any gaps that we haven't considered that we could potentially address through this program.

Meeting with EMT/EMS and Fire Departments in November to discuss Endorsed MRRCT/CBCT models:

The Health Care Authority continues to move forward on the new Endorsed Mobile Rapid Response Crisis Teams (MRRCT) and Community Based Crisis Teams (CBCT). They are starting to release information on estimated funding amounts and the final Endorsement Standards should be available in October. As this will greatly affect work with the crisis system throughout the region, we want to hold a regional meeting with EMT/EMS and Fire Departments to ensure they know about this program, basic requirements and current funding models. We are hoping to get an understanding of which departments (if any) may pursue this new endorsement.