



Board of Directors

Meeting Agenda

March 14th, 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 \(insbhaso.org\)](https://www.insbhaso.org)
- 3. Revisions to the Agenda** – Chair
- 4. Approval of the February 8th, 2024, Minutes, Motion #24-08** – Chair.... Attachment
- 5. Comments & Announcements from the Chair**
- 6. Reports from Members**
- 7. Comments from the Public**
- 8. NS BH-ASO Compliance Report** ...(Available at Meeting).....Attachment
Charles DeElena
- 9. Report from the Advisory Board** (Available at Meeting) Attachment
- 10. Report from the Finance Officer** (Available at Meeting) Attachment

11. 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 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 (Available at Meeting) Attachment

Motion #24-09

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from February 1stth, 2024 through February 29th, 2024, in the amount of \$.
- Payroll for the month of February in the amount of \$ and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$.

12. Action Items

For Board Approval

Signatory Authority

This motion will authorize the Executive Director, JanRose Ottaway Martin as a signatory on behalf of the North Sound BH-ASO. Other authorized signors remain the same: Margaret Rojas, Deputy Director/ HR Manager, Darren Martin, IS/IT Manager, Michael McAuley, Clinical Director.

Motion #24-10

- To approve adding JanRose Ottaway Martin, Executive Director, as signing authority (replacing Joe Valentine) on North Sound BH-ASO’s accounts at Skagit County Auditors’ office and the accounts at Banner Bank for: Petty Cash, Advanced Travel, and the employee Flexible Spending Account. The North Sound BH-ASO signatories shall have authorization privileges for disbursements over Perry Cash, Advance Travel, Flexible Spending accounts, vouchers, payroll and investing.

Didgwalic Wellness Center

Didgwalic Wellness Center was the successful bidder for the expansion of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Skagit County, specifically east county. This service will be available to all individuals regardless of their ability to pay. Didgwalic will bill Medicaid, Indican Health providers and private insurance. The annual allocation is \$50,000.

Motion #24-11

- To approve North Sound BH-ASO-Didgwalic Wellness Center-ICN-24 for the purpose of providing Medication Assisted Treatment in eastern Skagit County. The contract term is March 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

City of Mount Vernon Co-Responder Program

We are providing an additional \$40,000 in funding, \$20,000 is a carryover from their previous contract cycle and \$20,000 in ongoing cost for an increase in wages for this contract period. Total funding: \$80,000.

Motion # 24-12

- To approve NS BH-ASO-City of Mount Vernon-Interlocal-23 Amendment 2 to provide funding for the integrated co-responder team with the City of Mount Vernon Police Department The contract term is July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on January 1, 2025, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

13. Introduction Items

Jail Transition Services

Proviso reserve funds are being allocated to jail transition programs for one-time expenditures. Total funds available: \$183,768 of Jail Transition and \$66,628 will be allocated from General Funds-State reserves.

- Island County \$21,000
- Skagit County \$127,500
- Whatcom County \$101,896

Dedicated Cannabis Account

Proviso reserve funds are being allocated to Snohomish County Human Services. Total funds available: \$287,275 in Dedicate Cannabis Account and \$32,725 will be allocated in General Fund-State reserves.

- Snohomish County \$320,000

14. DRAFT Report from the Executive Director Attachment

15. Adjourn

Next Meeting: April 11th, 2024



Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

February 8th, 2024

Board of Directors Members Present in Person:

- o **Barry Buchanan**, County Council; Whatcom County
- o **Peter Browning**, Commissioner; Skagit County, North Sound BH-ASO Board Chair
- o **George Kosovich**, Public Health, Designated Alternate for Peter Browning, Commissioner; Skagit County
- o **Anji Jorstad**, Human Services, Designated Alternate for Dave Somers, County Executive, Snohomish County

Members Present via MS Teams:

- **Nicole Gorle**, Legislative Analyst, Designated Alternate for Nate Nehring, County Council; Snohomish County
- **Jami Mitchell**, Human Services Manager, Designated Alternate for Jane Fuller, County Council; San Juan County
- **Darcy Cheesman**, Legislative Aid, Designated Alternate for Sam Low, County Council; Snohomish County
- **Cynthia Foley**, Sr. Legislative Analyst, Designated Alternate for Strom Peterson, County Council; Snohomish County
- **Kara Allen**, Advisory Board Chair
- **Chris Garden**, Advisory Board Vice-Chair
- **Malora Christensen**, Response Systems Division Manager, Designated Alternate for Satpal Sidhu, County Executive; Whatcom County

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

- **JanRose Ottaway-Martin**, Executive Director
- **Margaret Rojas**, Assistant Executive Director
- **Darrell Heiner**, Senior Accountant
- **Kimberly Nakatani**, Accountant
- **Maria Arreola**, Senior Admin Assistant
- **Michael McAuley**, Clinical Director
- **Charles DeElena**, Business Improvement Manager/Compliance Officer
- **Joanie Wenzl**, Administrative Manager, Clerk of the Board

Guests Present:

There were no guests present

Call to Order and Introductions – Chair

The Chair called the meeting to order and asked the board members to introduce themselves.

Tribal Acknowledgement – Chair

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

The chair read the Tribal Acknowledgement.

Revisions to the Agenda – Chair

The Chair asked if there were any revisions to the agenda. No revisions were requested.

Approval of the January 11th, 2024, Minutes, Motion #24-05 – Chair

Jami Mitchell noted the minutes from January needed amended. She represents San Juan, but the minutes show her as representing Snohomish County.

The Clerk of the Board will amend the minutes.

Peter moved a motion for approval of the January Minutes upon the edit listed above, all in favor, none opposed, motion #24-05 carried.

Comments & Announcements from the Chair

Whatcom has two resolutions regarding the fentanyl crisis. Barry will be going to Washington DC and will speak about the crisis.

Reports from Members

- Members gave behavioral health updates from their respective counties.
- Jami Mitchell noted that Jane Fuller is now the Chair for the San Juan County Council and asked that Cindy Wolf take her place on the NS BH-ASO Board of Directors. Jami Mitchell and Mark Tompkins are the designated alternates for Cindy Wolf.

Comments from the Public

There were no members from the public in attendance, so no comments were made.

Report from the Advisory Board

Kara Allen (Advisory Board Chair) gave the Report from the Advisory Board and upcoming activities to include their upcoming Legislative Forum, which is taking place at the McIntyre Hall in September. Brad Banks will be assisting (the ASO's lobbyist).

Report from the Finance Officer

Margaret Rojas and JanRose Ottaway Martin gave the report from the Finance Officer.

Report from the Governance Operations Committee

Vice Chair

The Chair spoke about the newly open Vice Chair position for 2024. The Board will re-run the election, he added.

Board Retreat

It was determined that June 13th would be the best day for the Retreat. The Clerk of the Board will send out the invitation.

It was also decided that one County Coordinator per county could participate in the Board Retreat.

JanRose will be part of the Agenda Planning Workgroup which will take place in March.

The Clerk of the Board will send out an email to see which members would like to take part in the agenda planning session.

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 #24-06

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from January 1, 2024, through January 31, 2024, in the amount of \$5,887,585.13.
- Payroll for the month of January in the amount of \$196,921.90 and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$95,364.24.

Peter Browning moved the motion for approval, Anji Jorstad seconded, all in favor, none opposed, all in favor, motion #24-06 carried.

Action Items

For Board Approval

Community Behavioral Health Rental Assistance - Proviso 86 Program Enhancement Funding

- The Proviso 86 funding was a competitive process with Health Care Authority (HCA) to provide funding for individuals involved in the criminal justice system who need behavioral health services and/or housing. The North Sound BH-ASO will receive \$739,000 annually for this project.
- HCA requested the ASO provide a match for the Proviso 86 funding, there was no indication of the level of match, we provided 33%, consistent with federal match requirements. Due to the funding requests coming in above the \$739,000 we used the match to increase two of the providers for equity in the allocations.

- The amendments below are allocating the funds to our Community Behavioral Health Rental Assistance Programs.
 - The allocations are as follows:
 - Snohomish County-Bridgeways \$161,000
 - Snohomish County-Compass Health-\$150,000
 - Island, Snohomish, Skagit & Whatcom County-Pioneer Human Services-\$61,000 + North Sound BH-ASO General Funds-State 33% match of \$121,935
 - Whatcom & Skagit County-Lifeline Connections-\$61,000 + North Sound BH-ASO General Funds-State 33% match of \$121,935
 - Whatcom County-Lake Whatcom Center-\$150,000
 - Whatcom County-Opportunity Council-\$156,000

Motion #24-07

- NS BH-ASO-Bridgeways-CBRA-23 Amendment 1 for the purpose of adding Proviso 86 funds to the CBRA rental assistance in Snohomish County. The contract term is July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- NS BH-ASO-Compass Health-CBRA-23 Amendment 1 for the purpose of adding Proviso 86 funds to the CBRA rental assistance in Snohomish County. The contract term is July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- NS BH-ASO-Lifeline Connections-CBRA-23 Amendment 1 for the purpose of adding Proviso 86 funds to the CBRA rental assistance in Skagit and Whatcom County. The contract term is July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- NS BH-ASO-Lake Whatcom Center-CBRA-23 Amendment 1 for the purpose of adding Proviso 86 funds to the CBRA rental assistance in Whatcom County. The contract term is July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.
- NS BH-ASO-Pioneer Human Services-CBRA-23 Amendment 1 for the purpose of adding Proviso 86 funds to the CBRA rental assistance in Island, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom County. The contract term is July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Peter Browning moved the motion for approval, Anji Jorstad seconded, all in favor, none opposed, motion #24-07 carried.

Introduction Items

Didgwalic Wellness Center

Didgwalic Wellness Center was the successful bidder for the expansion of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Skagit County, specifically east county. This service will be available to all

individuals regardless of their ability to pay. Didgwalic will bill Medicaid, Indican Health providers and private insurance.

Motion# (next month)

City of Mount Vernon Co-Responder Program

We will be providing an additional \$40,000 in funding, \$20,000 is a carryover from their previous contract cycle and \$20,000 in ongoing costs for an increase in wages for this contract period.

Motion# (next month)

Margaret Rojas spoke about the Introduction Items and answered questions.

Report from the Executive Director

JanRose gave the Report from the Executive Director. She covered the topics below and answered questions.

- Weekly Crisis Metrics Report
- Update on the Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (regarding court hearings)
- Managed Care Organization (MCO) Contract Negotiations
- Crisis Stabilization Services-Delegation
- Behavioral Health Department of Commerce Applications
- Lynwood Jail and 23-Hour Crisis Facility
- Olympic Heritage

Adjourn: 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 14th, 2024

Weekly Crisis Metrics Report:

See attached.

ITA Courts in WA state:

Beyond the known ITA Court issues in Skagit, we recently found out that two counties in WA state have received notice that Public Defenders cannot service more than a certain amount of ITA cases. In one situation, it seems like the Public Defenders have indicated they can only represent 80 ITA cases due to staffing issues. The county is currently averaging 95+ cases.

Proviso Language

North Sound has been identified in the budget under a proviso to start a pilot program regarding Proviso funding. While North Sound will be required to meet the intention and manage programs as identified in Provisos, we are being allowed an up-front (i.e. not requiring HCA pre-approval) flexibility on 30% of our total proviso funding to be utilized for other programs in the North Sound region. Presuming approval of the budget, we will be required to provide an update to the legislature on how those funds were used. The idea is to create a mechanism to more flexibly use funds in our region when they are available versus sending them back to the state.

Crisis Stabilization Services – Delegation:

HCA has indicated to BHASOs that they will be delegating Crisis Stabilization Services to BHASOs. HCA is working to include this delegation in the next HCA and MCO contracts. In our current MCO negotiations, North Sound ASO has already started working with MCOs to add the language to our existing MCO contracts. For example, one requirement will be the following:

- (1) For urban and suburban areas transport **occurs** within 1-hour.
- (2) For rural areas transport teams **leave** within 20 minutes of transport being arranged.

Skagit County:

North Sound ASO continues to work in partnership with Skagit County on a Crisis Coordination meeting meant to identify gaps and potential for improving crisis services in Skagit County. One effort currently underway is to create a High Utilizer Group and/or case consult space where various entities (law enforcement, first responders, BHAs) can coordinate care for known individuals. North Sound ASO is working to help develop a universal Release of Information that can be used for those purposes.

Opiate Abatement Council:

Washington state has recently met with OACs and community partners to share the data dashboard they are working to develop that will include spending information, settlement dollar disbursements and some basic programmatic information on a state-wide platform for the Opioid settlement funds. This will likely take the place of the OAC's responsibility of creating a dashboard. Most participating governments will likely enter data themselves. North Sound will likely make ourselves available if some struggle with capacity/staffing to enter data. This will allow for much more state-wide transparency and sharing of information across the state.

Western State Hospital:

We have recently seen an increase in problematic discharges from Western State Hospital for forensic cases. Where possible, North Sound ASO is partnering with local providers, Crisis System and Managed Care Organizations on those cases to make sure clients have the most support possible on release. We are also making a request through HCA to meet with Western on a recent discharge and how it was managed. We are advocating for Western State sharing two documents with Western State Liaisons that could assist in making clinically appropriate discharge plans for high profile clients. Those requests have gone to HCA.