



North Sound Behavioral Health Organization, LLC

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As an important partner in the provision of behavioral health services, I write to inform you that mental health and substance use programs serving nearly 34,000 Medicaid enrollees in five northwest Washington counties will be overseen under the umbrella of the newly named North Sound Behavioral Health Organization (North Sound BHO) effective April 1, 2016.

For clients receiving or desiring services, benefits and service options will not change. For many, having all of the programs under one administration and one point of contact for clients will streamline care and improve access.

Many people we serve have both mental health and substance use addiction issues, which makes bringing both under one organization a way to improve care coordination. Our agency will continue to work closely with the counties and a network of local community mental health and substance use treatment agencies providers to provide a full range of services offered by the Medicaid plan.

Legislation passed in 2014 created Behavioral Health Organizations as the model for purchasing and administering public mental health and substance use disorder services in managed care.

Mental health services in Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties have been overseen by the North Sound Mental Health Administration, now known as North Sound BHO, while individual counties have directed substance use disorder treatment.

A comprehensive plan for the region was developed over the past two years in concert with county officials and regional behavioral health providers to ensure a seamless transition. The team also worked closely with a team of consultants to develop a more integrated approach to detox and other treatment interventions.

Ultimately, our goal is to make a difference in the lives of people we serve in getting the help they need, in managing their illness and moving forward with their recovery.

Should you have any questions or concerns, I have provided some contact information below and a Frequently Asked Questions document, or you may call the North Sound BHO at 360-416-7013.

Sincerely,



Joe Valentine
Executive Director

Contact information:

- For people seeking treatment for themselves or wish to refer others for treatment:
 - North Sound Access Line: 1-888-693-7200
- For mental health or addiction disorder crisis services:
 - Crisis line: 1-800-584-3578
- For free referral to treatment providers:
 - Washington Recovery Help Line: 1-866-789-1511
- Help for teens:
 - 1-866-833-6546 or 866teenlink.org
- For general questions regarding behavioral health services:
 - North Sound BHO: 360-416-7013 or 1-800-684-3555 or www.nwmha.org

North Sound BHO Background:

The North Sound Behavioral Health Organization, LLC (North Sound BHO) began operations in 1991 as the North Sound Regional Support network known as the North Sound Mental Health Administration. North Sound BHO contracts with the Division of Behavioral Health & Recovery (DBHR) of the state of Washington to provide public mental health services and beginning April 1, 2016, substance use disorder services for five counties including Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom. North Sound BHO is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of elected officials, the chair and vice-chair of the Regional Advisory Board and representatives of the eight tribes in the region.