

ADVISORY BOARD PRE-MEETING

September 6th, 2016

12:10-12:50PM

Pioneer Human Services

Substance Use Disorder Residential Services

Robert Sullivan Director

Skagit County

North Sound Behavioral Health Organization
301 Valley Mall Way, Suite 110, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

September 6th, 2016

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Becky Wood replaced Chuck Davis with the Ombuds

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Approval of August Minutes.....TAB 1

EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Approval of the August Expenditures.....TAB 2

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (Briefs from Each Committee Attached)

- Planning Committee (No August meeting)
- Quality Management Oversight Committee (QMOC).....TAB 3
(Available at meeting)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT & ACTION ITEMS

Executive Director's Report Items

- Report from JoeTAB 4

Executive Director's Action Items

- Action Items/MemorandumTAB 5

OLD BUSINESS

Charles DeElena – Presentation on the Open Access PIP
September 23rd site tour update – (Information in binder pocket)

NEW BUSINESS

Advisory Board Membership Increases
Collaborative Alliances

New Business Continued.....

Judge the Visual Art/Poetry Contest Entries

Review Purpose, History, Membership, and Duties Document..... TAB 6

PACT Oversight via the North Sound BHO AB

Review Updated County Advisory Board Meetings.....TAB 7

Open seats on QMOC and Planning Committee

REPORT FROM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Island

San Juan

Skagit

Snohomish – Greg & Marie would like to announce an upcoming recovery event for all 5 counties that will be held in October

Whatcom

BRIEF COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING

- October 11th, 2016

ADJOURN

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North Sound Behavioral Health Organization

301 Valley Mall Way, Suite 110, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

August 2nd, 2016

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Advisory Board Members Present

Island: Candy Trautman, Betty Rogers

San Juan:

Skagit: Ron Coakley, Susie Spencer

Snohomish: Carolyn Hetherwick Goza (by phone), Greg Wennerberg (by phone), Fred Plappert, Carolann Sullivan, Jennifer Yuen, Marie Jubie, Joan Bethel, Pat O'Maley-Lanphear, Jack Eckrem

Whatcom: David Kincheloe, Michael Massanari, Mark McDonald, Rachel Herman

Excused Advisory Board Members

Island:

San Juan: Peg Leblanc

Skagit: Joan Lubbe

Snohomish:

Whatcom:

Absent Advisory Board Members

Island:

San Juan:

Skagit: Faviola Lopez

Snohomish:

Whatcom:

NSBHO Staff Present

Joe Valentine (Executive Director)

Joanie Williams (Advisory Board Coordinator)

Maria Arreola (Administrative Assistant)

Charles DeElena (Quality Improvement Coordinator)

Guests Present

Jeannette Anderson – Behavioral Health Conference Scholarship Attendee

Skyler Newkirk – Island County – County Coordinator

Kim Olander – North Sound Regional Ombuds

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS
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The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and initiated introductions

REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

- The Chair inquired regarding revisions to the agenda

OMBUDS

Kim presented the Regional Ombuds Report April 1st, 2016 – June 30th, 2016

- Opened 100 case files
 - 39 males
 - 61 female
 - Assisted 7 children
 - Helped 14 family members submit their issues

This quarter 47 people initiated Behavioral Health Organizational Agency Level Grievances. There have been 6 Behavioral Health Organizational Level Grievances. Kim left business cards with Maria for anyone interested in contacting Kim after the meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

June and July minutes approved by motion and vote

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (Briefs from Each Committee Attached)

- Planning Committee (No July Meeting)
- Quality Management Oversight Committee (QMOC) Report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT & ACTION ITEMS

Executive Director Report

Behavioral Health Facilities Planning

- The Regional Behavioral Health Facilities Workgroup met twice and developed a draft plan for the types of facilities to prioritize for the legislative request. These would include:
 - ✓ One 16 bed Evaluation and Treatment Facility
 - ✓ Two 16 bed Long Term SUD Residential Facilities
 - ✓ 2-4 Short Term Residential Facilities including at least one that provides co-occurring services
 - ✓ Recovery Houses in all counties
 - ✓ Co-locating one or more facilities on a "Recovery Campus"
 - ✓ Developing one-two more "acute" Detox Facilities, one of which could be converted to a "secure" Detox Facility
 - ✓ Developing a small Detox and/or Recovery House Facility in Anacortes to provide access to Island and San Juan counties

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- The workgroup has also developed some initial criteria to prioritize the request for legislative funding. These criteria are:
 1. Beds will be lost as a direct result of the expiration of the leases for Pioneer Center North and the North Sound Evaluation and Treatment Facility;no other replacement beds are currently available
 2. Begin to build capacity for critical elements of the Recovery System of Care where no resources currently exist in the region, e.g., Recovery Houses and SUD Intensive Inpatient treatment
 3. Additional sub-acute and acute detox beds to address the opioid epidemic

New Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Rules for Managed Care Organizations

The State’s interpretation of the new CMS rules for Managed Care Organizations would restrict our ability to use Medicaid dollars to pay for treatment in facilities with more than 16 beds [the “IMD” rule] to 14 days within any given month

Update on New BHO Mission, Vision and Values

- The Leadership team had a day long planning session on July 6 strategizing the new Mission, Vision, and Values Statements, as well as discussion regarding adapting to the increasing size and scope of the BHO, and to improve communication and coordination between Leadership Team members
- On July 19, North Sound BHO held an All-Staff Retreat which also worked on the Mission, Vision and Values Statements. In addition, the new staff become acquainted with each other
- During both retreats the work of the Advisory Board was shared and the proposal to anchor the North Sound BHO Mission in the idea of “Person Centered Wellness”
- The Draft Presentation of the Mission, Vision, and Values Statements will be presented to the Advisory Board and Executive Committee in September

Mukilteo Evaluation and Treatment (E&T) Facility Remodel

The architectural plans to remodel the Mukilteo E&T facility to incorporate a recovery, trauma-reduction design have been completed

Action Items

No Action Items were discussed due to the August County Authorities Executive Committee meeting being cancelled

OLD BUSINESS

Joe discussed the role of the Advisory Board in shaping the Values, Mission, and Vision of the North Sound Behavioral Health Organization. During the Advisory Board Retreat a core concept was created: person centered wellness. It was discussed that this is not a static system; the

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Advisory Board is a key influence on the system, people first language will replace the clinical language.

NEW BUSINESS

Announcements

David spoke to the 2016 Consumer Roundtables. A handout was distributed. Any member interested in attending should notify Maria

Fred spoke about National Night Out, in addition to other events taking place around the region

Performance Improvement Projects (PIPs) – Charles DeElena, Quality Improvement Coordinator

Charles presented on the three PIPs listed below:

- Open Access - With the Open Access PIP the attempt is to look at increasing the number of individuals that engage in services. The strategy is to offer Open Access hours at provider facilities. The study can define this by looking at how many individuals receive an intake following a request for service.
 - The group recently met in July to review the 1st measurement quarter data and will be meeting in mid-November to review quarter 2 measurement data. Due to the waiting period necessary for data collection, the group will meet approximately 45 days after each measurement quarter to review data.
 - Advisory Board members participating: Mark, Greg, and Carolyn
- SUD Penetration - The intention with the SUD PIP is to increase the number of individuals receiving SUD services within our system.
 - The group recently met in July to review the measurement definition and solidify how the measure will be ran. Currently in a baseline period and are waiting on a more complete data set from the providers before the intervention.
 - Advisory Board members participating: Jack and Pat.
- Kids - The original idea for the kids PIP was to look at the medication use among kids under the age of 7. However, there is no readily available access to prescriber and medication information. This issue resulted in abandoning this PIP and research new ideas.
 - The group recently met in July to look at a re-development of the measure as the previously suggested measure did not work out. The next meeting will occur towards the end of September.
 - Advisory Board members participating: Mark, Greg, and Carolyn.

Charles is invited back to attend the Advisory Board meetings and give more detailed presentations on each PIP. The September 6th, meeting Charles will present on the Open Access PIP.

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AB meeting date change due to the COD conference October 3rd – 4th

It was determined to change the Advisory Board meeting from Tuesday October 4th to Tuesday October 11th, 2016, 1:00 – 3:00 in the Snohomish Conference Room

Conferences – National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Tribal, and Co-Occurring Disorder and Treatment

Advisory Board members that confirmed attendance:

NAMI (September 30th – October 2nd): Jennifer, Greg, and Mark

Tribal (September 7th – 8th): Candy, Joan L., Susie, Joan B., Greg, Mark, Fred, Marie, and Carolann

Co-Occurring Disorder and Treatment (October 3rd – 4th): Candy, Joan B., Greg, Mark, and Pat

ACTION ITEMS

Executive & Finance Committee

The July Expenditures were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made to move the Expenditures to the County Authorities Executive Committee (formally known as the Board of Directors) for approval. Motion was approved.

Advisory Board Pre-Meetings

- Motion was made to have the following Pre-Meeting Topics added to the 2017 Pre Meetings List. Motion seconded and approved
 - CHronic-Utilizer Alternative Response Team (CHART)
 - Social Workers being called with law enforcement regarding crisis calls in Snohomish County
 - EMS services working with Behavioral Health Care Providers, Health Care Providers, and Law Enforcement to intervene with heavy utilizers in the Behavioral Health System

Site Visits

Pioneer Center North site visit for the Advisory Board Members is confirmed for Friday September 23rd, 2016

REPORT FROM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Island – None

San Juan – None

Skagit – None

Snohomish – Marie gave a brief comment on the Snohomish County Drug Court and the Carnegie Building Library

Greg gave a brief update on the Family Youth System Partner Round Table (FYSPRT) which is held the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the North Sound Behavioral Health Organization

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Whatcom – None

BRIEF COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
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Wanda Waters (Behavioral Health Conference (BHC) Scholarship Attendee) wrote a letter to the Advisory Board regarding her experience during the Behavioral Health Conference.

Jeanette Anderson (past Advisory Board Member and BHC Scholarship Attendee) attended the Behavioral Health Conference as well. She gave a brief comment regarding what she learned from attending the conference. She spoke about the youth in action partnership peer counselor involvement and expressed her great appreciation for the opportunity to attend the Behavioral Health Conference.

ADJOURNMENT






The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next **Advisory Board meeting** is September 6th, 2016

**Advisory Board Budget
August 2016**

	Total	All Conferences Project # 1	Board Development Project # 2	Advisory Board Expenses Project # 3	Stakeholder Transportation Project # 4	Legislative Session Project # 5
Budget	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 16,736.00	\$ 1,910.00	\$ 19,329.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 3,800.00
Expense	(23,604.33)	(4,904.14)	(3,115.81)	(14,319.17)		(1,265.21)
Under / (Over) Budget	\$ 18,395.67	\$ 11,831.86	\$ (1,205.81)	\$ 5,009.83	\$ 225.00	\$ 2,534.79

BHC , NAMI, COD, OTHER	BOARDS SUMMIT (RETREAT)	Costs for Board Members (meals mileage, misc.)	Non- Advisory Board Members, to attend meetings and special events	Shuttle, meals, hotel, travel
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**North Sound
Behavioral Health Organization, LLC
Warrants Paid
August 2016**

	Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Advisory Board						
Supplies						
	Bill	08/02/2016	9367	Copy & Print Store	Batch # 115433	160.55
	Bill	08/09/2016	9373	Copy & Print Store	Batch # 115517	141.05
	Bill	08/09/2016	Aug2016-AdBrd	Haggen Inc	Batch # 115517	388.97
	Bill	08/16/2016	9398	Copy & Print Store	Batch # 115598	137.53
Total Supplies						<u>828.10</u>
Travel						
	Bill	08/02/2016	July2016	AA Dispatch	Batch # 115433	1,257.25
	Bill	08/16/2016	Aug2016	Yuen, Jennifer	Batch # 115598	97.20
	Bill	08/16/2016	Jul2016	NAMI Washington 2016	Batch # 115598	794.22
Total Travel						<u>2,148.67</u>
Miscellaneous						
	Bill	08/02/2016	Jul16AdBrd-Retr	Skagit Valley Casino Resort	Batch # 115433	615.81
Total Miscellaneous						<u>615.81</u>
Total Advisory Board						<u>3,592.58</u>
						<u>3,592.58</u>
						<u>3,592.58</u>

North Sound BHO Executive Directors Report for Advisory Board

September, 2016

Behavioral Health Facilities Planning

- The Regional Behavioral Health Facilities Workgroup met for a 3rd time on August 23 to review the draft proposal for the legislative request including a preliminary cost analysis [attached]. The workgroup suggested some changes to the report and cost analysis including a clearer description of how the proposed treatment facilities would be integrated into a Recovery System of Care.
- Proposed treatment facilities and services were divided into two priority groups:
 - Priority #1: beds needed to replace the lost beds we use at PCN and the E&T and other beds needed to meet our current critical needs and a location is available;
 - Priority #2: other facilities and services needed to fill in the gaps in the continuum of care
- We estimate the minimum level of funding needed from the state for Priority #1 facilities is from \$12 - \$31.5 million. The cost of each facility varies depending on whether we can acquire and renovate an existing building or need to purchase land and build a new facility from the ground up.
- In order to put forth a more realistic development and funding plan, we will propose a “phase-in” over a period of 4-5 years.
- A draft of the plan is attached. We’re hoping to finalize it at the next meeting of the Behavioral Health Facilities workgroup.
- On September 2nd, there was a meeting with BHO staff, Jennifer Johnson, Tim Holloran, Rebecca Clark, and representatives from Telecare about developing a “Stabilization Campus” in Skagit County that would include both the replacement E&T as well as other stabilization and recovery services.
- We have received several responses to our RFQ for a Project Manager for Behavioral Health Facilities planning. Interviews of the responders were conducted on September 1st.

Refundable Grant Agreement

- Our attorney, Brad Furlong, recommended some changes to the agreement that would allocate capitol dollars to Snohomish, Whatcom, and Skagit counties to be invested in the development of the needed treatment facilities.
- We initially thought that North Sound would make “grants” to the counties; but a review of BHO enabling legislation failed to uncover authority for a BHO to make such grants for capital projects. Instead, North Sound, pursuant to its authority as a LLC and in conformance with its Operating Agreement, will make disbursements to its members for use in the development of regional behavioral health-related facilities. A draft agreement that sets forth the process and accounting procedures for the disbursements and the limitations that will control how the counties may use the disbursements was sent to the respective county attorneys for review.

Meeting at Island County regarding service gaps

- On August 15, I met with Jill Johnson, Jackie Henderson, and Sue Closser – the CEO of Sunrise Services, to discuss the concerns Island County had regarding gaps in the services Sunrise is contracted to provide – both those funded directly by Island County and those funded by the BHO.
- Sunrise like other agencies serving Island and San Juan counties have greater difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff in these counties than in the others.
- However, we feel they also need to do a better job of working collaboratively with Island County staff in notifying them ahead of time of pending staff shortages and participating in the regular county/provider networking meetings.
- I have sent a letter to the 3 Agency CEOs – Sunrise, Compass, and SeaMar - asking that they each appoint a liaison to the County who would maintain regular contact with Island County and participate in networking meetings.
- I also agreed to work with those agencies to identify the additional costs of doing business in these counties to determine whether additional capacity payments might be helpful.

August 16 BHO Roundtable Meeting with Congressman Rick Larsen

- On August 16, Congressman Larsen held a roundtable at the BHO office to discuss upcoming federal legislation related to Behavioral Health Services and to seek input from BHO, County, and provider agencies regarding our needs for federal support. Ken Dahlstedt, Cammy Hart-Anderson, Linda Grant, and Sharon Toquinto and myself participated.
- We stressed the need for continued federal funding support, including non-Medicaid funds such as the Substance Abuse Block Grant, to fund the fully continuum of care. More specifically, we spoke to the need for federal support for housing and Medication Assisted Treatment.
- The Congressman stated that the issues he heard in our meeting were similar to what he has been hearing in other roundtables.

Closure of Seattle Pain Clinic

On August 8, we received the following alert from DBHR:

On July 15, 2016, the Washington State Medical Quality Assurance Commission suspended the medical license of Dr. Frank Li, medical director of the Seattle Pain Center, for substandard care. Simultaneously, the Health Care Authority and other commercial insurers ended their provider agreements with The Seattle Pain Center. The Seattle Pain Center (SPC) consists of eight clinics located across the state (Seattle, Renton, Tacoma, Everett, Olympia, Poulsbo, Vancouver, and Spokane). Earlier this week, all clinics closed with the exception of the Renton clinic. We estimate 8,100 patients sought care at the SPC clinic system during the first six months of 2016.

Subsequent information revealed that over 11,000 persons were displaced, 40% of whom were on Medicaid, and about 1,300 from the North Sound. We have received some phone calls from persons affected and have distributed information and resource information provided by the

Expansion of Crisis Prevention and Intervention Teams [CPIT]

- Last year, the North Sound BHO worked with our Crisis providers to pilot an integrated CPIT program in Skagit County. In addition to outreach for mental health crises, this pilot also is designed to provide crisis outreach services to those individuals with a primary Substance Use Disorder (SUD). This pilot has now been in place for a year, and has produced positive results. It has increased diversion from the Emergency Department, increased the use of the Skagit triage program, and has increased engagement in accessing needed behavioral health services, for both SUD as well as mental health. The integrated model will now expand to Whatcom and Snohomish counties.
- Program staffing includes professionals who are able to rapidly respond and address a broad range of behavioral health concerns in a varied population. Certified Peer Counselors, Mental Health Professionals (MHP) and Chemical Dependency Professionals (CDP) are critical members of the CPIT.
- One member of the Whatcom CPIT has been attached to the Bellingham police department as a Law enforcement liaison, piloted last year, to improve coordination and improve working relationships with law enforcement. This individual rides along on a weekly shift. This pilot has also been extremely successful in the delivery of immediate intervention to behavioral health crises.
- Other regional law enforcement agencies, such as the Whatcom County Sheriff's Department and State Patrol, have also expressed interest in this model.

Update on Opioid Reduction Plans

- The BHO is working with each of the counties to identify ways that BHO funding can be used to support the individual Opioid Reduction plans being developed by each county.
- One example of where BHO allocated federal Substance Abuse Block Grant dollars can be used is to help fund "Opioid Outreach" staff who can be on the scene when law enforcement and paramedics are called to assist when someone is experiencing an overdose event. Outreach staff can assist in following up to help the person get connected with treatment services.
- One of the key barriers to increasing our efforts to reduce Opioid abuse is the ability to have more physicians willing to prescribe "Suboxone" to support the recovery of persons participating in treatment.
- Statewide, the BHOs are urging DSHS to work with the Health Care Authority on creating state-wide financial incentives. Our staff are also participating in a King County Opioid Task Force exploring the use of case management models to support physicians willing to be prescribers.

Meeting with City of Everett Legislative Liaisons

On August 11, myself and Sharon Toquinto met with the City of Everett Government liaisons to brief them on the changes with the BHO and our work with the counties to improve the capacity of behavioral health services in general, and address the Opioid epidemic in particular. They were especially excited to hear about the proposed creation of new Adult Residential Treatment Services within the Denny Youth Center.

We urged them to coordinate with the county on legislative advocacy activities and to also assist in locating possible locations for a 2nd Medication Assisted Treatment clinic.

Community College “Fast Track” programs for CD-Ps

- Whatcom Community College, Spokane Falls Community College, Compass Health and North Sound have collaborated on a HEET (Hospital Employee Education Training) Grant to establish a 15 credit fast track for licensed mental health counselors/licensed social works to attain a Chemical Dependency Certificate.
- Spokane Falls Community College is offering the fast track as part of this grant beginning Winter Quarter 2016. WCC will begin their program Spring Quarter 2017. The complete course is online.
- The program requires 1000 hours of supervision, of which 50 hours are required to be on site. The other 950 hours can be provided by phone/meeting. The difficulty will be finding qualified Supervisors for the supervision needs. We are currently brainstorming ways to address Supervision shortage/availability.
- North Sound BHO will be increasing its reimbursement to providers for their “professional development” costs. Providers can use this to support the cost of tuition for provider staff that meet the regional criteria, which is yet to be determined

HIPPA Security Risk Analysis

On August 9-18, we underwent a “HIPPA Risk Analysis” conducted by a professional HIPPA Risk Assessment consultant. The purpose of the analysis was to help us assess both the IT security and HIPPA compliance risks. The analysis was thorough and detailed and resulted in specific recommendations which we are now implementing that will demonstrate due diligence in protecting the confidentiality of our consumer data.

Annual State Audit

The State Auditor began their annual audit of the BHO-RSN on August 29. The audit will focus on Calendar Years 2014-2015.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 31st, 2016

TO: North Sound BHO Advisory Board

FROM: Joe Valentine, Executive Director

RE: Thursday September 8th, 2016 County Authorities Executive Committee Agenda

Please find for your review the following that will go before the North Sound BHO County Authorities Executive Committee Meeting September 8th, 2016 meeting:

- Acadia Healthcare will be providing Opiate Substitute Treatment (OST) at Canyon Park in Bothell, WA. Currently they serve a number of individuals from the North Sound Region and are not being reimbursed through our system. This expands the availability of OST within our region which is one of our strategic goals.
- Compass Health is receiving an increase for the two (2) Triage facilities to cover increased costs for nursing services and the increased cost of doing business.

For Ratification:

NORTH SOUND BHO-ACADIA HEALTHCARE-MEDICAID-16-18 for the purpose of providing Opiate Substitution and Outpatient Treatment services in south Snohomish County. The maximum consideration on this contract is \$740,000. The term of this contract is August 1, 2016 through March 31, 2018.

NORTH SOUND BHO-ACADIA HEALTHCARE-BHSC-16-18 for the purpose of providing Opiate Substitution and Outpatient Treatment services in south Snohomish County. The maximum consideration on this contract is \$55,000. The term of this contract is August 1, 2016 through March 31, 2018.

NORTH SOUND BHO-COMPASS HEALTH-TRIAGE-16-18 Amendment 1 for the purpose of increasing the contract by \$1,504,704 for a new maximum consideration of \$9,563,976. The term of the contract remains the same April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2018.

September 23rd, 2016 Advisory Board Site Tours

PIONEER CENTER NORTH – ROB SULLIVAN

Time: 10:30 am

Address: 1960 Thompson Drive, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Directions:

Merge onto I-5 N

Take exit 232 for Cook Rd toward Sedro-Woolley 0.2 mi

Continue on Cook Rd. Take W Moore St to Thompson Dr 16 min (7.5 mi)

Turn right onto Cook Rd 4.2 mi

At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit and stay on Cook Rd 0.1 mi

At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit onto Borseth St 0.2 mi

Continue onto W Moore St 466 ft

At the traffic circle, continue straight onto WA-20 E/W Moore St 1.6 mi

Turn left onto Fruitdale Rd 0.8 mi

Turn right onto Thompson Dr

Turn right to stay on Thompson Dr

NORTH SOUND E & T – BRITTANY LAWLER

Time: Directly after Pioneer Center North

Address: 24876 Charles Jones Memorial Circle #5, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284



Location for lunch: Applebees 188 Cascade Mall Drive, Burlington WA 98233

North Sound ~~Mental Health~~ ~~Administration~~ Behavioral Health Organization Advisory Board

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Purpose

The purpose of the ~~NSMHA~~North Sound BHO Advisory Board is set forth in its bylaws, the ~~NSMHA~~North Sound BHO contract with DSHS, the Interlocal Agreement, and as mandated by law (RCW 71.24.300.4). An extrapolation of these documents indicates that the Advisory Board's primary responsibility is to provide independent and objective advice and feedback to the ~~NSMHA~~North Sound BHO-Board of Directors County Authorities Executive Committee, local jurisdictions (County Advisory Boards) and service providers.

History

The ~~NSMHA~~North Sound BHO-Advisory Board was established in October of 1989 with the creation of the five-county ~~mental~~behavioral health consortium (~~NSMHA~~North Sound BHO) and in compliance with the provisions of RCW 39.34.030, RCW 71.24, and Chapter 205, Section 5, Laws of 1989. The membership of the Advisory Board has included consumers, family members of consumers, former consumers, advocates, college students, retired ~~physicians~~providers, service providers, concerned community members, ~~and other stakeholders, including~~ law enforcement personnel, ~~and~~ Child Protective Services staff, etc. Members from each county are appointed by their respective counties (see Interlocal Agreement.) ~~As of January 1st, 2016 the Norhsound BHO became a Limited Liability Company (LLC) in accordance to the Joint County BHO Interlocal Operating Agreement.~~

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Membership

The ~~24~~26-member ~~NSMHA~~North Sound BHO-Advisory Board consists of delegates from each county as follows:

San Juan County	23 delegates
Island County	34 delegates
Skagit County	34 delegates
Snohomish County	89 delegates
Whatcom County	56 delegates
	County Subtotal 26
Tribes	8 delegates
	Advisory Board Total 34

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Duties

The principal responsibility of the ~~NSMHA~~North Sound BHO Advisory Board, as prescribed by law, is to review and provide comment on plans and policies drafted by the governing body of the ~~NSMHA~~North Sound BHO. The Advisory Board is empowered by the ~~NSMHA~~North Sound BHO and the ~~Mental Health Division~~ Behavioral Health Division of DSHS to:

- Act as a vehicle for public testimony regarding the ~~mental health~~behavioral health services/concerns for the region.
- Visit contracted service providers, hospitals and other community programs.
- Assist the ~~NSMHA~~North Sound BHO with dissemination of information to the general public and the Mental Health Advisory Boards of ~~all five counties~~San Juan County, Skagit County, and Whatcom County.
- Assure that the special needs of minorities are met within the plans established by the ~~NSMHA~~North Sound BHO.
- ~~Provide comments on plans and policies.~~
- Perform such other duties as the ~~NSMHA~~North Sound BHO Board of DirectorsCounty Authorities Executive Committee may require or request
- Advocacy and Education-

The hyperlink to the "Joint BHO Operating Agreement" is located in:
http://nsmha.org/PDFs/Interlocal/20160202_BHO_Interlocal.pdf

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North Sound Behavioral Health Organization Advisory Board

Purpose

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Membership

The 26-member North Sound BHO Advisory Board consists of delegates from each county as follows:

San Juan County	3 delegates
Island County	4 delegates
Skagit County	4 delegates
Snohomish County	9 delegates
Whatcom County	6 delegates
	County Subtotal 26
Tribes	8 delegates
	Advisory Board Total 34

Duties

The principal responsibility of the North Sound BHO Advisory Board, as prescribed by law, is to review and provide comment on plans and policies drafted by the governing body of the North Sound BHO. The Advisory Board is empowered by the North Sound BHO and the Behavioral Health Division of DSHS to:

- Act as a vehicle for public testimony regarding the behavioral health services/concerns for the region.
- Visit contracted service providers, hospitals and other community programs.
- Assist the North Sound BHO with dissemination of information to the general public and the Mental Health Advisory Boards of San Juan County, Skagit County, and Whatcom County.
- Assure that the special needs of minorities are met within the plans established by the North Sound BHO.
- Perform such other duties as the North Sound BHO County Authorities Executive Committee may require or request.
- Advocacy and Education

The hyperlink to the "Joint BHO Operating Agreement" is located in:
http://nsmha.org/PDFs/Interlocal/20160202_BHO_Interlocal.pdf

County Advisory Board Meetings

Island County

No longer holds county Advisory Board meetings

San Juan County

When: 2nd Monday of each month

Where: 350 Court Street – Court House - Legislative Building
Friday Harbor, WA

Time: 11:45 – 1:15

More Info: Barbara LaBrash's office 360-370-0595

Skagit County – Behavioral Health Allocation Advisory Board

When: Held Quarterly

Where: No established location

Time: No established time

More Info: Contact Sarah Hinman – Behavioral Health Program Coordinator 360-416-1507

Snohomish County

No longer holds county Advisory Board meetings

Whatcom County

When: 2nd Monday of every other month

Where: 3333 Squalicum Parkway – Community Health Education Center
Bellingham, WA

Time: 12:00 – 1:30

More Info: Vicki McClure 360-778-6049

Drug treatment center to open in Mount Vernon

By BRANDON STONE @Brandon_SVH



MOUNT VERNON — Evergreen Recovery Centers is moving into the former Skagit Recovery Center building, bringing inpatient drug addiction recovery services back to the city.

Linda Grant, CEO of Evergreen Recovery Centers, said the new center doesn't yet have a name, but she said she hopes it will help fill a growing need in Skagit County and beyond.

The Skagit Recovery Center closed in November, at a time when similar centers throughout the state were shutting their doors, Grant said.

The new center will have 30 beds, with six being in a separate detox wing.

The all-male facility will offer therapy and counseling, and will be staffed 24 hours a day, Grant said

With Pioneer Center North's lease on its facility at the North Cascades Gateway Center in Sedro-Woolley set to end in 2018, Skagit County will have fewer drug addiction services.

While discussions are ongoing to extend the lease, the facility is quickly becoming outdated and expensive to maintain, meaning Skagit County and other stakeholders would have to consider new treatment options regardless, said county Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt.

According to staff from the North Sound Behavioral Health Organization, which is responsible with distributing Medicaid funds across Skagit, Whatcom, Island, San Juan and Snohomish counties, there are no other substance abuse treatment centers in Skagit County.

Pioneer Center North has 145 beds, according to Sharon Toquinto, North Sound's substance use disorder services manager. She said North Sound has been working to try to keep patients in the area.

Toquinto said North Sound has been working with Grant and others to open and fund treatment centers in the county — and in surrounding counties — to compensate for the possible loss of Pioneer Center North.

The Skagit Recovery Center building, which was built in 1985, requires significant work to get it up to code, Grant said.

Remodeling is expected to take about three months, with the center expected to open by the beginning of the year, she said.

Grant said she liked the location's residential feel, saying that the quiet location and sizable backyard can help patients feel a little more normal.

"When (patients) come here, we want them to feel like they can live normal lives," she said.

Evergreen operates eight similar facilities in the Pacific Northwest.

— Reporter Brandon Stone: bstone@skagitpublishing.com, 360-416-2112, Twitter: @Brandon_SVH