

**NORTH SOUND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NSMHA Conference Room
Mount Vernon, WA
April 13, 2005
1:30 PM

AGENDA**

Page #/Tab

1. **Call to Order; Introductions – Chair Gossett**
2. **Revisions to Agenda – Chair Gossett**
3. **Approval of Minutes– Chair Gossett (motion #06-033)..... 4-13**
4. **Comments & Announcements from the Chair**
5. **Reports from Board Members**
6. **Comments from the Public**
7. **Report from the Advisory Board – Charles Albertson, Chair**
8. **Report from the Executive/Personnel Committee – Mike Shelton, Chair**
9. **Report from the Quality Management Oversight Committee – Gary Williams, Chair**
Presentation on the Integrated Report
Recommendation to approve the Integrated Report (motion #06-034)
Recommendation to approve the Critical Incident Policy (motion #06-035)
10. **Report from the Planning Committee – Janelle Sgrignoli, Chair**
11. **Report from the Executive Director – Chuck Benjamin, Executive Director**
12. **Report from the Finance Officer – Bill Whitlock, Fiscal Officer..... Tab 1**
13. **Report from the Finance Committee – Kirke Sievers, Chair**
14. **Consent Agenda – Dave Gossett, Chair**

<p>All matters listed with the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each Board 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, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request of a Board Member.</p>

Motion #06-022

To review and approve the NSMHA-VOA-Medicaid-2006, Amendment 1. This amendment is for adding the delegated Access Line function. Total financial consideration for 2006 is \$232,463.

Motion #06-023

To review and approve the NSMHA-VOA-SMH-2006, Amendment 1. This amendment is for adding the delegated Access Line function. Total financial considerations for 2006 is \$140,612.

Motion#06-024

To review and approve the NSMHA-APN-Medicaid-2006, Amendment 1. This amendment removes the delegated Access Line function. Total funding reduction for the remainder of 2006 is \$232,463.

Motion # 06-025

To review and approve the NSMHA-APN-SMH-2006, Amendment 1. This amendment removes the delegated Access Line function. Total funding reduction for the remainder of 2006 is \$140,612.

Motion #06-027

To review and approve the amended lease from Westcom Properties. As approved in the revised 2006 budget, this adds 650 square feet of space to the NSMHA lease.

Motion #06-028

To review and approve the amended PATH contract with DSHS. This amendment allows the carryover of 2005 unexpended funds to PATH contract holders. The funds must be expended by June 30, 2006 or be forfeited to the federal funding source.

Motion #06-029

To review and approve the amended PATH contract between NSMHA and Compass Health. This amendment allows the carryover of unexpended funds from 2005 in the amount of \$15,377.30 to be expended by June 30, 2006 or be forfeited to the federal funding source.

Motion #06-030

To review and approve the amended PATH contract between NSMHA and Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Clinic. This amendment allows the carryover of unexpended funds from 2005 in the amount of \$13,422.81 to be expended by June 30, 2006 or be forfeited to the federal funding source.

Motion #06-031

To authorize switching Petty Cash and Advance Travel accounts from Bank of America to Washington Mutual. Authorized signatures on the accounts are as follows:

1. Charles R. Benjamin
2. Greg C. Long
3. Wendy K. Klamp

Motion # 06-032

To review and approve North Sound Mental Health Administration's claims paid from March 1, 2006 through March 31, 2006 in the amount of \$(will be available at the meeting). Payroll for the month of March in the amount of \$(will be available at the meeting) and associated employer paid benefits in the amount of \$(will be available at the meeting).

15. Action Items

Motion # 06-026 (Placeholder)

To review and approve the contract with Skagit County for ITA court services and related cost for involuntary commitment/chemical dependency pilot project. The monies for this are provided from the pilot project; not NSMHA funding.

16. Introduction Items

None.

17. Adjournment – Chair

NOTE: The next Board of Directors meeting May 11, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. in the NSMHA Conference Room

**NORTH SOUND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NSMHA Conference Room
Mount Vernon, WA
March 9, 2005
1:30 PM

MINUTES**

Board Members Present:

Dave Gossett, Snohomish County Council, NSMHA Board of Directors Chair
Mike Shelton, Island County Commissioner
Chris Tobey, designated alternate for Skagit County Commissioner, Ken Dahlstedt
Gary Williams, designated alternate for Whatcom County Council member, Ward Nelson
Regina Delahunt, designated alternate for Whatcom County Executive, Pete Kremen
Kirke Sievers, Snohomish County Council
Dave Somers, Snohomish County Council
Bob Myhr, San Juan County Council
Janelle Sgrignoli, designated alternate for Snohomish County Executive, Aaron Reardon
Marie Jubie, Snohomish County Advisory Board and NSMHA Advisory Board representative
Charles Albertson, Whatcom County Advisory Board and NSMHA Advisory Board Chair

Staff Present:

Chuck Benjamin, Greg Long, Annette Calder, Margaret Rojas, Michael White, Wendy Klamp

Guests:

Jess Jamieson, Tom MacIntyre, Karen Kipling, Linda Carlson, Mike Watson, Deborah Moskowitz, Chuck Davis, Jackie Henderson, Beth Plush, Sue Boyle, Donna Konicki, Vera Wildauer, Bob Warnecki, Janice George, Peggy Green, Victoria Doerper, Andy Byrne

1. Call to Order; Introductions – Chair Gossett

Dave Gossett called the meeting to order at 1:30 and introductions were made.

2. Revisions to Agenda – Chair Gossett

None.

3. Approval of Minutes– Chair Gossett

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors, January 24, 2006

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board, February 9, 2006

A motion was made by Mr. Sievers to approve the minutes of January 24th and February 9th as written, seconded by Mr. Shelton. Chair Gossett called for the vote, all in favor, **motion carried (Motion # 06-020)**.

4. Comments & Announcements from the Chair

Chair Gossett announced behind Tab 2 is a list of committee assignments and noted members as follows:

Planning Committee: Janelle Sgrignoli (chair), Dave Somers and Regina Delahunt

Quality Management Oversight Committee: Gary Williams (chair) and June LaMarr

Executive/Personnel Committee: Mike Shelton (chair), Dave Gossett and Ken Dahlstedt
Finance Committee: Kirke Sievers (chair), Ward Nelson and Bob Myhr

Chair Gossett also noted the NSMHA received from the Washington Governmental Entity Pool (WGEP), the agency that handles our insurance, congratulating NSMHA on passing the RFQ. He summarized the letter for the audience and passed the letter around for Board members to review.

5. Reports from Board Members

None.

6. Comments from the Public

Sue Boyle distributed the NAMI Scorecard for mental health services for the state of Oregon and review the document with the group. Ms. Boyle stated she had presented the Report Card to the NSMHA Advisory Board earlier this week. She said during that presentation she was asked by Advisory Board members if NAMI was “comparing apples to apples” among services between states. Ms. Boyle said today she was presenting the Score Card from the NAMI website and the other side of the document compared the states of Washington, Wisconsin and Oregon. She stated Washington State and the nation as a whole got a “D” overall, however, Wisconsin (B-) and Oregon (C-) scored higher individually. Ms. Boyle said she found it interesting that Oregon which has less funding to provide services than we do, received a better grade than our state and would like some explanation on that. She said when talking about transforming the mental health system in Washington, we need to know where to transform it. She noted at the bottom of the document where recovery supports are listed in Washington are very telling. She stated housing services, long term housing needs, co-occurring disorders/no wrong door, all scored “0” out of a possible “2”. Ms. Boyle discussed mental health insurance parity, substance abuse parity, and assertive community treatment with the Board of Directors. Ms. Boyle thanked the Board.

Andy Byrne addressed the Board stating he was the Director of Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Clinic (WCPC) and is here today on behalf of the APN and noted that all APN agency members CEO’s are here today as well as Board members from Compass Health and bridgeways. Mr. Byrne said Ms. Wildauer would address the Board after he was done. He thanked the Board for delaying action on motion 06-016 and allowing APN to submit an Impact Statement noting they submitted it two weeks ago as agreed. He further stated that on February 28th APN delivered a list of Policies and Procedures noting there are 22 policies that APN had cross-walked with source documents from RFQ, BBA, State, and Federal governments that exceed requirements set forth by the State, Federal government, RFQ, BBA, etc. Mr. Byrne said as the Board has those documents submitted by APN for their review he was not going to walk through them. He said on behalf of APN he is standing in for Jess Jamieson due to his injury. He noted that NSMHA has until May to respond to the documents as previously agreed.

Mr. Byrne said that they wanted to make a couple of additional comments; the dollar figure of what it costs to operate an average clinician of \$39,000 and after benefits are added in it works out to a cost of \$15.00 per hour on average across the Region. Mr. Byrne noted there were some variances across the Region and that other providers could pay more or less. Mr. Byrne said WCPC hires behavioral health aids for less than \$10.00 per hour. At WCPC if you have a Masters degree and a license to practice mental health, as opposed to a registration, and 15 years of experience you could be making about \$23.00 per hour. Mr. Byrne said the average across the region is \$15.00 per hour which is what APN presented in their report as 13.25 FTEs. He said the APN also wanted to make a statement about productivity which is a concern to everyone. He noted the Actuarial Study which stated productivity is at 28% average Region-wide. The APN Impact Statement quoted a service-hour figure that would be a State-set level of 47%

productivity which APN is not close to reaching. He said that they are above the 28% and could probably dicker about 28% productivity would be roughly 7,800 service-hours. Mr. Byrne said we could spend our time discussing the figures and said perhaps 10,000-figure is a nice colloquial round number to be looking at in terms of the number of service-hours that we think are at risk minimum today and that were shooting towards that 47% figure. He said that represents the APN at any rate. He said the classic policy decision right at the heart of community mental health Statewide but certainly nationally, or the other way around, certainly State-wide and maybe nationally, is the State and Feds get together set some rules and regulations, distribute money to local entities such as this one and charge the organization with planning. Planning historically has been along the lines of what services will we provide that we can and how will we know if it is done well. Clearly regulation is an issue there. We want a certain level of quality or to exceed certain levels of quality so we develop plans and regulations to meet that. Mr. Byrne said he thinks the decision today perhaps revolves around what APN thinks is a very, very legitimate outcome of a community planning effort. Which is to think that perhaps we might be at the point of where we might value services at a minimum or above level of regulation to achieve the quality that the State and Feds set. APN recognizes that it is the Board of Directors decision here today and Mr. Byrne said once again, he was pleased to not be sitting at the table with the Board members today, and noted that the water is not too fun on his side either.

In doing this he would like close before he turned the conversation over to Vera, he said on the way here today, perhaps some of people here know that he is Irish in decent and can trace his family back to the 1100's and the tribe in Ireland. In his heritage they have a story about an Irish chieftain was very concerned that his subjects were starving. Whatever the farmers were able to do wasn't helping. The chieftain in thinking about it said shoot, we're going to produce pigs, we're going to get more pig farmers because pigs definitely pay some cash. After about a year of that they noticed, doggone it the pigs aren't gaining enough weight, they're costing us more than we could get at market and we're not producing enough food, what seems to be the problem...so they bought some scales. They decided to weigh the pigs once a week, but the scales cost money and they needed to get people to operate the scales and they weighed them once a week and were still concerned that the doggone piggies actually were gaining less weight. So the chieftain talked to his scale consultant who said you are not doing this enough and you should consider doing it a couple of times a week. They began measuring a couple of times a week and of course that cost a little bit more out of the feed and those piggies were just not gaining weight and the lord was thinking that perhaps the farmers were wasting the food so decided to weigh them even more often. And you could follow out that story in the sense that the poor piggies never really did gain a lot of weight. Today perhaps an Irish way of looking at your decision is that you are faced with the decision of whether to buy more scales or to keep the money in the feed. Mr. Byrne said you know where we sit, you've seen our APN recommendations and we respect the decision that you have to make today and thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them.

Vera Wildauer addressed the Board of Directors stating she had prepared a written statement and guaranteed that it is three minutes long. She thanked the Board of Directors for allowing the audience members to share their perspectives. She stated her name and noted that she is the president of bridgeways in Everett, the other mental health agency in Snohomish County. She said she joined the bridgeways board in 1998, in part because helping the mentally ill is a very personal issue for her. She said her mother suffered from clinical depression most of her (paused due to emotions and apologized) adult life and said she had been institutionalized for a month when Ms. Wildauer was a teenager and was overwhelmingly medicated for years afterwards. Back then care was heavy-handed to say the least.

Ms. Wildauer said she is proud to be associated with an agency like *bridgeways* at a time when the focus is on recovery and community rather than sedation. *bridgeways* is a small agency relatively speaking, they have just 29 staff members and serve nearly 90 clients. For those who may not be familiar with *bridgeways*, they offer a very wide range of services. *bridgeways* has case management of course, high intensity treatment with 24 hour availability for those who need it, a drop in center with client-run groups and activities, temporary housing for people just coming out of Western (State Hospital) who would otherwise be homeless while they navigated the system for resources, a manufacturing workshop where clients work in real jobs for real pay, and an environment that supports their situations.

bridgeways has two small apartment buildings where their clients live independently and *bridgeways* works actively with landlords to increase local housing stock. Ms. Wildauer said in the eight years that she has been on the Board *bridgeways* has seen lots of changes. She mentioned that changes in boarding home regulations forced *bridgeways* to close down the Everett Madison House and transition its forty clients into the community, which they did very successfully. *bridgeways* is offering more services with less staff. Federal funding has been squeezed for several years while regulations, as you know, continue to increase and become more complex. The economic downturn in the area has demanded that the manufacturing workshop become more competitive and creative in order to win and keep contracts. They have also needed to focus on fundraising to shore up their revenue streams; something they have not had to do until a few years ago. These challenges are no different than any business faces today. Increasing efficiency, building new revenue streams, and integrating new regulations is something that every business manager must master to become successful. An important difference however, is that *bridgeways* has the lives of our most vulnerable citizens at stake.

As an agency board member and member of the community, Ms. Wildauer urged the NSMHA Board of Directors to get creative at the administrative level. Let's find solutions that still get the job done but not at the expense of the clients we all want to serve. Ms. Wildauer thanked the Board for listening to her comments.

7. Report from the Advisory Board – Charles Albertson, Chair

Chuck Albertson reported the following from the last NSMHA Advisory Board meeting:

- Pre-meeting video presentation on alcohol dependence,
- Minutes of the last meeting were approved as written,
- Sue Boyle reported on the NAMI Report Card,
- Approved all claims before the board today,
- Announced Listening Sessions related to the Transformation Grant taking place,
- Report from NSMHA Executive Director, the Advisory Board Finance Committee, and the Advisory Board Executive Committee reports,
- Thanked the Planning Committee for reviewing the contracting options presented by the Executive Committee,
- Upcoming meeting on therapeutic medications/psychiatric medications, and public input on drug of choice,
- Motion approved to authorize that the budget would allow reimbursement for mileage for Advisory Board members to be able to go to this and testify,
- QMOC report, and
- County Advisory Boards reported.

Mr. Albertson was thanked for his report.

8. Report from the Executive/Personnel Committee – Mike Shelton, Chair

Mike Shelton said the committee met and discussed the action items before the Board today.

9. Report from the Quality Management Oversight Committee – Gary Williams, Chair

Gary Williams reported:

- QMOC had no action items at their last meeting,
- Voted to send letter to APN asking that they have members participate on the QMOC committee,
- Policy follow up and review; to be addressed later by the Planning Committee chair,
- A Quality In Action presentation on Trauma Services and Recovery by Whatcom Counseling & Psychiatric Clinic, and
- Reviewed the NSMHA Critical Incident report from July-December 2005.

Mr. Williams was thanked for his report.

10. Report from the Planning Committee – Janelle Sgrignoli, Chair

Janelle Sgrignoli reported:

- The Planning Committee met last Friday, set meeting schedule for the first Friday of odd-numbered months from 11:00 – 12:30 at the NSMHA offices,
- The committee is reviewing and updating its charter and then bringing it to the Board for approval,
- NSMHA staff briefed the committee on the tribal funding request,
- Contingency plan for Fairfax hospital regarding their plans to stop accepting involuntarily committed youth,
- Use and reporting of non-Medicaid funding,
- NSMHA staff to continue to work with providers to develop and track non-Medicaid services,
- APN Providers agreed to submit their overdue reports on non-Medicaid to NSMHA staff,
- NSMHA staff to work with providers to identify non-Medicaid services,
- The committee reviewed the contracting and the history of the way the RSN has done it, how it has morphed along the way, and where we could go. Staff to create history and submit to the Planning Committee and the committee will develop strategy on how to move forward.

Ms. Sgrignoli was thanked for her report.

11. Report from the Executive Director – Chuck Benjamin, Executive Director

Chuck Benjamin reported:

- House and Senate passed budget recommendations that would put another \$11.2 million dollars of State funding into mental health (with match – \$22.4 million), NSMHA's conservative estimate is that our region should receive approximately \$3 million of that funding.
- \$33 million dollars into system transformation initiatives. \$12.3 million dollars will go to Western State and Eastern State Hospitals to develop wards. The other \$21 million dollars will be distributed throughout the state to RSN's. Mr. Benjamin said with those two funding sources we should get about \$4+ million dollars in this Region starting in July 2006.
- Mr. Benjamin said that others have heard those funding estimates are low, and Mr. Benjamin reminded everyone that he is being conservative. Mr. Benjamin said he would continue to update the Board as information is received.

Mr. Benjamin thanked for his report.

12. Report from the Finance Officer – Bill Whitlock, Fiscal Officer

Mr. Sievers said that Mr. Whitlock could not be here for this meeting but was here for the Finance Committee meeting earlier today.

13. Report from the Finance Committee – Kirke Sievers, Chair

Mr. Sievers reported the Finance Committee met, reviewed expenditures, expense reports, timecards and the contract amendment (motion #06-018) before the Board today. The Finance Committee is recommending approval of the Consent Agenda.

14. Consent Agenda – Dave Gossett, Chair

All matters listed with the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each Board 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, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request of a Board Member.

Motion #06- 018

To review and approve the contract for the Integrated Crisis Response Pilot. This contract will transfer money from one line item to another and fund chemical dependency case management services.

Motion # 06-021

To review and approve North Sound Mental Health Administration's claims paid from February 1, 2006 through February 28, 2006 in the amount of \$3,170,246.92. Payroll for the month of February in the amount of \$65,249.28 and associated employer paid benefits in the amount of \$21,588.52.

Mr. Sievers made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda (motions 06-018 and 06-021), seconded by Mr. Shelton, all in favor, **motion carried.**

15. Action Items

Motion #06-016

To review and approve the NSMHA revised 2006 Budget.

Chair Gossett stated there has been a lot of discussion on this item. He asked Mr. Benjamin if there was any additional information to be shared. Mr. Benjamin said that Chair Gossett has asked for additional information on what the new FTE's would be doing. Chair Gossett explained that while reviewing information it is noted what new and increased duties are required, but not what each individual staff member would be doing. Mr. Benjamin said he asked the managers to expand on what the additional staff would be doing.

Mr. Benjamin reported on the fiscal needs as Bill Whitlock was not present. Michael White reported on the IS/IT department, Greg Long reported on the Allied Systems requirements, Annette Calder explained the Support Staff needs and Wendy Klamp addressed the group regarding the Quality Specialist positions being asked for. Questions and answers took place along the way. Mr. Benjamin assisted with explanations across the various positions.

Mr. Shelton moved that motion 06-016 be tabled until the April meeting for the purpose of to get clear indications from MHD about the new money coming to the Region and as closely as possible coordinate

the receipt of the new money for the providers with the increase in staffing for the RSN, second by Mr. Tobey, Chair Gossett called for the vote, 3 yes, 7 no, **motion failed**.

Chair Gossett asked the Board to discuss **motion 06-016**. Mr. Myhr asked if Mr. Benjamin could live with tabling the motion for two months and still feel that he has enough flexibility in moving ahead to accomplish the goals. Mr. Myhr said we are all in this together in working with the providers and we've had some good news today. He said the immediate question is do you (Mr. Benjamin) need more leeway than waiting for a month or two before the Board moves ahead with this? Mr. Benjamin said the Board needs to understand that the longer they delay this decision, the more NSMHA is out of compliance. Mr. Benjamin would like to see the Board look at a motion to phase-in positions and if the Board wants to hold a couple of positions in abeyance until after June so that NSMHA could come back with more supporting data and know what the funding is, that would be better than tabling the whole thing. Chair Gossett noted that given that we're looking at two months plus for hiring, if we take an action today, no money would be expended until mid-May or June. He said we are pretty close to the timeline and depending on how we stage that it would almost be identical to the timeline. Mr. Myhr agreed stating that is where he was going with his comments.

Ms. Delahunt said that she thinks it's great that new money is coming in this direction, but in relation to this, State money aside, this Board's obligation is to be fiscally responsible in doing what we need to do administratively to meet the requirements of the RFQ. The State money is a separate issue to her and she is glad that it is coming because it will lessen the impact, but we still need to be fiscally responsible in filling these positions and thinks that we need to do that as soon as we can.

Mr. Sievers made a motion to approve the hiring of 2 Quality Specialists for high-need consumer (1 adult, 1 childrens), the .5 FTE Accounting/IS, Planning Specialist, to fund as of April 1, 2006, then other four positions the Board will look at in April and see where we are and what we're doing in the State, if funding is coming in then make a decision if the Board wants to fund those for the rest of the year which would go into June or July to find those positions, seconded by Mr. Somers, and opened for discussion by Chair Gossett.

Mike Shelton said somehow the NSMHA figure out in our budget or our reserves that we don't do it so that it has any affect on our payments to our providers. He said it is real easy to look at our side of the conundrum, but it is not so easy to look at the provider's side of the conundrum, and said he hears things that makes him really nervous, thinks that we need to always keep in mind that the community mental health system is a two part system, the RSN and our provider community, we take what we need to cover our responsibilities because we get first crack at the money. Mr. Shelton thinks that if we are going to hire new people prior to our providers getting money then somehow or other we need to do that in a way that does not affect our payment to the providers in the meantime. After July when they start getting the money then we can adjust that accordingly. I don't know if we can do it out of reserves, or what. Chair Gossett said he would like to suggest a way the Board might get there. Mr. Sievers asked Mr. Shelton that if we didn't have the promise of the "golden egg" from the State down the road, is Mr. Shelton saying that he wouldn't approve any of the positions. Mr. Shelton said that he is not saying that he wouldn't approve any of the position, but that it would be a lot tougher sell for him to get the whole shebang. Mr. Sievers said to Mr. Shelton that the Federal government takes what they need, then the State government takes what they need, the RSN takes what they need and whatever is left over is given to the providers and that is not the way the system ought to work. It should be working from the consumer and back up the system.

Chair Gossett said that perhaps instead of funding as of April 1st, the Board gave Mr. Benjamin the authority to move forward with hiring provided the hiring doesn't take place before May 30th. Chair Gossett said the NSMHA has over \$60,000 in our existing budget for the transition into these positions. Chair Gossett said that essentially would probably get us to June 30th. Mr. Shelton said as long as it doesn't affect the payments to the providers he would buy off on that.

Chair Gossett offered to make a friendly amendment, and Mr. Sievers said he accepted Chair Gossett's suggestion into his motion and asked Mr. Somers (who seconded the motion) if he approved. Mr. Somers said he was very agreeable.

The motion to approve motion 06-016 reads as follows:

Mr. Sievers made a motion to approve the recruiting of 2 Quality Specialists for high-need consumers (1 for adults, 1 for children), .5 FTE Accounting, .5 FTE IS, and .5 FTE Planning Specialist, as long as they are not hired/funded prior to May 30, 2006, then other four positions the Board will look at in April and see where we are and what we're doing in the State, if funding is coming in then make a decision if the Board wants to fund those for the rest of the year which would go into June or July to find those positions, seconded by Mr. Somers, and Chair Gossett opened the motion for discussion of the positions again to see if there are Board members who feel this is not the right mix.

Mr. Myhr said he believes it is important to let Mr. Benjamin make that decision as he is the one who is managing the organization, not the Board, and he needs to know what mixture of staff he needs. Mr. Sievers said those four positions he named in his motion were the four highest priority according to the materials distributed by NSMHA. Ms. Delahunt asked Mr. Benjamin are those the number 1 positions in relation to the benefit to the community or are they number 1 to meet RFQ requirements or both. Mr. Benjamin said it would have to be both, but to meet RFQ need all of them. Mr. Benjamin said the top priority positions were determined by what would most benefit the consumers.

Mr. Somers said understand the situation and agrees with Mr. Shelton that we all know in our hearts that providing service is critical although we also have these requirements that are being placed on us from up above and we have legal obligations, he feels it is important. He said that Mr. Benjamin has made a proposal and he has not heard anything to suggest that they are not valid requests. He said it is clear that these requests are not being made lightly and thinks this is a good approach and a good compromise. He is glad to see that we are getting a little help from the State but we all need to work together to let the State know that as they do this, it's like the parable we heard about the scales, it is very true, you could be penny wise, but pound foolish, and that's where we are headed on this whole situation. WE have to work together to push back on this. Mr. Somers said he believes it is a good proposal.

Chair Gossett said the one position he doesn't have a great deal of excitement about is the planning position is not a high-priority position for him and asked Board if they had any trepidation. Mr. Benjamin said hearing this, the only recommendation he could make is move the .5 FTE Planner down on the priority list and move the 1 FTE Secretary up, and then we could have the Secretary do some of the work with the Allied Systems; noting the increase of .5 FTE if the Board follows this recommendation. Mr. Myhr said he wanted to reiterate his earlier statement; we hired Chuck to manage this organization for us and we should not be making those decisions. We could make some decisions about whether or not we need some planners but overall, the decision should be up to Chuck as to what he needs to meet the RFQ.

Chair Gossett asked if there was any other discussion; there was none. He said this has been an interesting and difficult process to go through and thanked everyone for their part in this. Chair Gossett called for the vote, all in favor, **motion carried**.

Chair Gossett stated the NSMHA received a report from the providers regarding policies and procedures and what they think NSMHA has exceeded requirements. Chair Gossett asked if Mr. Benjamin would be able to bring that to the next Board meeting with some sort of analysis or if that was too fast. Mr. Benjamin said that is too fast and what NSMHA had planned is QMOC Chair Gary Williams would assign an ad hoc committee of QMOC work with NSMHA staff in reviewing policies. In April a report will be made to QMOC. QMOC will then report to the Board at the May meeting with a full recommendation. Chair Gossett said ok.

Chair Gossett said the second question is for providers, stating we had a lot of discussion today around the productivity issue. He said it occurred to him that one of the ways to help convince clinicians that it is important to keep productivity up is to let them know that this Board is monitoring it. Chair Gossett asked if the Board could get quarterly reports on their productivity and is it something that doesn't create a hardship for providers to give to the NSMHA Board of Directors. Jess said that NSMHA already gets it. It was decided the Board of Directors would now review productivity reports of providers on a quarterly basis.

16. Introduction Items

A brief overview of the introduction items was provided by Mr. Benjamin. Action on these items will be taken at the April 13, 2006 meeting.

Motion # 06-022

To introduce the NSMHA-VOA-Medicaid-2006, Amendment 1. This amendment is for adding the delegated Access Line function. Total financial consideration for 2006 is \$232,463.

Motion #06-023

To introduce the NSMHA-VOA-SMH-2006, Amendment 1. This amendment is for adding the delegated Access Line function. Total financial considerations for 2006 is \$140,612.

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Motion # 06-025

To introduce the NSMHA-APN-SMH-2006, Amendment 1. This amendment removes the delegated Access Line function. Total funding reduction for the remainder of 2006 us \$140,612.

Motion # 06-026

To introduce that NSMHA will be contracting in April with Skagit County for ITA court services and related cost for involuntary commitment/chemical dependency pilot project. The monies for this are provided from the pilot project; not NSMHA funding.

Brief discussion took place on the new 211 call center for Washington State. Karen Kipling of Volunteers of America explained how this new service works.

17. Adjournment – Chair

Chair Gossett adjourned the meeting at 3:17.

Respectfully submitted:

Annette Calder
Executive Assistant

NOTE: The next Board of Directors meeting April 13, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. in the NSMHA Conference Room