

# The North Sound Behavioral Health Organization: An Overview

North Sound Mental Health Administration  
December, 2015

# Introduction

- On April 1, 2016 the *North Sound Mental Health Administration* will be converted to the *North Sound Behavioral Health Organization [BHO]*
- The new BHO will become responsible for managing public funding for Substance Use Disorder Services [SUD] in addition to Mental Health Services

# Background

- In 2014, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 6312 to integrate the public funding for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services
- State would contract with either “Behavioral Health Organizations” [BHOs] for integrated behavioral health services OR
- “Managed Care Organizations” for fully integrated Medicaid funded Health and Behavioral Health care

# Background

- The state would be divided into “regions” similar to the current Regional Support Networks [RSNs].
- The North Sound would remain as one of the regions.
- Counties would be given the option of overseeing the new BHO – “right of first refusal”
- North Sound counties voted to operate the North Sound BHO as they do now with the RSN

# Timeline

- Counties were required to submit their BHO plan to the state by October 31, 2015 – ours has been submitted and accepted by the State
- The new BHOs will begin operation and replace the RSNs in April, 2016
- A new “Inter-local Agreement” is being signed by the 5 North Sound counties to operate the BHO
- This agreement includes the creation of a “Limited Liability Corporation” to create a more formal structure and reduce risk to counties

# Transition to Managed Care



- The state will provide “capitated” payments to the BHOs for all medically necessary MH and SUD services for Medicaid enrollees
- Capitated rates determined by an actuary process factoring in # Medicaid enrollees, projected utilization, and cost of services

# Transition to Managed Care

- The rates will cover both SUD outpatient and residential treatment services
- SUD outpatient and residential treatment rates are currently set by the state.
- The State contracts with Counties for outpatient services and pays for SUD residential services directly

# Transition to Managed Care

- The BHO will be responsible for setting all rates and for paying for both outpatient and residential treatment services.
- The BHO will be governed by County Elected Officials using the current RSN Board of Directors structure
- The Advisory Board will expand to include persons with SUD lived experience



# Services – Current and New

CURRENT – MENTAL HEALTH	NEW – SUD AND INTEGRATED
Crisis Services	Integrated Crisis Services
Involuntary Commitment	CD “Involuntary Commitment”
Evaluation & Treatment Facilities	Acute Detox [Evergreen Recovery]
Triage Centers – mental health	Whatcom and Skagit Triage: sub-acute detox
Psychiatric Hospitalization	
Psychiatric Residential Treatment	SUD Residential Treatment

# Services – Current and New

<b>CURRENT – MENTAL HEALTH</b>	<b>NEW – SUD AND INTEGRATED</b>
Outpatient Services	SUD Individual and Group OP
Intensive Outpatient Services	SUD Intensive OP
Medication Management	Medication Assisted Treatment
PACT Teams	
Children's Wrap-Around - WISe	SUD services for Pregnant and Parenting Women
Jail Transition	Unfunded

# BHO Funding



- State set the new rates at the lowest level in the approved Medicaid Range
- However, there will be an increase in Medicaid funds for SUD services from the current level
- State GF-S and Substance Abuse Block Grant Fund [SAPT] allocations will be capped as they are now
- BHO will try to provide sufficient Medicaid funds to cover agencies' true costs and increase number served
- Treatment in SUD residential facilities with more than 16 beds can only be funded with GF-S or SAPT \$\$

# Opportunities

- Expand the availability of SUD treatment in the community
- Fund co-occurring services
- Provide integrated mental health/SUD crisis services
- Increase clinical coordination between behavioral health care and primary health care
- Implement new strategies to address the Opioid epidemic

# Next Steps



1. NSMHA will be providing training, technical, and financial assistance to the region's current Substance Use Disorder service providers.
2. Many current NSMHA Clinical and Administrative policies will have to be revised to address the new services.
3. Access to services systems will have to be enhanced to accommodate the new services requests
4. Extensive public information efforts will need to be made to help the community access the new services