

North Sound Mental Health Administration

Regional Support Network for Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties

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NSMHA Contract Memorandum 2009-005

Date: March 30, 2009

To: Tom Sebastian, CEO, Compass Health
Donna Konicki, *bridgeways*
Michael Watson, Lake Whatcom RTC
Andy Byrne, Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Center
Rod Elin, Catholic Community Services Northwest
Claudia D'Allegrì, Sea Mar
Ken Stark, Snohomish County Human Services Director
Tom Robinson, Volunteers of America
Cindy Paffumi, RSN Coordinator, Interfaith
Sue Closser, CEO, Sunrise Services
Yvonne Ito, Executive Director, LKI

From: Chuck Benjamin, Executive Director

Subject: Contract Expectation/Requirement for services to consumers at all Levels of Care

NSMHA requires its Contractors to serve all consumers meeting medical necessity regardless of Level of Care, as long as the individual can be treated safely and appropriately at the CMHA. Providers not contracted for Intensive Outpatient Services (IOP), or other specialized services/programs, are nevertheless required to provide mental health services at a level of care that meets the needs of the individual.

Contractors not providing IOP or other identified specialized services, and who believe the individual would be better served in an intensive program/specialized service, and the individual agrees to such, the primary agency must follow the procedures outlined in Policies #1510, #1517 and #1522. The primary agency must coordinate the transition of service and/or coordinate care between the two agencies and/or contract with an independent provider to serve the individual.

NSMHA did not contract based on Level of Care categories, rather on the type of services. All NSMHA Contractors are required to serve their clients at the level they present, if/when it is determined the individual would be better served in a specialized program/by a specialized provider, the primary agency shall follow NSMHA's Policies and Procedures to facilitate the needs of the individual.

Please ensure this notification is implemented at your agency immediately.

cc: Heather Fennell, Compass Health
Kathy McNaughton, Catholic Community Services
Kay Burbidge, Lake Whatcom
Pamala Benjamin, Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Center
Adam Horn, Volunteers of America
Jonathan Vander Schuur, Sea Mar
Rebecca Clark, Mental Health Program Coordinator Skagit County
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Contract File