

North Sound Mental Health Administration

Regional Support Network for Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties
Improving the mental health and well being of individuals and families in our communities

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NSMHA Contract Memorandum 2014-005

Date: April 4, 2014

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Phil Smith, Volunteers of America
Cindy Paffumi, Interfaith
Sue Closser, Sunrise Services
Mitch Lykins, Pioneer Human Services

From: Charissa Westergard, Quality Specialist

Subject: Discontinuation of Reauthorization Exception Requests (RER)

NSMHA is in the process of revising policy 1574.00 State Only Funding Plan – Mental Health Services. The policy, as currently written, outlines a process for NSMHA-contracted Community Mental Health Agencies (CMHAs) to request an authorization exception so that an individual covered by State funds may continue to receive services (called RER). With the revision to the policy, this requirement will be eliminated and replaced by shorter authorization periods. However, the policy must still go through the routine review process, which means it will not be official policy for another couple of months. To save staff resources, both at the CMHAs and NSMHA, NSMHA has decided to implement some of the policy strategies effective April 21, 2014. On this date, NSMHA will no longer require a RER for reauthorization requests for individuals covered by State funds. Instead, NSMHA will provide a 3-month authorization for any re/authorization request received from a CMHA that meets criteria per NSMHA Policy 1574.00 (i.e., initial authorization requests for individuals on an LR/CR, discharging or discharged within the last 30 days from WSH/CLIP, reauthorization requests for those individual's already mentioned, as well as, those who are in a current episode authorized by NSMHA who are on a spenddown or have lost Washington Apple Health coverage).

If you have any questions, please contact Charissa Westergard at 360-419-5628 or charissa_westergard@nsmha.org.

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Contract File