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## **North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC**

Section 1500 – Clinical: Residential Placement for Mental Health Treatment

Authorizing Source: HCA Contract

Approved by: Assistant Director Date: 5/27/2025

Signature:

### **POLICY # 1532.00**

### **SUBJECT: RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT**

#### **PURPOSE**

To ensure that non-Medicaid funded individuals who have a medical necessity for mental health residential treatment have access to this service until they are clinically appropriate for a less intensive level of care.

#### **POLICY**

The North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (North Sound BH-ASO) will ensure that, based on available resources, eligible individuals within the North Sound Regional Service Area (RSA) have access to supervised residential treatment settings. North Sound BH-ASO will ensure the placement is at a licensed Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) and is consistent with their recovery plan.

#### **Residential Placement Options**

These residential placement options are for individuals who require 24-hour supportive supervision and services. Length-of-stay is determined on an individual basis with an emphasis placed on transitioning individuals to more independent settings or maintaining them in their current settings.

##### *Residential Treatment Facilities (RTF)*

Per WAC 246-337, a mental health RTF means a facility providing 24-hour evaluation, stabilization and treatment services for individuals with a mental illness and licensed by the Department of Health (DOH). For North Sound BH-ASO-funded residential placement, North Sound BH-ASO's expectation is that contracted RTFs are certified as an adult RTF. In addition, the facility must comply with any applicable statutes and rules.

Placement at an RTF is not meant to be a permanent housing placement and length-of-stay shall generally be between 18-24 months. One aspect of recovery planning during the stay shall be preparing the individual for transition to a less intensive living situation such as an Adult Family Home (AFH), supported housing, or independent living.

#### **PROCEDURES**

Residential Priority Populations:

1. Individuals transitioning out of Western State Hospital (WSH), Eastern State Hospital (ESH) or Children's Long-Term Inpatient Program (CLIP) into the North Sound BH-ASO RSA or;
2. Individuals being discharged from inpatient psychiatric facilities or Individuals being discharged from Evaluation and Treatment (E&T) Facilities, Long-Term Civil Commitment facilities or
3. Individuals referred by community providers.

#### **Residential Referral and Admission**

An individual must meet all the following before being referred for mental health residential placement:

1. Due to a covered mental health disorder, requires 24-hour supervision to live successfully in community settings.
2. Is ambulatory and does not require physical or chemical restraints.
3. Must have cognitive and physical abilities to enable response to fire alarms.
4. Has not required physical restraint in the past 30 days.
5. Medically stable and free of physical condition(s) requiring medical or nursing care beyond what the residential facility can provide.
6. Has met Level of Care Utilization System/Child & Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS/CALOCUS) criteria for a Level of Care five (5) or six (6) within the past six (6) months.
7. For individuals who meet referral criteria, the residential provider shall ensure the individual receives an assessment by a licensed Mental Health Professional (MHP) to determine medical necessity for mental health residential treatment.

### **Residential Exclusionary Criteria**

1. Individual has a psychiatric condition that requires a more intensive/restrictive option;
2. Individual is actively suicidal or homicidal;
3. Individual meets criteria for a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) that requires withdrawal management services;
4. Individual has a primary diagnosis of Intellectual Disability (DSM-5-TR) or Autism Spectrum Disorder (DSM-5-TR);
5. Individual has a recent history of arson, serious property damage, or infliction of bodily injury on self or others. This exclusion can be waived based upon the accepting facility's evaluation of individual's functioning.

### **Eligibility and Utilization Management**

North Sound BH-ASO funding eligibility requirements can be referenced in *Policy 3045.00 Eligibility Verification*. North Sound BH-ASO Utilization Management requirements can be referenced in *Policy 1594.00 Utilization Management*. Timeframes and Notification of coverage determinations requirements can be referenced in *Policy 1005.00 Notice Requirements*.

### **Discharge Planning**

When an individual is admitted to an RTF, community-based discharge planning will commence at intake regardless of length of stay or whether they complete treatment. The RTF facility is required to assist the individual in accessing a Medicaid benefit as outlined in North Sound BH-ASO's Supplemental Provider Guide. If Medicaid funding is secured for the individual, they would then be eligible to receive services through their Managed Care Organization (MCO) health plan or Health Care Authority (HCA) for those enrolled in the State's fee-for-Service program.

If the individual is not able to attain Medicaid funding, the RTF staff are responsible for providing care management and coordination to support individuals with ongoing housing resources. North Sound BH-ASO's Care Management and Coordination responsibilities can be referenced in *Policy 1597.00 Care Management and Coordination*.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None