

Effective Date: 7/1/2019

Review Date: 4/29/2025

Revised Date: 4/15/2025

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

Section 1500 – Clinical: Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) Priority Populations and Waiting Lists

Authorizing Source: HCA Contract

Approved by: Executive Director      Date: 4/29/2025

Signature:

### **POLICY # 1590.00**

#### **SUBJECT: SUBSTANCE ABUSE BLOCK GRANT (SABG) PRIORITY POPULATIONS AND WAITING**

##### **LISTS PURPOSE**

To define how the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (North Sound BH- ASO) services are administered and prioritized for Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) priority populations.

##### **POLICY**

North Sound BH-ASO utilizes SABG funds within available resources to provide services to the SABG priority populations of eligible individuals. These available resources are expended for optional and required services as delineated in the Health Care Authority (HCA)-approved North Sound BH-ASO SABG Project Plan. All treatment program services provided must meet medical necessity criteria according to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 182-500-0070. North Sound BH-ASO service providers shall comply with contract requirements for SABG priority populations and waiting lists to determine which individuals are given prioritized access to SABG funded services.

##### **PROCEDURES**

Individuals eligible for SABG funded services must be ineligible for Medicaid and belong to one of the priority populations listed below.

SABG services will be provided in the following priority order to those who are:

1. Pregnant individuals injecting drugs;
2. Pregnant individuals with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD);
3. Women with dependent children; and
4. Individual who are injecting drugs or substances.

The continuing priority listing of additional populations is in no particular order:

1. Postpartum women for up to one (1) year regardless of pregnancy outcome;
2. Individuals transitioning from residential care to outpatient care;
3. Youth; and
4. Offenders

Services shall not be denied to eligible individuals regardless of the individual's drugs of choice; the fact the individual is taking medically prescribed medications; and the fact that a person is using over the counter nicotine cessation medications or actively participating in a nicotine replacement therapy

regimen.

**Authorizations are provided based on the North Sound BH-ASO Level of Care Guidelines.**

When an individual is assessed by a Substance Used Disorder Professional (SUDP) and determined to be experiencing a substance use disorder as defined in the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) and could benefit from SUD treatment services, American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) level of care must be determined for the individual and applied utilizing the North Sound BH-ASO Level of Care Guidelines.

**Medical Necessity**

Medical necessity is required for all services provided. Medical necessity means the requested service is reasonably calculated to prevent, diagnose, correct, cure, alleviate, or prevent the worsening of conditions in the recipient that endanger life, cause pain and suffering, result in illness or infirmity, threaten to cause or aggravate a handicap, or cause physical deformity or malfunction.

SABG funds are utilized for the following SUD services when medically necessary:

1. Withdrawal management, 3.7, 3.2 level of care;
2. Secure detoxification services under Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA);
3. In-community assessment;
4. Interim services;
5. In-community outpatient treatment 1.0 and 2.1 levels of care;
6. Opiate substitution treatment (OST) 1.0 level of care;
7. SUD residential treatment 3.5, 3.3, 3.1 levels of care;
8. Urinalysis testing;
9. Residential room and board;
10. Medical necessity does not apply to:
  - a. Childcare services;
  - b. Therapeutic interventions for children with mother in SUD residential treatment for PPW; and
  - c. Transportation costs to and from treatment.

**Waiting List**

North Sound BH-ASO service providers shall implement and maintain SABG waiting lists and provide interim services for members of SABG priority population in priority order, who are eligible but for whom SUD treatment services are not available due to limitations in provider capacity or available resources.

BHA Reporting is required monthly using the reporting form provided by North Sound BH-ASO. Once the service provider reaches 90% of capacity to admit and provide treatment to individuals (not including Interim Services), the provider shall immediately notify North Sound BH-ASO. Reporting forms can be found at: <https://nsbhaso.org/for-providers/forms>

SABG services will align with the regional plan approved by the North Sound BH-ASO Advisory Board. Providers receiving SABG funding will be reviewed in accordance with North Sound BH-ASO Quality Management (QM) Plan. Providers will also be required to participate in peer reviews when requested by North Sound BH-ASO and/or Health Care Authority.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None