

Board of Directors

Meeting Agenda

September 14th, 2023

Board of Directors Members Present in Person:

Members Present via Zoom:

North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (North Sound BH-ASO) Staff Present:

Guests Present:

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions Chair
- 2. Tribal Acknowledgement Chair <u>Tribal Behavioral Health | North Sound BH-ASO (nsbhaso.org)</u>
- 3. Revisions to the Agenda Chair
- **4. Approval of the August 10th, 2023, Minutes, Motion #23-46** Chair...... Attachment
- 5. Comments & Announcements from the Chair
- 6. Reports from Members
- 7. Comments from the Public
- 8. Report from the Advisory Board Attachment
- 9. Report from the Finance Officer Attachment

10. Report from the Governance Operations Committee

All matters listed with the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each Member for reading and study, are considered to be routine, and will be enacted by one action of the Board of Directors with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request of a Member.

Consent Agenda.....Attachment
Motion #23-47

To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from August 1st, 2023, through August 31st, 2023, in the amount of \$2,636,795.93.

Payroll for the month of August in the amount of \$174,526.10 and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$84,827.32.

11. Action Items

For Board Approval

<u>Conquer</u>

Conquer was the successful bidder for the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Request for Proposals (RFP) in the North Sound Region. Conquer will provide AOT services in Snohomish County. The annual funding is \$902,994.

Motion #23-48

North Sound BH-ASO-Conquer Addiction-ICN-23 to provide AOT services in Snohomish County. The contract term is August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on August 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Touchstone Behavioral Health

Touchstone Behavioral Health is a provider of youth services in Whatcom County. This contract is for youth outpatient services. The contract is a Fee for Service Contract.

Motion #23-49

North Sound BH-ASO-Touchstone Behavioral Health-ICN-23 to provide youth outpatient services in Whatcom County. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on September 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Evergreen Recovery Centers

ERC is requesting funding to start up Substance Use and Mental Health Outpatient services in Skagit County. The request for one-time startup funds in the amount of \$42,000.

Motion #23-50

North Sound BH-ASO-ERC-ICN-23 Amendment 2 for the purpose of providing \$42,000 in one-time start-up funds for establishing outpatient services in Skagit County. The contract term is January 1,

2023, through December 31, 2023, with an automatic one-year renewal on January 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Professional Service Contracts

The following contracts are being presented for approval. These contracts are being renewed on a Federal Grant from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) an agency of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The services provided are Medication Assisted Treatment and Opioid outreach to east and west Skagit County.

Mount Baker Presbyterian Church (MBPC)

The MBPC has been a partner in our opioid outreach program and our Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant for Medication Assisted Treatment in east Skagit County. MBPC conducts outreach and engagement in the Concrete area and will be expanding into Sedro Woolley. The annual budget total is \$125,000, \$30,000 of HRSA grant funds and an increase of \$95,000 in Federal Block Grant Funds.

Motion #23-51

North Sound BH-ASO-MBPC-PSC-23 to provide outreach and engagement to individuals struggling with their substance use and/or mental health. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Lifeline Connections

Lifeline provides Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Nurse Care Managers. The annual funding for this contract is \$89,500.

Motion #23-52

North Sound BH-ASO-Lifeline Connections-PSC-23 for the purpose of providing MAT services in east and west Skagit County. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

<u>NW ESD 189</u>

The NW ESD provides a prevention specialist in the Coupeville School District. The annual funding for this contract is \$87,734.

Motion #23-53

North Sound BH-ASO-NW ESD 189-PSC-23 for the purpose of providing a prevention specialist in the Coupeville School District. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Compass Health

Compass Health provides a Mental Health Professional as a co-responder with the Skagit Sheriff's Department in east Skagit County. The annual for funding for this contract is \$178,000, \$89,000 in HRSA funds and \$89,000 in Federal Block Grant Funds.

Motion #23-54

North Sound BH-ASO-Compass Health-PSC-23 for the purpose of providing a mental health professional as a co-responder with the Sheriff's Department in east Skagit County. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

12. Introduction Items

Health Care Authority (HCA)

This is the continuing contract for Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH). This is an outreach program targeting individuals with a serious mental illness who are unhoused. The annual funding for this service is \$219,026.

The continuing contract for Peer Pathfinder Homeless Outreach Programs. Funding is used to support outreach and engagement services for those who are, or who are risk of homelessness and have or are suspected to have an Opiate Use Disorder and/or stimulant use disorder. The annual funding for these services is \$117, 207.

Motion #XX-XX (introduction)

HCA-North Sound BH-ASO-PATH-23 for the purpose of funding PATH services in Snohomish County. The contract term is October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

Motion #XX-XX (introduction)

HCA-North Sound BH-ASO-K6453-23 for the purpose of providing peer pathfinder services in Whatcom County. The term of the contract is September 30, 2023, through September 29, 2024.

The following two contracts are the downstream contracts for PATH and Peer Pathfinder services.

Bridgeways

Bridgeways is the provider of PATH services in Snohomish County. The annual funding amount is \$219,026 of grant funding and \$73,000 in State funds for case management services for a total of \$292,034.

Motion #XX-XX (introduction)

North Sound BH-ASO-Bridegeways-PATH-23 for the purpose of providing PATH outreach and case management services in Snohomish County. The term of this agreement is October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Lifeline Connections

Lifeline Connections is the provider of Peer Pathfinder Services. The annual funding for this contract is \$117, 207.

Motion #XX-XX (introduction)

NS BH-ASO-Lifeline Connections-FBG-23 Amendment 1 to provide funding to the Peer Path Finder services under this contract. The contract term is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, with an automatic one-year renewal on January 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

North Sound BH-ASO Administrative Budget Amendment

These are the factors requiring a budget amendment-

- Skagit County will not pay our warrants if our budget revenues and expenses do not balance.
- Significant expenses, such as IT servers, repayment of 650K+ of Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) funds to HCA and professional services for recruitment and a needs assessment are major factors.
- We also received new revenue in the amount of \$550K, from the Department of Commerce (DOC) Grant which needs to be noted in the budget.
- The ASO has the funds to cover the expenses, we only need to amend our budget to show the Skagit County Treasurer the funds are available to pay our bills. We are requesting \$2M to be moved from reserves, \$650K of restricted funds from the RNP, \$550K from new revenue (DOC) and \$800K from unrestricted reserves.

Motion #XX-XX (introduction)

To approve the transfer of \$2,000,000.00 from reserves, \$650,000.00 from RNP restricted reserves, \$550,000.00 from Department of Commerce revenue and \$800,000.00 from unrestricted reserves.

13. Report from the Executive Director Attachments

 Annual BOD Member Response/RCW 43.160.040/Conflicts of Interest—Code of Ethics

14. Adjourn

Next Meeting: October 12th, 2023



North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization

Board of Directors

Meeting Agenda

August 10th, 2023

Board of Directors Members Present in Person:

- **Peter Browning,** Commissioner; Skagit County, Board Chair
- Barry Buchanan, County Council; Whatcom County
- George Kosovich, Public Health, Skagit County; designated alternate for Peter Browning, Commissioner
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Members Present via Zoom:

- Darcy Cheesman, Legislative Aid, Snohomish County; designated alternate for Sam Low, County Council
- Perry Mowery, Behavioral Health Supervisor, designated alternate for Satpal Sidhu, County Executive; Whatcom County
- Cynthia Foley, Sr. Legilsative Analyst, Snohomish County; designated alternate from Strom Peterson, County Council
- Jami Mitchell, Human Services Manager, San Juan County; designated alternate for Jane Fuller, County Council
- Nicole Gorle, Legislative Analyst, Snohomish County; designated alternate for Nate Nehring, County Council
- Carola Schmid, Human Services, Snohomish County; designated alternate for Dave Somers, County Executive
- **Pat O'Maley Lanphear,** North Sound BH-ASO Advisory Board Chair

North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (North Sound BH-ASO) Staff Present:

- **Darrell Heiner**, Senior Accountant, North Sound BH-ASO
- **Margaret Rojas,** Assistant Executive Director, North Sound BH-ASO

- Michael McAuley, Clinical Director, North Sound BH-ASO
- Eric Gross, Human Resources Specialist, North Sound BH-ASO
- **Maria Arreola,** Senior Administrative Assistant, North Sound BH-ASO
- **Joanie Wenzl**, Administrative Manager/Clerk of the Board, North Sound BH-ASO

Guests Present:

o There were no guests present

Call to Order and Introductions - Chair

The Chair called the meeting to order and initiated introductions.

Tribal Acknowledgement: Chair

Tribal Behavioral Health | North Sound BH-ASO (nsbhaso.org) The Chair read the Tribal Acknowledgement

Revisions to the Agenda - Chair

The Chair asked if there were any revisions to the agenda. None were mentioned.

Approval of the June 8th, 2023, Minutes, Motion #23-40 - Chair

Note: There was no meeting in July due to summer break Barry Buchanan moved the motion for approval, Perry Mowery seconded, all in favor Motion #23-40 carried.

Comments & Announcements from the Chair

o Update on ASO Executive Director Selection

JanRose Ottaway Martin was selected as the new North Sound BH-ASO Executive Director replacing Joe Valentine. She will be starting work at the ASO on September 18th.

Reports from Board Members

The Board members gave updates from their respective counties regarding behavioral health and substance use disorder (SUD) happenings. Jane Fuller introduced Jami Mitchell (who replaced Barbara LaBrash).

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Report from the Advisory Board (AB)-AB Chair

The Advisory Board Chair (Pat O'Maley Lanphear) gave a summary of the recent AB meeting activities and referenced the monthly brief that is provided to the Board Members.

Jane Fuller, Jami Mitchell, and Peter Browning spoke about the open seats on the AB and their intention to assist in recruiting members in their respective counties.

Report from the Finance Officer-Margaret Rojas/Darrell Heiner

Margaret Rojas and Darrell Heiner gave an overview of the Report from the Finance Officer.

Report from the Governance Operations Committee-Chair

The Chair asked BOD members about updates on the spending plans for the opioid settlement funds that are being dispersed. The chair added that each month there will be check-ins on the topic and that the Opioid Abatement Council meetings will begin soon.

All matters listed with the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each Member for reading and study, are considered to be routine, and will be enacted by one action of the Board of Directors with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request of a Member.

Consent Agenda

Due to the Board of Directors having no meeting in July, there are two months of claims paid along with payroll and associated employer benefits below.

Motion #23-41

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from June 1st, through June 30th, in the amount of \$4,014,336.30.
- Payroll for the month of June in the amount of \$185,175.16 and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$86,071.95.

Barry Buchanan moved the motion for approval, Jane Fuller seconded, all were in favor, motion #23-41 carried

Motion #23-42

- To review and approve the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization claims paid from July 1st, through July 31st, in the amount of \$3,977,431.05.
- Payroll for the month of July in the amount of \$211,759.33 and associated employer benefits in the amount of \$87,453.02.

Jane Fuller moved the motion for approval, Barry Buchanan seconded. All were in favor. Motion #23-42 carried.

Action Items

For Board Approval

Snohomish County Human Services

Snohomish County has requested an increase to their annual budget in the amount of \$900,000 to align with actual costs for 24/7 mobile crisis outreach teams and crisis follow up services post interventions.

One-time Dedicated Cannabis Account (DCA) funds in the amount of \$150,000 are being added from a reserve of unspent DCA funds.

Motion #23-43

 North Sound BH-ASO-Snohomish County-ICCN-23 Amendment 1 to provide additional funds for the mobile crisis outreach teams and one-time funding for Dedicated Cannabis Account. The contract term is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, with an automatic oneyear renewal on January 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Barry Buchanan moved the motion for approval, Jane Fuller seconded, all were in favor, motion #23-43 carried.

Volunteers of America (VOA)

VOA has requested additional funds to align with costs of providing 24/7 North Sound Regional Crisis Line services. The annual increase to their contract is \$443,740.

Motion #23-44

 North Sound BH-ASO-VOA-ICCN-23 Amendment 1 to provide additional funds for the North Sound Regional Crisis Line. The contract term is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, with an automatic one-year renewal on January 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Jane Fuller moved the motion for approval, Barry Buchanan seconded, all in favor, motion #23-44 carried.

Tulalip Tribes-Family Haven

Family Haven is a longstanding Federal Block Grant (FBG) provider in the region. The services are an outreach and engagement to at-risk youth on the reservation. The intent is to reengage the youth in school, behavioral health services and their tribal culture. The annual budget for this contract is \$74,850.

Motion #23-45

 North Sound BH-ASO-Tulalip Tribes Family Haven-FBG-23 to provide funding to continue services for at-risk youth. The contract term is July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on July 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Barry Buchanan moved the motion for approval, Perry Mowery seconded, all in favor, motion #23-45 carried.

Introduction Items

<u>Conquer Addiction</u>

Conquer addiction was the successful bidder for the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Request for Proposals (RFP) in the North Sound Region. Conquer will provide AOT services in Snohomish County. The annual funding is \$902,994.

Motion# XX-XX (Introduction)

North Sound BH-ASO-Conquer Addiction-ICN-23 to provide AOT services in Snohomish County. The contract term is August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on August 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Touchstone Behavioral Health

Touchstone Behavioral Health is a provider of youth services in Whatcom County. This contract is for outpatient services and youth 23-hour crisis stabilization services. The contract is a Fee for Service Contract.

Motion #XX-XX (Introduction)

 North Sound BH-ASO-Touchstone Behavioral Health-ICN-23 to provide youth outpatient services and youth crisis stabilization services in Whatcom County. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on September 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

Mount Baker Presbyterian Church (MBPC)

The MBPC has been a partner in our opioid outreach program and our Federal HRSA grant for Medication Assisted Treatment in east Skagit County. MBPC conducts outreach and engagement in the Concrete area and will be expanding into Sedro Woolley. The annual budget total is \$125,000 an increase of \$95,000.

Motion #XX-XX (Introduction)

North Sound BH-ASO-PSC-23 to provide outreach and engagement to individuals struggling with their substance use and/or mental health. The contract term is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, with an automatic one-year renewal on September 1, 2024, based on continued compliance with the terms of the contract.

The Introduction Items above were reviewed and it was noted that they will come back to the Board next month for action.

Report from the Director

Margaret Rojas said that Jan Rose Ottaway accepted the ASO's Executive Director position and will begin work on September 18th.

Margaret introduced the ASO's new HR Specialist, Eric Gross. Eric spoke to his background and said he is pleased to be part of the important work that the ASO performs.

Margaret gave an overview of the Director's Report which included the following topics:

- New Executive Director
- o Commercial Insurance Plans
- o Opioid Abatement Council
- o 86(a) Proviso Submission
- o Western State Hospital & the Pechman Ruling
- o Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) Restricted Funds
- Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) Reduction
- o Medical Director Retirement
- o BHSCC Network Adequacy Workgroup
- o Crisis Services Update

Adjourn: 2:28 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 14th, 2023 Page 5



Advisory Board Brief

September 7, 2023

The Advisory Board met on September 5, and the following items were discussed:

— Advisory Board

- Co-Occurring Disorders Conference: Members confirmed interest in attending.
- Opioid Abatement Council briefs will be a standing agenda item. Members are highly interested in the development and outcomes of the council.
- Members discussed ways to incorporate the DREI trainings at the annual retreat, increase diversity by reevaluating operational and meeting policies. This will be an ongoing development.
- Nominations for the 2024 officers will open in October. Members were encouraged to participate on the Nomination Committee.

— Executive Director

- The Executive Director reported on
 - Western State Hospital & the Pechman Ruling Update
 - Touchstone Behavioral Health
 - ASO Funding
 - 988 Regional Crisis Line (RCL) Alignment
 - Crisis Services Update
- The Action Items were passed and recommended to the Board of Directors.

— Finance/Executive Committee

 The August Expenditures were passed and recommended to the Board of Directors for approval.

North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization September 14th, 2023, Board of Directors Financial Notes

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. The Budget to Actuals overall is looking pretty good. Revenues are ahead of budget due mainly to some new Proviso funding that we received with the July payment. The Crisis Services appears to be slightly increasing with most of the variance due to late billings received in January, most of the other negative variances are staying stable except for Administration. Administration has a large negative variance due to a couple of retirements, increased professional services and the necessary purchase of computer equipment. We will need to do a budget amendment in October. Most of the large positive expense variances are due to programs not running yet. The bottom line shows us running just a bit under budget.
- 2. The Revenue and Expense statement is looking good at the end of August showing an income of \$3,039,511 mainly due to receiving new Proviso dollars. The SABG fund balance is running a large negative but has improved over last month. Our revenues are covering our expenses. I finished the 6/30/23 R&E report for the State, that analysis shows that most of our state fund balance is tied to Proviso dollars, our available general fund balance increased to \$7,605,973.31 mostly due to the recapture of some MCO retro payments. Our Minimum Reserve requirement is \$3,090,242.00 as of July our maximum reserve is set at \$6,130,312.00.
- 3. The one thing to note is the Medicaid fund balance, I adjusted it to the R&E balance at 12/31/22. The MCO fund balance is starting to go negative especially when you consider that they pay for the month in advance and our expenses run at least a month behind. When I did the MCO reconciliation for January to June it was showing a shortfall of \$417,406.92, hopefully the MCOs will pay the reconciliation difference.

NOTES

1. We are presenting the financial statements for August 2023 for the Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (ASO).

2. These monthly statements are prepared for the Board's use only. They provide a snapshot of expenses and revenue for a single calendar month compared with a hypothetical "year to date" projection. However, neither revenues nor expenditures occur on an equal 1/12 amount each month.

NORTH SOUND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE ORGANIZATION PRELIMINARY REVENUE and EXPENSE STATEMENT for AUGUST 2023*

	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD
<u>REVENUES</u>	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
Intergovernmental Revenues	Totals	МСО	State	MHBG	SABG	HRSA
HRSA	205,322			1 (12 772)		205,322
MHBG	1,643,773			1,643,773	2769462	
SABG State Funds	2,768,462 20,895,552		20,895,552		2,768,462	
Medicaid (MCO)	6,043,602	6,043,602	20,893,332			
Total Intergovernmental Revenues	31,556,711	6,043,602	20,895,552	1,643,773	2,768,462	205,322
Misc. Revenue **	12,975	0,045,002	12,975	1,045,775	2,700,102	203,322
Interest Revenue	206,963		206,963			
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 31,776,649	\$ 6,043,602	\$ 21,115,490	\$ 1,643,773	\$ 2,768,462	\$ 205,322
EXPENDITURES						
Inpatient Treatment	\$ 632,545		\$ 632,545			
ITA Judicial	1,616,599		1,616,599			
Crisis Services	9,652,838	5,484,853	3,407,058	87,545	673,382	
Crisis Teams - Children & Youth	158,420		158,420			
Co-Responder	542,724		126,281	284,449	131,994	
MH Crisis Stabilization	1,207,270		839,354	367,916		
E&T Services	625,093		625,093			
E&T Discharge Planner	169,410		169,410			
Jail Services	130,823		130,823			
PACT Services	554,730		554,730			
Assisted Outpatient Treatment	0		0			
Trueblood	203,374		203,374			
BH Enhancement Funds HOST	482,436 775,628		482,436 775,628			
Peer Bridger	111,915		775,028	111,915		
MHBG Expenditures ***	648,480			648,480		
HARPS Housing	541,328		541,328	010,100		
DOC Housing	1,222,579		1,222,579			
DMA County Contracts	460,852		460,852			
Recovery Navigator	1,834,601		1,834,601			
Opiate Dependency Outreach	666,879				666,879	
PPW Housing Support Services	323,443				323,443	
SABG Expenditures ****	456,241				456,241	
Withdrawal Management	1,080,214		718,891		361,323	
HRSA	226,153					226,153
Juvenile Drug Court	87,971		87,971			
Other MH Services *****	648,929		648,929			
Other SUD Services	144,254		144,254			
Advisory Board	5,704		5,704			
Subtotal - Services	25,211,431	5,484,853	15,386,860	1,500,305	2,613,261	226,153
Administration	3,525,707	767,032	2,727,048			31,626
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 28,737,138	\$ 6,251,885	\$ 18,113,907	\$ 1,500,305	\$ 2,613,261	\$ 257,779

Net Income	\$ 3,039,511	\$ (208,283) \$	3,001,582	\$ 143,468	\$ 155,201	\$ (52,457)
Beginning Fund Balance 12/31/22	 15,064,689	30,506	15,928,915	(187,767)	(653,818)	(53,147)
Ending Fund Balance Flexible GFS balance at 6/30/23	18,104,200	(177,777)	18,930,497 7,605,973	(44,300)	(498,616)	(105,605)

Note: State Fund Balance also includes Proviso Fund Balances which are designated for specific expenditures * THIS IS AN UNAUDITED STATEMENT

* Medicaid and State revenue are paid in advance. MHBG, SABG and SAMHSA revenue are paid on an expense reimbusement method. Expenses are recognized when the bill is received.

** Room Rental Fees, Tribal Conference, Salish Contract

*** Includes COVID, PATH and other FBG services. Does not include Crisis or E&T

**** Includes Peer Pathfinder and other SABG expenses. Does not include Crisis

***** Includes CORS, FYSPRT, Outpatient Services, PATH match

NORTH SOUND BH-ASO Warrants Paid August 2023

Туре	Date	Num	Name	Amount
Bill Pmt -Check	08/04/2023	566964	Commercial Alarm and Detection Inc	-106.08
Bill Pmt -Check	08/04/2023	566967	Consejo Counseling	-1,507.06
Bill Pmt -Check	08/04/2023	567009	Dixon, James-Reim	-740.99
Bill Pmt -Check	08/04/2023	566944	Fairfax Hospital	-35,614.50
Bill Pmt -Check	08/04/2023	567027	Lake Whatcom Center	-36,375.47
Bill Pmt -Check	08/04/2023	567030	Lifeline Connections	-2,700.40
Bill Pmt -Check	08/04/2023	567066	Pitney Bowes Pur Power	-238.03
Bill Pmt -Check	08/04/2023	567106	Snohomish Co Human Services	-176,196.02
Bill Pmt -Check	08/04/2023	567062	St Joseph Medical Center, Peace Hea	-2,715.26
Bill Pmt -Check	08/04/2023	567118	Tulalip Tribes	-6,648.86
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567523	Arreola, Maria-Reim	-33.33
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567443	Bridgeways	-10,769.23
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567521	Crothers, Linda-Reim	-246.03
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567597	Department of Retirement Services	-100.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567496	Dixon, James-Reim	-120.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567475	Enduris WA	-52,470.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567494	Island County Human Services	-87,628.62
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567516	Lake Whatcom Center	-38,229.32
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567539	Morris Consulting	-850.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567537	Office Depot	-45.13
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567547	Providence-Everett	-9,678.51
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567571	Skagit County Public Health	-37,035.48
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567575	Snohomish Co Juvenile	-9,153.26
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567578	SRS Property Management	-11,280.56
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567583	Telecare Corporation	-121,234.50
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567595	WA State Dept of L & I	-57.50
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567599	WA State Patrol	-11.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/11/2023	567605	Whatcom County Health Department	-120,115.02
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567632	Access	-1,187.63
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567686	Compass Health	-170,687.01
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567653	Fairfax Hospital	-4,986.03
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567717	Firstline Communications (All Phase)	-1,137.66
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567719	Frontline Cleaning Services LLC	-915.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567902	Health Care Authority	-650,000.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567730	Herd Freed Hartz	-29,900.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567732	Holman Recovery Center	-6,500.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567723	Lippman, Glenn	-1,837.50
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567856	Maharaj-Lewis, Starleen	-285.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567816	Pioneer Center	-12,022.92
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567853	Snohomish Co Human Services	-580,130.15
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567873	Therapeutic Health Services	-8,869.00

NORTH SOUND BH-ASO Warrants Paid August 2023

Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567876	Thurston Mason-BHO	-9,919.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567872	Tulalip Tribes	-4,272.71
Bill Pmt -Check	08/18/2023	567908	Wave Business	-601.20
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	567961	Callahan, Cameron	-442.50
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	567966	CDW-G	-2,865.25
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	567978	Comcast	-382.88
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	567979	Community Action of Skagit Co	-42,205.20
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	568186	Culligan NW	-40.52
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	567999	Evergreen Recovery	-141,181.78
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	567953	Fairfax Hospital	-175.83
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	567997	Gross, Eric	-244.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	568035	Lake Whatcom Center	-17,073.76
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	568054	McAuley, Michael T	-195.56
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	568053	MCD E&T	-18,175.36
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	568059	Mount Baker Presbyterian Church	-2,330.76
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	568090	Pioneer Center	-48,882.16
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	568094	Providence-Everett	-678.49
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	568108	San Juan County Health & Comm. Ser	-28,030.98
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	568129	Skagit County Public Health	-3,810.05
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	568140	Spokane County BHO	-1,450.00
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	568170	Valley Cities Counseling	-8,356.40
Bill Pmt -Check	08/25/2023	568189	Whatcom County Health Department	-71,623.48
Bill Pmt -Check	08/30/2023	IGT	Skagit County Auditor	-3,500.00
				-2,636,795.93
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				-2,636,795.93
L				

Health Care Authority (HCA) TEAMonitoring

HCA conducted the annual TEAMonitoring, we did extremely well in all categories, with a few technical findings. Our Final Report will be available on October 1, 2023, and our Corrective Action Plan is due on November 22, 2023.

Opioid Abatement Council

North Sound has scheduled the first meeting of the OAC, the meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2023, from 1PM-2PM.

Western State Hospital & the Pechman Ruling Update (Attachment I)

Since our last update 22 counties, including Skagit, Snohomish, Island & Whatcom, have filed and injunction in Pierce County. Currently we do not know the status of the lawsuit. In the meantime, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has acquired Cascade Hospital, which closed in July, it's our understanding they will be ramping up beds over the next few months, the facility has the capacity of 100+ beds.

DSHS has sent out information to the courts and DCR agencies instructing the DCR agencies that they will be required to go into the jails to conduct an ITA evaluation. The attachment provides guidance to the ASOs on the process and acknowledging the added burden to our DCR system. So far, Snohomish County DCRs are the only team to date called out to provide the evaluations in jail. Placement for the individuals remains a difficult task until more beds open.

Touchstone Behavioral Health

A 23-hour youth relief center facility in Whatcom County has been built. The provider, Touchstone, is currently negotiating with the Managed Care Organizations. North Sound will be entering a contract with Touchstone for youth outpatient services but will not be adding the 23relief center until we credential the facility in Everson. We believe this service is a needed addition to the continuum of care in the North Sound region and are hopeful it is successful.

ASO Funding

The ASOs and lobbyist Brad Banks are preparing for the next legislative session. Because it's a supplemental session we do not anticipate much change to our funding allocations. We are developing strategies to discuss different funding mechanisms, such as direct payment, building more flexibility into our funding allotments and enhancing our role as a funder, i.e., Co-Responder programs. The discussion is in the beginning stages, we do not anticipate any changes this session.

From:	HCA BH ASO
То:	Liu, Inna; Tiffany Villines; Robin.Metcalf@carelon.com; Becknell, Leah; Karen Richardson; Sindi Saunders; Karen
	Spoelman; Reading, Michael; Jennifer Whitson; Charles DeElena; Margaret Rojas, M.Ed.; Michael McAuley; Justin
	Johnson- Spokane BH-ASO; Schultz, Laura M.; Magee, Ashley; Thompson, Jessica; Kbeilstein; Becky Meeks; Lexa
	J. Donnelly ; Trinidad Medina: Rosa Guerrero; Stephanie J. Lewis; Jolene Kron_kitsapgov; Mark Freedman; Joe
	Avalos
Cc:	<u>Leonard, Ruth (HCA); Kirschbaum, Teesha R (HCA); Waggoner, Luke (HCA)</u>
Subject:	FW: BH-ASO email update regarding Trueblood Breach order
Date:	Thursday, August 17, 2023 9:37:20 AM
Attachments:	image001.png
	image002.png
	image003.png

Greetings BH-ASO leadership,

On July 7, 2023, Senior Judge Marsha J. Pechman issued an Order prohibiting the Department of Social and Health Services from admitting felony civil conversion patients to Western and Eastern State Hospitals. The Order arose from the ongoing Trueblood v. DSHS litigation being heard in the Western District of Washington. Currently, DSHS is not admitting civil conversions into the state hospital and is encouraging jails/courts/etc to contact designated crisis responders to assess patients for civil detentions under RCW 10.77. DSHS is also under pressure to discharge civil patients currently occupying forensic beds at the state hospitals.

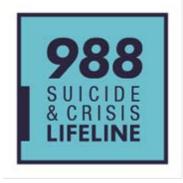
HCA does not have real time data, but we are hearing anecdotally from the community regarding the impact this ruling will have in the volume of referrals for ITA evaluations performed by DCRs. As DCR get these additional referral requests, they will find some persons detainable and need to find appropriate placements. These detentions cannot be easily absorbed by the community. HCA is in the process of contracting for community beds, specifically for civil conversion patients exiting the state hospitals. The HCA contracted beds for civil conversion do not represent additional capacityrather the changing of use for existing beds within the overall system. These contracts will result in taking existing beds offline for community-initiated placements so that the beds can be repurposed for civil conversions.

Recognizing the additional strain placed on the community system, HCA is looking to identify ways to provide flexibility and support. BH-ASOs oversee the crisis system and DCRs. There are contractual and statutory timelines associated with the ITA process. HCA's contract with the BHASOs has shorter timelines than what is required by law. It is critical that DCRs meet statutory timelines or judges can and often do dismiss involuntary holds. This results in someone who has been determined to be a danger to themselves, others, or gravely disabled being released from involuntary treatment without the necessary supports. In order for HCA to allow flexibility in cases when contractual timelines for the ITA process can't be met BH-ASOs are expected to maintain communication with HCA contract manager. HCA will add a placeholder in the BH-ASO meetings for a check-in regarding this issue. At this time BH-ASOs will not be put into corrective action if contractual timelines are not met, but there is an expectation that statutory timelines **will** be met.

Ruth Leonard, MA, SUDP Section Supervisor Strategic Design and Program Oversight 805 Plum Street PO Box 45530 Olympia, WA 98504-5330 Cell -360-643-6955 ruth.leonard@hca.wa.gov

(regular work hours: 6:00 to 5:00 M-TH)





BH-ASO Priorities for 988 & Regional Crisis Lines (RCLs)

DATA: Clear protocols for data sharing are necessary among crisis call centers (988 & RCLs), mobile crisis outreach teams, and rapid response teams.

- Real time information sharing between 988 and Regional Crisis Lines (RCLs) is necessary to reduce the likelihood of individuals having to repeat their stories and to reduce delays in crisis support services being provided.
- Clear protocols for information sharing among crisis call centers (988 & RCL) and rapid response teams, mobile crisis outreach teams, and Fire/EMS as appropriate. This improves overall system awareness regarding service utilization, regional trends, and community needs or gaps.

DISPATCH & FLEXIBILITY: Decisions to deploy or dispatch mobile crisis services and designated crisis responders must be managed at the local or regional level.

- BH-ASOs are regional administrators of both mobile crisis outreach teams and designated crisis responders (DCRs); as well as provide training, and programmatic and contractual oversight for these crisis services.
- BH-ASOs and their subcontracted crisis provider network coordinate with local systems including law enforcement jurisdictions, hospitals, behavioral health agencies, etc. These relationships and active connections to the local behavioral health system are critical factors in making appropriate crisis service deployment/dispatch decisions.
- Flexibility to partner with 988 Hubs that best fit regional needs, with an allowance for additional 988 Hubs where appropriate alternatives exist.

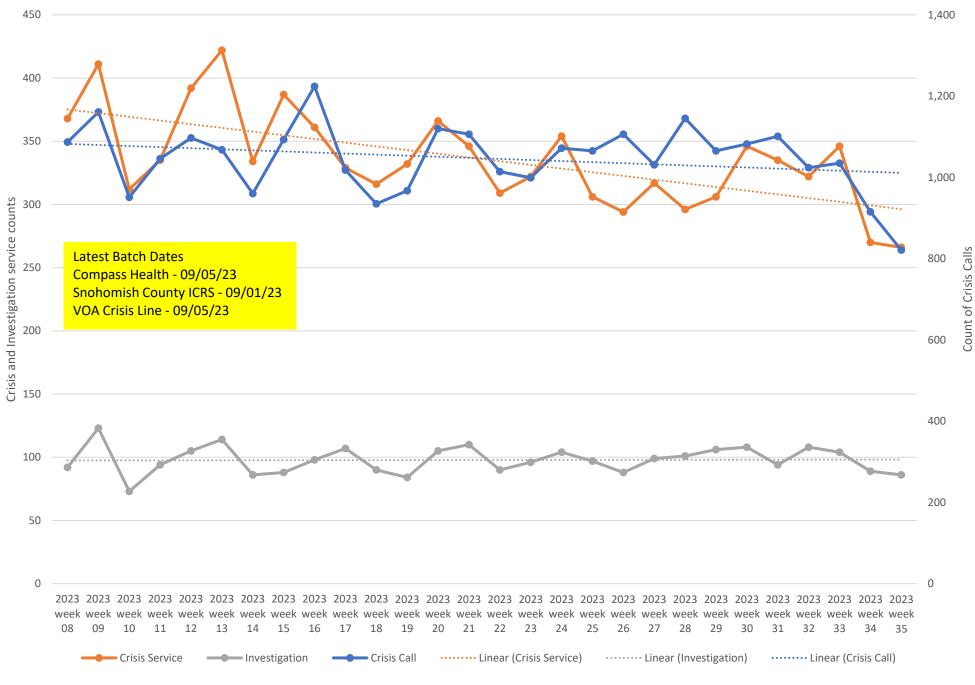
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: Clear expectations and understanding of what resources are managed and/or deployed by 988 versus RCLs.

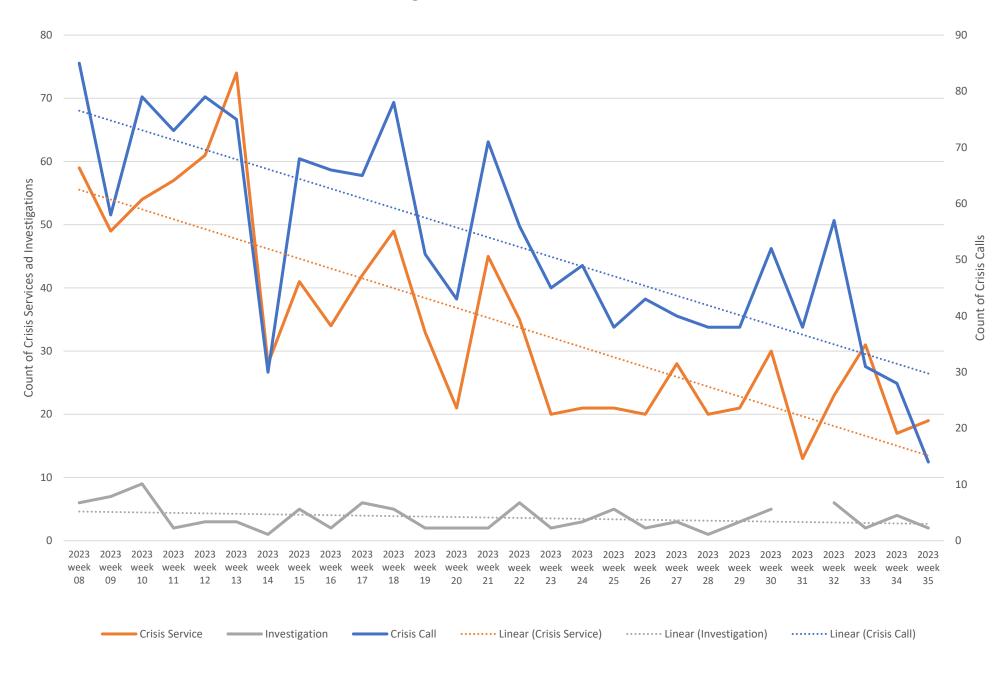
- With the expansion of community-based crisis programs and services, BH-ASOs need to be the primary system coordinator at the regional level as well as have clear expectations and understanding of the role of all partners.
- Lack of clarity could contribute to community and service provider confusion, as well as duplication of outreach services.

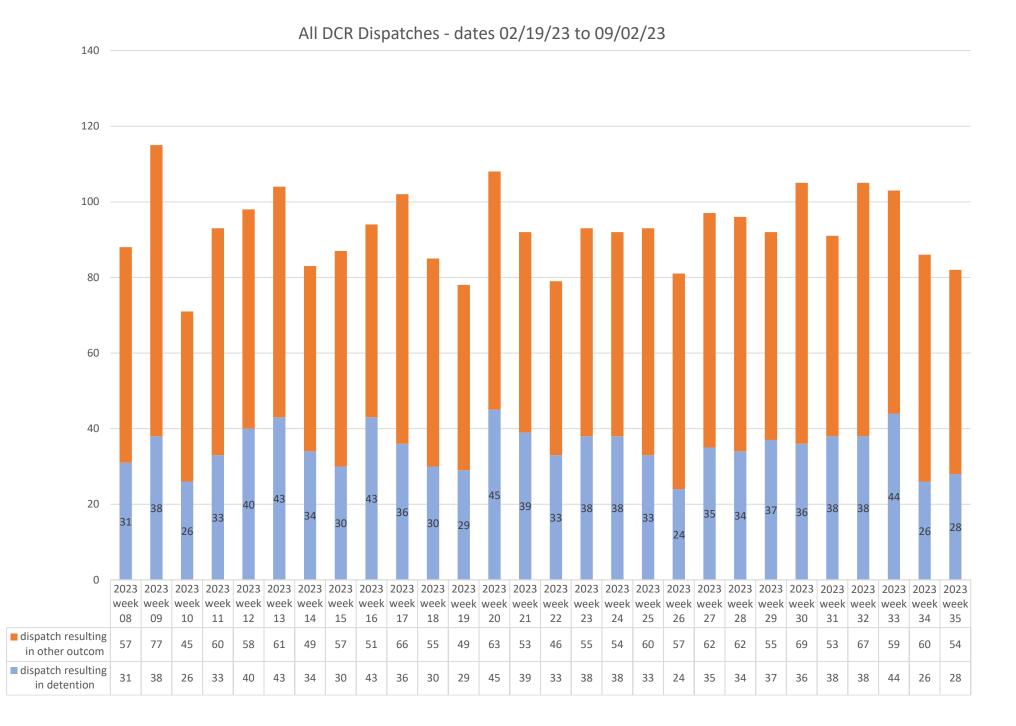


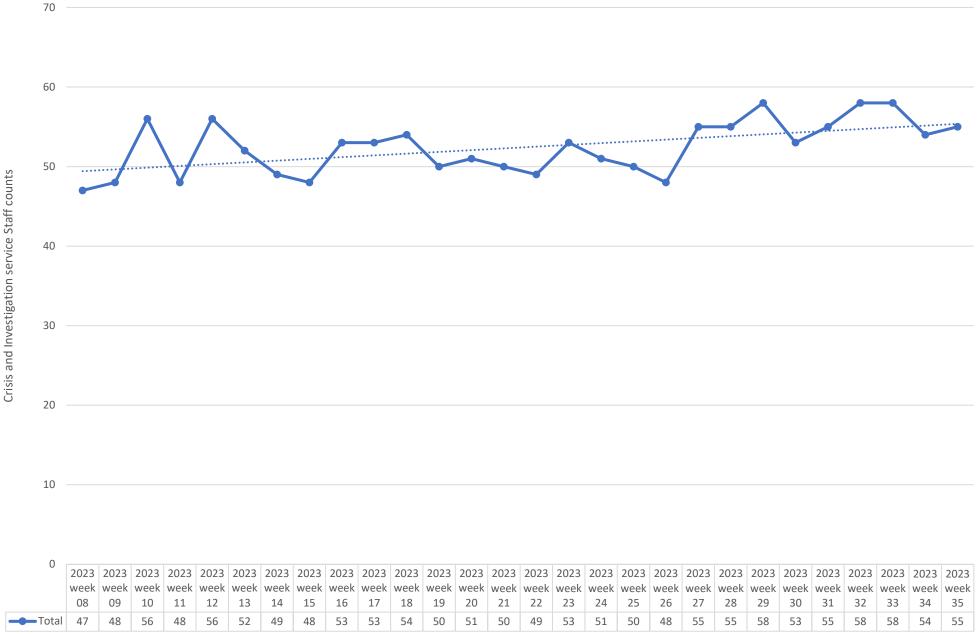
Weekly Crisis Capacity Indicator Snapshot

Page 2	Crisis Data - dates 02/19/23 to 09/02/23
Page 3	Crisis Data: Ages 0-17 - dates 02/19/23 to 09/02/23
Page 4	All DCR Dispatches - dates 02/19/23 to 09/02/23
Page 5	Weekly Staff Count - Staff providing Crisis or Investigaion services 02/19/23 to 09/02/23
Page 6	Hospital placement locations (Invol and Vol) - No adjustment has been made for timely data - recent weeks likely low
Page 7	Telehealth only, crisis and investigation services from 02/19/23 to 09/02/23
Page 8	Crisis Service Unit Percent - Crisis Service units divided by Crisis units + Investigation units
Page 9	Washington State Indicators of Anxiety or Depression Based on Reported Frequency of Symptoms During Last 7 Days
Page 10	Place of Service -Crisis Services, percent of total by week
Page 11	Place of Service -Investigations, percent of total by week
Page 12	New COVID-19 Cases Reported Weekly per 100,000 population - 10/19/22 to 09/06/23
Page 13	New COVID-19 Deaths Reported Weekly per 1,000,000 population - 10/19/22 to 09/06/23
Page 14	Total Hospitalized Adults - COVID-19 (confirmed or supected) 7 day average
Page 15	North Sound BH ASO Walkaway Chart 02/19/23 to 09/02/23



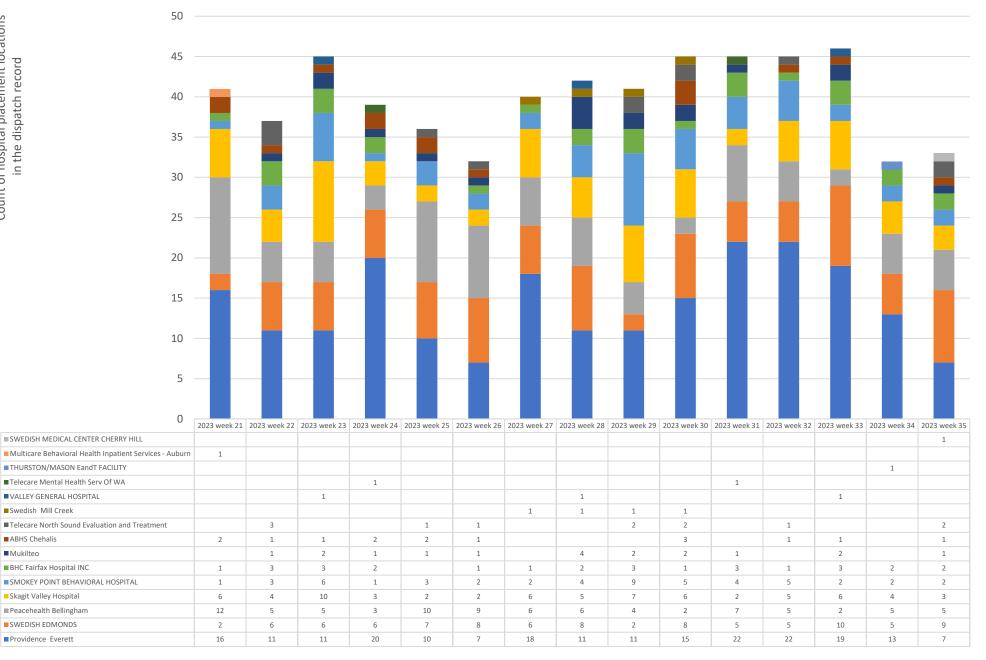






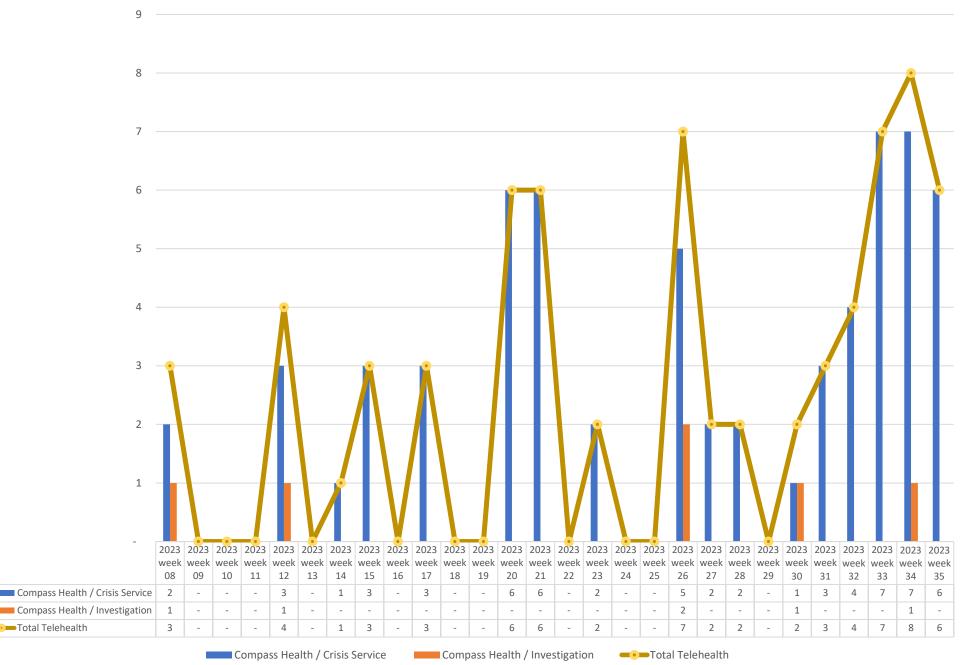
2023 week 35 ending 01/00/00

Hospital placement locations (Invol and Vol) - No adjustment has been made for timely data - recent weeks likely low



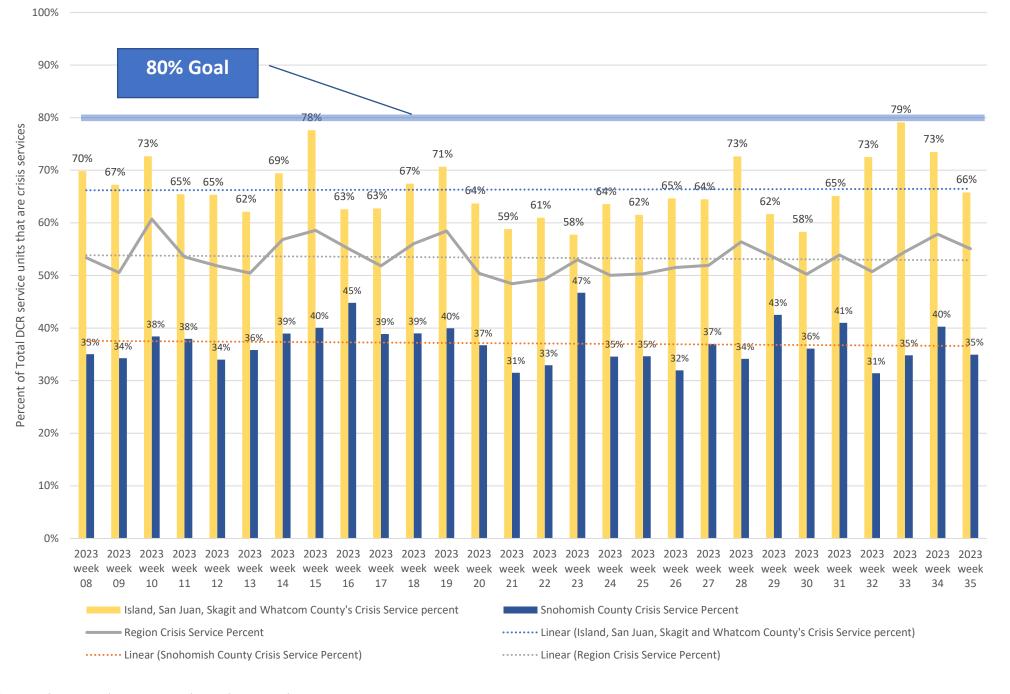
Count of hospital placement locations in the dispatch record

Mukilteo



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WeeklyCrisis_20230907.xlsx



Crisis Service Unit Percent - Crisis Service units divided by Crisis units + Investigation units

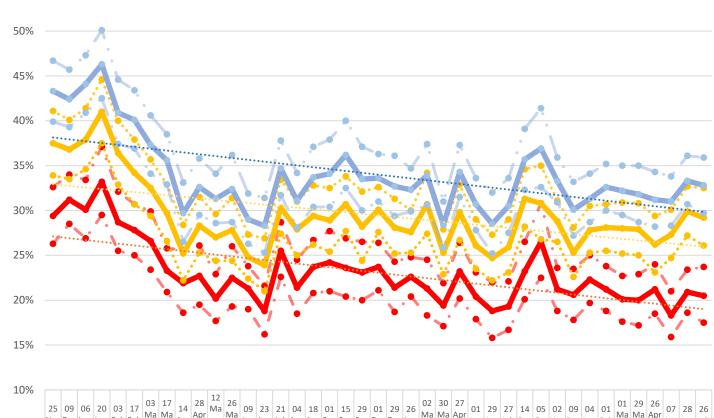
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Washington State Indicators of Anxiety or Depression Based on Reported Frequency of Symptoms During Last 7 Days

The U.S. Census Bureau, in collaboration with five federal agencies, launched the Household Pulse Survey to produce data on the social and economic impacts of Covid-19 on American households. The Household Pulse Survey was designed to gauge the impact of the pandemic on employment status, consumer spending, food security, housing, education disruptions, and dimensions of physical and mental wellness.

55%

https://data.cdc.gov/NCHS/Indicators-of-Anxiety-or-Depression-Based-on-Repor/8pt5-q6wp



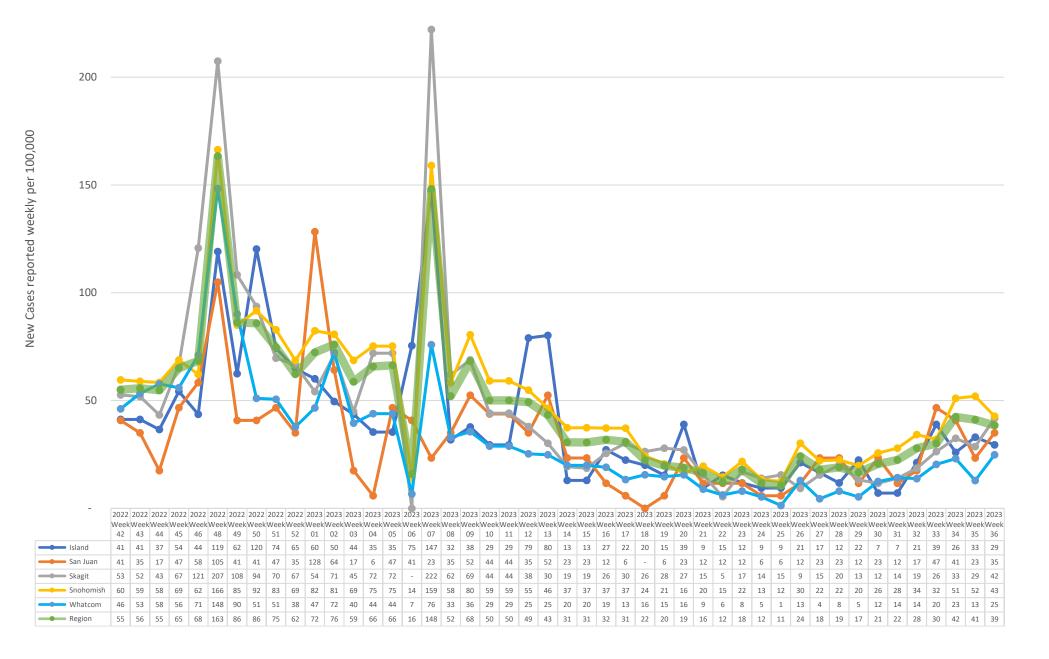
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• % with Symptoms of Anxiety or Depressive Disorder low conf. level	40%39%41%43%37%37%34%33%27%30%29%29%26%25%32%28%30%30%33%30%31%29%30%31%26%32%28%25%28%32%33%31%27%29%30%30%29%28%28%31%30%
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• % with Symptoms of Anxiety or Depressive Disorder high conf. level	47%46%47%50%45%43%41%39%33%36%34%36%32%31%38%34%37%38%40%37%36%36%35%37%31%37%34%32%34%39%41%36%33%34%35%35%35%34%34%36%36%36%

Place of Service -Crisis Services, percent of total by week

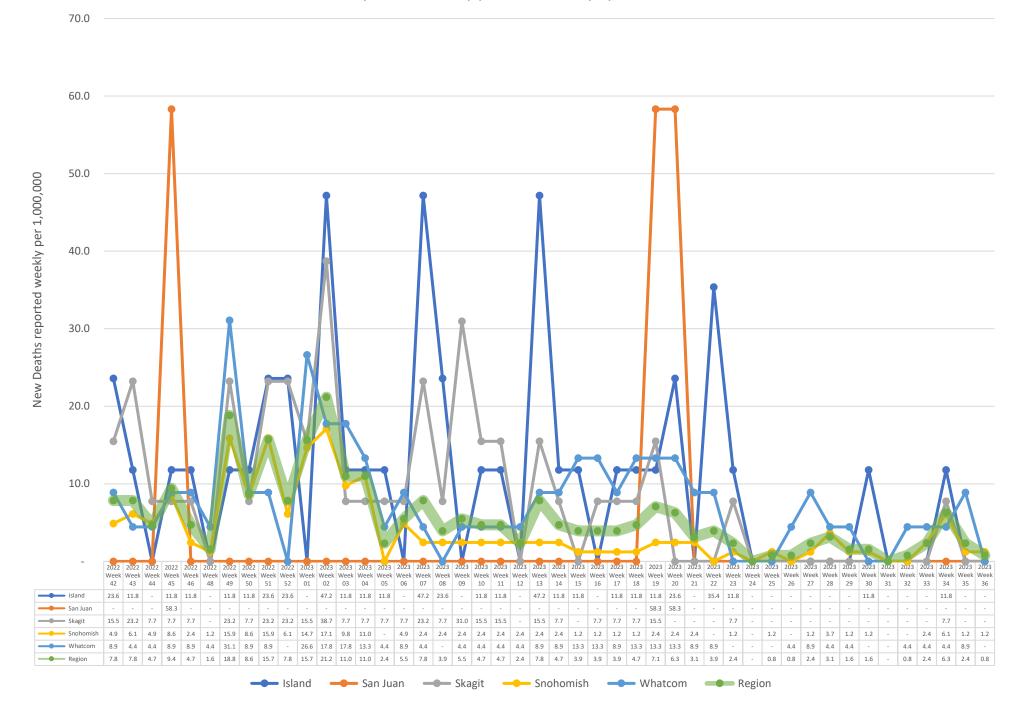
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Non residential Substance Abuse Treatment Facility																									1			
Psychiatric Facility-Partial Hospitalization																	1											
Custodial Care Facility													1								1	2	1	1				
Skilled Nursing Facility											1			1					2	2			1					
Nursing Facility		1	1	1							1		2		1					2					1			
Community Mental Health Center	1	1				1			2							1	1				2			1				1
Psych. Residential	2	1		2								1			1			1			1						1	1
Group Home	1	2					1	1	3	2	3	1		1				1	1	2		4	2		4	1		
Homeless Shelter		2	1	2	4	2	4			1	1	2	1	4	1	1		1			2	1	2	1				2
On Campus Outpatient Hospital	1	1			1	2	1		1	1			1					1	2	9	5	2	3		1	4	4	1
School	5	5	4	4	5	3	1	4	1	1	3	1	2	2	3	6	2		1	1	1							
■ Telehealth	2				3		1	3		3			6	6		2			5	2	2		1	3	4	7	7	6
Inpatient Hospital	1	4	4	6	10	6	4	1	4	3	3	3	7	7	8	2	3	14	2	7	4	4	7	3	4	2	2	4
Inpatient Psychiatric Facility	3	8	5	8	6	7	13	5	5	7	8	9	7	12	3	14	8	5	6	4	10	11	7	9	8	8	6	4
Prison Correctional Facility	9	8	7	14	13	14	12	13	10	10	10	9	11	15	9	14	15	20	12	16	9	5	27	15	13	9	17	12
Assisted Living Facility	20	22	21	18	9	12	18	15	12	17	10	12	17	8	8	11	19	13	17	16	15	7	6	9	13	11	6	18
Emergency Room Hospital	27	36	18	28	30	37	25	24	32	39	25	21	28	28	40	31	26	25	21	37	25	37	29	27	22	39	23	42
Home	47	52	44	32	36	34	29	32	19	23	28	28	32	30	28	20	39	28	32	30	34	30	37	20	37	31	24	17
Other Place of Service	102	101	112	110	148	159	109	141	123	102	103	127	131	112	96	100	93	98	100	89	93	74	121	120	100	107	76	81
■ Office	147	167	95	110	127	145	116	148	149	120	120	118	120	120	111	120	147	99	93	100	92	129	102	126	114	127	104	77

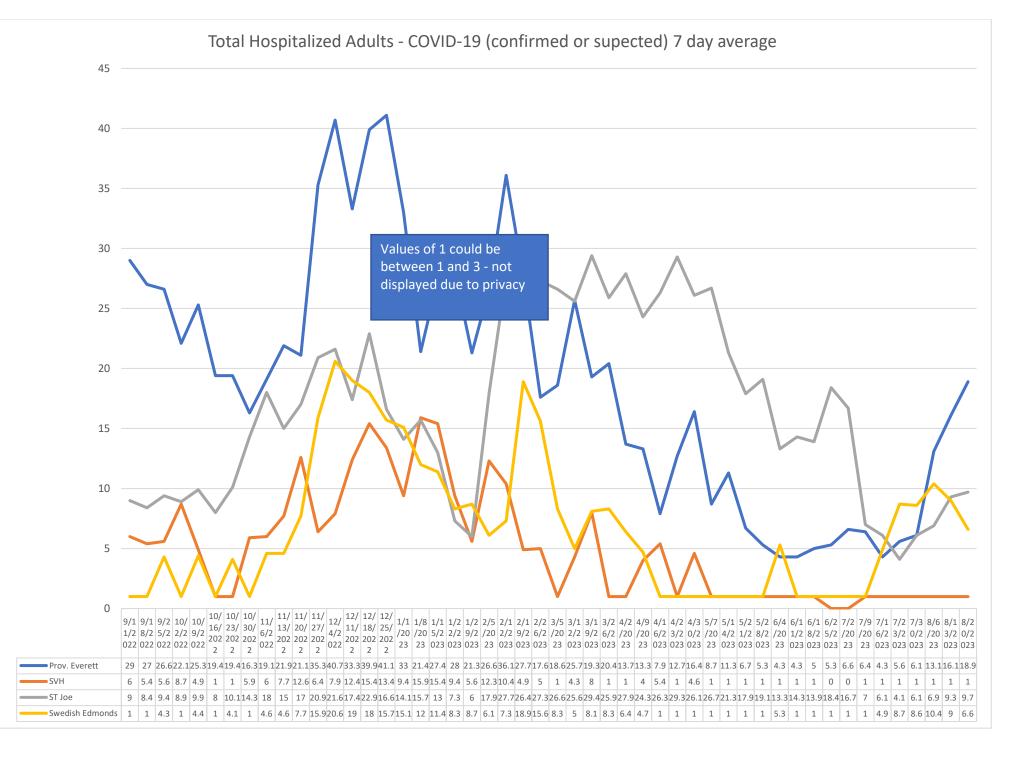
Place of Service -Investigations, percent of total by week

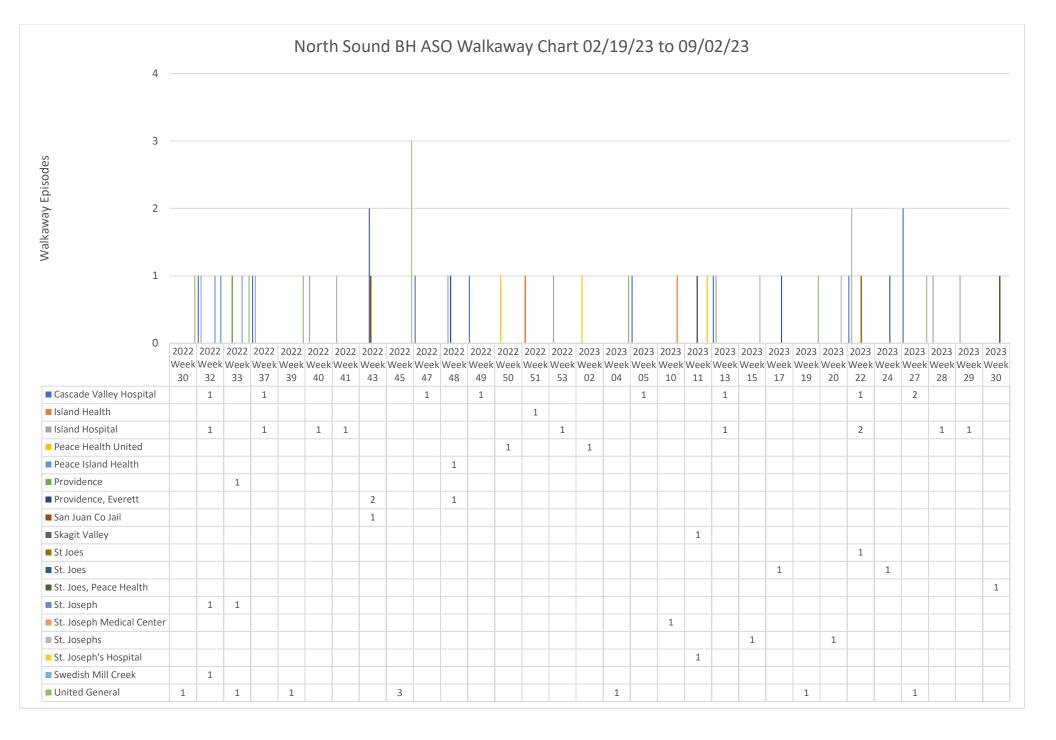
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Non residential Substance Abuse Treatment Facility																									1			
Residential SUD								1																				
Custodial Care Facility																												1
Nursing Facility		1		1																								
Skilled Nursing Facility											1								1									
Homeless Shelter				1						1				1														
On Campus Outpatient Hospital	1	1							1											1								
School		1	1					1		1					1													
■ Telehealth	1				1														2				1				1	
■ Psych. Residential	2	2				1									1							1					1	1
Community Mental Health Center	1	1				1										1			1		2			1			1	
Group Home	1	4	1	3			1	1	4	1	4	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	4	1	4	1		3	5			1
■ Office	1	2	2	2	3	4	2		3	2		3		4	3	2	2	1	1		2	5	3	2	1	1		2
Home	2	3	3	1	1	3	2	1		4		3	3	5		1	2	5	1	4	4	3	1		4			3
Assisted Living Facility	1	2	2	2	4	2		2	2	4	3	2	3	3	1	2	1		5	4	3	7	7	4	3	3	3	5
Inpatient Hospital	6	3	4	5	11	4	6	1	6	2	6	3	5	7	3	5	4	8	4	4	3	3	6	4	5	2	1	3
Inpatient Psychiatric Facility	4	11	5	9	12	9	14	8	7	11	11	14	10	13	5	15	12	9	10	5	12	12	6	8	13	6	11	3
Prison Correctional Facility	13	11	12	15	15	14	9	17	7	18	10	11	11	11	12	16	18	17	11	15	10	8	21	16	20	18	22	13
Other Place of Service	28	34	18	23	20	29	18	23	29	20	25	18	31	26	24	20	29	23	14	23	28	29	27	24	25	26	22	12
Emergency Room Hospital	31	47	25	32	38	47	34	33	39	43	30	29	41	37	39	33	35	32	34	42	33	37	36	32	31	48	27	42



250









Office of the Washington State Auditor Pat McCarthy

September 23, 2023

Board of Directors North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization 2021 E College Way Mount Vernon, WA 98273

We are pleased to confirm the audits to be performed by the Office of the Washington State Auditor, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 43.09 RCW, for the North Sound Behavioral Health and Administrative Services Organization. This letter confirms the nature and limitations of the audits, as well as responsibilities of the parties and other engagement terms.

Office of the Washington State Auditor Responsibilities

Financial Statement Audit

We will perform an audit of the basic financial statements of the North Sounds Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The objective of our audit will be to express our opinion on these financial statements.

We will perform our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. Since we do not review every transaction, our audit cannot be relied upon to identify every potential misstatement. Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk exists that some material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the standards identified above.

A financial statement audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers relevant internal controls in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion.

Although our audit is not designed to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, we are required to report any identified significant deficiencies and material

weaknesses in controls. We are also required to report instances of fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on the accuracy of financial statements.

A financial statement audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

All misstatements identified by the audit will be discussed with management. Material misstatements corrected by management and all uncorrected misstatements will be communicated at the exit conference, as required by professional auditing standards.

Our responsibility is to express in a written report an opinion on the financial statements based on the results of our audit. We cannot guarantee an unmodified opinion. We may modify or disclaim an opinion on the financial statements if we are unable to complete the audit or obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence supporting the financial statements. If our opinion is other than unmodified, we will fully discuss the reason with you prior to issuing our report. Further, in accordance with professional standards, we may add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs to our report to describe information that, in our judgment, is relevant to understanding the financial statements or our audit.

We will also issue a written report (that does not include an opinion) on issues identified during the audit related to internal control over financial reporting and on compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Organization prepares supplementary information that accompanies the financial statements, which is required by the BARS Manual and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. We agree to perform auditing procedures on this information, with the objective of expressing an opinion as to whether it is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The Organization also prepares other information to accompany the financial statements, which is required by accounting standards or is done at its discretion. We will perform limited procedures on this information for the purpose of identifying inconsistencies with the financial statements. However, we will not express an opinion on its fair presentation.

Federal Single Audit

We will also perform a federal single audit on compliance with, and report on internal control over compliance for, each major program for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and Title 2 *U.S. Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Those standards and the Uniform Guidance require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk exists that

some material noncompliance may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with these standards and the Uniform Guidance.

In planning and performing the compliance audit, we will consider internal control over compliance in order to determine the appropriate auditing procedures necessary for opining on compliance with each major program, and for testing and reporting on internal control over compliance in accordance with Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. Although our audit is not designed to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance, we are required to report any identified significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in controls.

We estimate the federal single audit will cover one federal grant programs, which will be identified at the audit entrance conference. If additional grant programs are audited to satisfy the requirements of the Uniform Guidance, the audit budget discussed below will increase by approximately \$9,000 per additional major program.

Upon completion of our audit we will issue a written report containing our opinion on compliance for each major program and a written report on internal control over compliance. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion, issue a disclaimer of opinion, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s) to the report.

Data Security

Our Office is committed to appropriately safeguarding the information we obtain during the course of the audit. We have entered into a data sharing agreement with the Organization to ensure compliance with legal requirements and Executive Directives (Executive Order 16-01, RCW 42.56 and OCIO Standard 141.10) in the handling of information considered confidential.

Responsibilities specific to this engagement

Additionally we will:

- Provide management with advanced notification if we identify issues that require further audit work and increase audit costs.
- Participate in weekly progress meetings to discuss the status of the audit plans for future weeks. At those meetings, we will provide information on the departments we will work in and the audit objectives we will be addressing.
- Interact with staff professionally and respectfully and communicate needs and issues in a timely manner.
- Provide written correspondence during the course of the audit through email to the audit liaison, Senior Accountant Darrell Heiner.
- Provide advance notice when a scheduled meeting is to be cancelled.
- Allow the BH-ASO seven days to provide a written response to any findings.

Reporting levels for audit issues

Issues identified through the auditing process will be communicated as follows. Failure to appropriately address audit issues may result in escalated reporting levels.

• **Findings** formally address issues in an audit report. Findings report significant results of the audit, such as significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal controls; misappropriation; and material abuse or non-compliance with laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements. You will be given the opportunity to respond to a finding, and this response,

or a synopsis of it, will be published in the audit report. Professional auditing standards define the issues we must report as findings with regard to non-compliance with a financial statement effect and internal controls over financial reporting. The Uniform Guidance defines the issues we must report as findings with regard to non-compliance and internal controls over compliance with federal grants.

- **Management letters** communicate control deficiencies, non-compliance, misappropriation, abuse, or errors with a less-than-material effect on audit objectives. Management letters are referenced, but not included, in the audit report.
- Exit items address control deficiencies, non-compliance, abuse, or errors that have an insignificant effect on audit objectives. These issues are informally communicated to management and are not referenced in the audit report.

Client's Responsibilities

Management is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of information provided to the auditor and will provide the Office of the Washington State Auditor with:

- Unrestricted access to people with whom the auditor wishes to speak.
- All information that is requested or relevant to auditor requests.
- Notification when any documents, records, files, or data contain information that is covered by confidentiality or privacy laws.
- Adequate workspace and conditions, including interacting with auditors professionally and respectfully and promptly communicating about any issues and concerns.

Moreover, our audit does not relieve management or the governing body of their responsibilities. Management's responsibilities, with oversight from the governing body, include:

- Selecting and applying appropriate administrative and accounting policies.
- Establishing and maintaining effective internal controls over financial reporting, compliance, and safeguarding of public resources.
- Designing and following effective controls to prevent and detect fraud, theft, and loss.
- Promptly reporting to us knowledge of any fraud, allegations of fraud or suspected fraud involving management, employees or others, in accordance with RCW 43.09.185.
- Ensuring compliance with laws, regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements.
- Preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).
- Preparing the following supplementary information:
 - Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) that includes all expenditures from federal agencies and pass-through agencies in the form of grants, contracts, loans, loan guarantees, property, cooperative agreements, interest subsidies, insurance, food commodities, direct appropriations, and other assistance in accordance with Uniform Guidance 2 CFR § 200.510 requirements.
- Including the auditor's report on the supplementary information in any document that both contains the supplementary information and indicates that the auditor reported on the supplementary information.
- Either presenting the supplementary information with the audited financial statements or, if the supplementary information will not be presented, making the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information and auditor's report thereon are issued.
- Identifying all federal awards received.

- Understanding and complying with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, including applicable program compliance requirements.
- Establishing and maintaining internal control over compliance, including establishing and maintaining effective controls that provide reasonable assurance that the Organization administers government programs in compliance with the compliance requirements.
- Evaluating and monitoring compliance with federal award requirements.
- Informing us of the Organization's relationships with significant vendors who are responsible for program compliance.
- Submitting the reporting package and data collection form through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse.

Responsibilities at the conclusion of the audit

At the conclusion of our audit, the Organization will provide us with a letter to confirm in writing certain express and implied representations made during the course of the audit. This letter includes representations regarding legal matters. A separate letter may be needed from the Organization's legal counsel.

Management and the governing body are also responsible for following up and taking corrective action on all audit findings, including, when applicable, preparing a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan on the Organization's own letterhead.

Estimated Audit Costs and Timeline

We estimate the cost of the audit work to be \$51,500, plus travel costs, and other expenses, if any. Invoices for these services will be prepared and presented each month as our audit work progresses.

We anticipate our reports will be published on our website **www.sao.wa.gov** and be available to you and the public as outlined below. These estimates are based on timely access to financial information and no significant audit reporting issues. The estimated cost and completion date may change if unforeseen issues arise or if significant audit issues are identified necessitating additional audit work. We will promptly notify you if this is the case.

Report	Date*
Independent Auditor's Report on Financial Statements	October 2023
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting	October 2023
and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial	
Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards	
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Program and on	October 2023
Internal Control over Compliance in Accordance with Uniform Guidance	8

**Report Issuance Dates Are Estimates Only*

The audit documentation for this engagement, which may contain confidential or sensitive information, is the property of SAO and constitutes a public record under Chapter 42.56 RCW. Subject to applicable laws and regulations, appropriate individuals, as well as audit documentation, will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to appropriate auditors and reviewers, Organization's management and governing body, and federal agencies, for purposes of a public records request, a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release (publish) date in accordance with the public records retention schedule established by the Washington Secretary of State.

Expected Communications

During the course of the audit, we will communicate with the Organization's selected audit liaison, Senior Accountant Darrell Heiner, on the audit status, any significant changes in our planned audit scope or schedule and preliminary results or recommendations as they are developed. The audit liaison is responsible for regularly updating management and the governing body on these matters. We may also provide direct communication of these matters to management and the governing body as needed or upon request.

Please contact us if any events or concerns come to your attention of which we should be aware. We will expect the audit liaison to keep us informed of any such matters.

Audit Dispute Process

Please contact the Audit Manager or Assistant Director to discuss any unresolved disagreements or concerns you have during the performance of our audit. At the conclusion of the audit, we will summarize the results at the exit conference. We will also discuss any significant difficulties or disagreements encountered during the audit and their resolution.

By signing and returning this letter, you acknowledge that the foregoing is in accordance with your understanding. Please contact us with any questions.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

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Deena Garza, Audit Manager September 12, 2023 Office of the Washington State Auditor

09/13/23

Organization's Response: This letter correctly sets forth our understanding.

Margaret Rojas Assistant Director

Darrell Heiner Senior Accountant

<u>9/13/23</u> Date