



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director

RE: North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC (NS BH-ASO) – Recovery Navigator Program Agreement

DATE: JULY 25, 2023

Attached is an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and NS BH-ASO for your review and signature.

▪ Background and Purpose

This contract funds the expansion of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program, per SB 5476. The legislature approved the Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) Uniform Standards, which states, “RNPs will, whenever possible, build on and enhance those existing LEAD-aligned approaches, complementing them where necessary to achieve greater alignment with LEAD core principles, before/rather than establishing stand alone RNP Programs. The existing LEAD-aligned investments might include LEAD programs, crisis response programs, resource hubs, homelessness response, and other locally coordinated efforts that intentionally attempt to achieve the goals of recovery navigator standards”.

The intent of the RNP is to provide social services to individuals who intersect with policy because of simple drug possession (ESB 5476§13) and/or people who have frequent criminal legal system contact because of unmet behavioral health care needs. The RNP established a new system of response and care for people who are not served by office-based, appointment-based, time-delimited care. Coordination and communication between law enforcement, prosecutors, program staff, medical providers, and community partners is essential to the success of these programs.

This agreement provides funding for 3 FTEs (2 Outreach positions and 1 Intensive Case Manager) in the Whatcom County Health and Community Services’ LEAD Program to meet the legislative requirements of SB 5476.

▪ Funding Amount and Source

Funding for this agreement, in an amount not to exceed \$512,455 for the period of (07/01/2023 – 06/30/2024), is provided by the Recovery Navigator Program Fund passed through the NS BH-ASO. These funds will be included in the 2023 budget. Council authorization is required as funding exceeds \$40,000, per WCC 3.06.010.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new agreement; however funding has been provided for these purposes through since 2022. This agreement includes the following changes from the previous agreement ending on 06/30/2023 (WC Contract #202204032):

- a. Section 2.5.1 – Critical Incident Reporting (page 9, new section): Provider shall report Critical Incidents to NS BH-ASO within one business day in which the Provider becomes aware of the event, as outlined in the Supplemental Provider Services Guide (Exhibit A).
- b. Section 2.7 – Report Deliverable Templates (page 10, new section): As applicable, templates for all reports the Provider is required to submit to the NS BH-ASO are incorporated in Exhibit E. Templates may be updated and will be found online.
 1. Article Three (page 12): No longer includes the submittal of the RNP Service Traction Logs. Provider shall submit the Recovery Navigator Program Quarterly Data Collection Tool only.
- c. Section 5.2.1 – Financial Accounting Requirements (page 16): Limited administration costs have decreased from 15% to 10%.
- d. Section 6.2 – Remedial Action (pages 18-20, new section 6.2 – 7.2.5.5): NS BH-ASO may require Provider to plan and execute a corrective action plan.
- e. Section 7.10 – Debarment Certification (page 24): New to this section, the Provider agrees to include any and all Subcontracts into which it enters concerning the performance of services hereunder, and also agrees that it shall not employ debarred individuals or Subcontract with debarred providers, persons or entities. NS BH-ASO may immediately terminate the contract by providing the Provider with written notice in accordance with Subsection 6.3 of the Contract if the Provider becomes debarred during the term hereof.

Please contact Malora Christensen, Response Systems Manager at 360-778-6131 (MChriste@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Financial & Administrative Manager at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions.

Encl.