

Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization Governing Board

Cathy Wolfe, Thurston County Commissioner, District 1

Bud Blake, Thurston County Commissioner, District 3

Terri Jeffreys, Mason County Commissioner, District 3

Minutes for February 1, 2016

1) 2:30 p.m. Call Meeting to Order

In Attendance: Bud Blake, Commissioner; Cathy Wolfe, Commissioner; Terri Jeffreys, Commissioner; Art Starry, Public Health and Social Services Department Interim Director, Mark Freedman, Interim BHO Administrator, Joe Avalos, BHO Chief Operations Officer; and Tina Gehrig, Clerk of the BHO Board

Approval of the Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization Governing Board Agenda

2) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board – No items.

3) Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) Board Items

Description: Mark Freedman will provide update on general planning and operations items.

- ◆ Mark Freedman began with an introduction and outlined some of the issues that needed to be covered during this inaugural meeting. The detailed plan has been submitted to the state and areas of corrective action have been identified. Thurston Mason BHO has received approval to begin integration April 1, 2016. A draft contract between the BHO and DSHS is being reviewed now; the final version is expected March 1st.

Agenda items today include:

- ◆ Review of the bylaws and organization structure of the BHO,
- ◆ Review of the DSHS General Terms and Conditions Contract for 2016-2020, and
- ◆ Review of the DSHS Transition Contract for sharing of data in the State substance use data base – TARGET.
- ◆ Staff is currently working with legal counsel and Risk Management to purchase additional insurance beyond the county's risk pool for required coverage of the Board.
- ◆ A question was raised regarding the difference between the current RSN structure and the proposed BHO structure. Through an Interlocal Agreement, the BHO structure is a quasi-government entity made up of two Counties for the purpose of governing the BHO. Previously, all governance of the RSN went through the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners. For the first year, administrative services to operate the BHO will be purchased from Thurston County.
- ◆ The BHO Board appointed Mark Freedman as the interim administrator for the first year pending review by Thurston County PAO – Civil.

Mason Behavioral Health Organization from February 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020.

The General Terms and Conditions have been reviewed and approved by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. This document is the boilerplate that covers legal issues for contracts with DSHS. The language is the same as previous agreements; the only change is the recognition of the new entity. This does not relate to provision of services.

Commissioner Jeffreys moved to execute the Contract on General Terms and Conditions between the Department of Social and Health Services and Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization from February 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020 pending signature from the Prosecuting Attorney. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

This agreement does not take effect unless signatures are received.

- c) **Description:** Transition Agreement between the Department of Social and Health Services and Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization.
Contact: Mark Freedman, TMBHO Interim administrator
Action: Move to execute the Behavioral Health Organization Transition Agreement for the transfer of data and correction of the Detailed Plan between the Department of Social and Health Services and Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization from February 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020.

The Transition Agreement is a precursor to the new contract which begins April 1st. This allows the BHO to work with DSHS regarding the transmission of data and information to meet HIPAA compliance. Concern was raised about the signature block not including the Prosecuting Attorney. Robin Campbell confirmed that this is typical with state contracts. The Prosecuting Attorney will use a stamp which includes a signature.

The BHO will be joining a consortium along with 7 other counties to support the software for data transmission.

Commissioner Jeffreys moved to execute the Behavioral Health Organization Transition Agreement for the transfer of data and correction of the Detailed Plan between the Department of Social and Health Services and Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization from February 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- d) **Description:** Appointment of Thurston Mason BHO Administrator

The Board agreed to appoint Mark Freedman as the Interim Administrator pending further review by the PAO office.

e) **Description:** Purchase of Additional Insurance

Commissioner Jeffreys moved to direct the BHO Interim Administrator to pursue purchasing additional insurance for the entity. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6) **Staff Update**

Joe Avalos gave a brief update on the most immediate next steps. They included:

- A. One of the major changes in becoming a BHO is moving substance use disorder providers from a fee-for-service payment structure in contract with DSHS to a managed care model contracted with the BHO. Over the past few years, there has been a significant workforce shortage and agency shutdowns due in part to the low reimbursement for publically funded services (30-50% of actual costs of services). Providers will see a rate increase with the move to managed care.
- B. Securing a network of substance use disorder residential/inpatient facilities. Previously the State contracted directly with these providers. Last year about 600 individuals in Thurston/Mason County were sent to about 40 different facilities, mostly in Eastern Washington. Staff would like to ensure a coordinated system of care that would best meet the client's needs by being able to follow them through treatment. Securing residential facilities has been a challenge with only one 16 bed facility in Mason County. There is presently only one co-occurring disorder facility in the State; however, other facilities are looking into possibly providing. Staff are working with other BHO's on the rates for residential facilities and the possibility of piggybacking onto other agreements. Thurston/Mason County is look at purchasing the capacity for adult males, adult females, youth, co-occurring persons, and pregnant parenting women. On February 10th staff will be meeting with contracted treatment providers to discuss some of the pending changes: a new data system, a new payment system, a new process for authorizations, how to handle grievances, quality assurance, etc. Workforce continues to be an issue that needs to be addressed. Some bills have been presented this session.
- C. Converting all substance use data systems to a new system. There are some dedicated funds on the PLR list to assist treatment agencies with the conversion of the electronic health record system. The new triage facility will not be able to serve as residential or detox. These are future items for discussion.

Mark Freedman gave a brief overview of legislative items:

- ◆ HB 1713 – integrating ITA chemical dependency/mental health.
- ◆ HB 1448 – if an officer knows that an evaluation has been done on an individual who is suicidal he can send orders to the designated mental health professional and not arrest them.
- ◆ HB 2501 – allows for the sharing of data between treatment provider and jail.

- ◆ SB 6485 – facilitate credentialing of chemical dependency professionals to assist with the workforce shortage.
- ◆ SB 6430 – relating to termination of Medicaid benefits once incarcerated. This bill would allow for suspension of benefits rather than termination so that once the individual is released their services could resume without a break in service which could otherwise lead to possible decompensation.

The Board is interested in having regular legislative updates from staff, including who is opposing particular bills and the reason(s) why.

7) Next Meeting Agenda

Agenda items for the next meeting will include: Legislative update, workforce provider update, RSN budget update, BHO PLR update, criminal justice/MIO status.

Mason County is interested in learning about the programs that are working in Thurston County to help keep individuals out of jails.

Staff will work with John Tennis on putting out a press release regarding the BHO implementation.

8) Adjournment

Commissioner Jeffreys moved to adjourn the meeting of February 1, 2016. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

THURSTON MASON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GOVERNING BOARD

Thurston County, Washington


ATTEST:

Tina Gehrig, Clerk of the Board

Date: 2/18/16



BUD BLAKE, Chair



TERRI JEFFREYS, Vice Chair



CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner