

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 18, 2016

1) 1:52 p.m. Call Meeting to Order

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

Chair Blake called the meeting to order.

Vice Chair Jeffreys moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vice Chair Jeffreys moved to approve the February 1, 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board – No public comment was given.

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

Legislative Update

Mark Freedman gave a brief update on current legislative items. The fiscal cut-off has occurred. Pending bills of interest to the BHO are:

- SB6656 - Allows for several changes in the funding of and utilization of Western State Hospital beds. In part the bill pushes the responsibility and risk down to the BHO level to create capacity for services in the community rather than utilization of WSH beds. This would remove, in part, the State from responsibility.
- The financial forecast is about \$100-\$200 million lower than anticipated. This will further limit the current Legislation from funding any new bills for 2016.
- 3SHB 1713 - This bill is still alive and waiting for the fiscal note. This relates to: integrating the involuntary treatment systems for mental health and chemical dependency.
- SB 5779 – Currently RSN's pay a penalty if they exceed their daily census, while the hospital may not even be full. This bill would allow all counties to share the overall census. While the original intent of this policy was to encourage care in local communities and reduce institutionalization, certain clients cannot safety be

treated in the community. The census is also affected by clients being moved from the forensic side of the hospital.

Fiscal Overview of Current Regional Support Network (RSN)/Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Provider Network

- The 2016 budgeted revenue and expenditures for each program was reviewed. This is the current budget. The BHO budget will combine both programs into one on April 1st.
- Staff is still working to secure substance use residential facilities and determine the rates. Staff is also working on the rates for substance use services, which have historically been funded at a significantly lower rate than mental health services, and about 50% of actual costs. The current yearly budget for substance use services is \$3.4 million and beginning April 1st, it will be about \$11 million. With the increase also comes the responsibility and risk of managing inpatient facilities, including detox and involuntary commitment as well as outpatient treatment services.
- PLR #379 adds an additional \$2 million to assist with the increase in rates and the creation of other services to maintain the capacity for treatment for substance use disorder treatment services.
- Staff recently learned that Medicaid will now pay for beds at substance use facilities larger than 16 beds. Previously Medicaid funds could only be expended for residential facilities with 16 beds or fewer.
- A question was raised regarding the ability of the BHO to pay for housing costs, i.e., Oxford Houses. Presently Medicaid cannot pay for residential, but the TST contract is paying for housing assistance as part of the intensive case management program at Northwest Resources.

Policy Level Request (PLR) Update/Innovative Justice

Mark Freedman reviewed the PHSS 2016 budget presentation which included the following PLRs:

- #376- Improve capacity for intensive case management (ICM) in both Thurston and Mason County.
- #374 – Create mobile crisis outreach in both Thurston and Mason County.
- #375 – Expand capacity for permanent supportive housing. Agencies have to be licensed mental health/substance use agencies. The Housing Authority is potentially interested in becoming licensed so that they could provide the required services to clients utilizing their housing.
- #373 – Create a day structured service run by Peers.
- #377 – Create a social worker position to be located at the Office of Assigned Counsel.
- #378 – Create a case manager position to assist in diversion from the Nisqually Jail. This is a TST funded position.

- #379 – Create substance use capacity – Additional \$2 to assist with the increase in residential outpatient rates.
- #380 – Increase detox bed capacity – Allows for the purchasing of capacity at another facility. Since detox has not been available in this community for over a year, it's hard to anticipate the demand. However, the ER is significantly overwhelmed with these clients. All BHO's are competing for the same network along the I-5 corridor for detox services.
- #381 – Increase mental health capacity – similar to #379
- #382 – Expand the evidence-based practice. Based on legislative statute children's services are required to increase the use of EBP from 8% to 15%.
- #384 – Expanding housing services – internal support within PHSS.
- #390 – Contract for downtown outreach and medical support. Staff is working with Providence St. Peter Hospital to develop a downtown center to engage clients who typically do not access "mainstream" services. It would, in part, allow for early access to psychiatric medications as an alternative to going to the Emergency Department.
- #391- Integrate medical services in triage. This would pay for a medical clearance to be done at the triage instead of having to send the client to the Emergency Department. This would reduce the amount of police time being spent with the client and enable treatment services to begin quicker. The goal is to further engage clients to keep them out of jail and divert from the Emergency Departments.

Administrative Services Agreement

Mark Freedman said that the agreement for the BHO to purchase administrative services from Thurston County is being developed. It will include detailed costs for purchasing services such as: prosecuting attorney, human resources, treasurer, etc.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Workforce Update

Joe Avalos gave a brief update. Statewide there are about 35 open positions for mental health/substance use providers, i.e., counselors, psychiatrists, etc. It's hoped that agencies can hire additional support staff for services that don't require a clinician and thus the clinician could provide additional treatment services. ESD provides school-based services and a lot of services currently provided are not billable under the fee-for-service model. Medicaid is a medical model and it doesn't pay for services unless there is a diagnosis. This leaves out prevention, education, etc.

Triage RFP Update

Mark Freedman said that the RFP review has been completed and the apparent successful bidder has been notified. Staff will initiate the contract.

4) Next Meeting Agenda

The next meeting will be February 29th at 1:00pm. The Board would like to have the following items on the agenda:

- a) Begin the process for providing administrative services. Staff will present several different options for the transition, including what other BHO's are doing.
- b) Making a final decision on the Interim Administrator position.
- c) Begin discussion about full integration in 2020, including an update on the early adopter region.

5) Adjournment

Vice Chair Jeffreys moved to adjourn the meeting of February 18, 2016. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:10pm.

THURSTON MASON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GOVERNING BOARD

Thurston County, Washington

ATTEST:



BUD BLAKE, Chair




Tina Gehrig, Clerk of the Board

Date: 2/29/16



TERRI JEFFREYS, Vice Chair



CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner