

# 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 29, 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 18, 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

#### Administrative Services Operations Transition/Full Integration

Mark Freedman briefly spoke about the options for transition over the next four years to full integration in 2020. The BHO is currently purchasing administrative services from Thurston County. Further discussion will occur about how long this will be in effect and how those services will be transitioned completely to the BHO if the decision is for the BHO to become an independent entity. While the intent of SB 6312 clearly mandates that behavioral health services will be completely integrated with primary care by 2020, there has been no specific structure stipulated. Staff is waiting for additional clarification from DSHS and HCA regarding the definition of full integration and other details. Other counties are operating as separate BHO's. Clark County as the early adopter has been fully assumed under managed care.

#### Other BHO's Structure

The organization charts from Thurston Mason, Great Rivers, and Greater Columbia BHO's were reviewed. Staff indicated that Thurston Mason has identified the need for additional staff including: comptroller, quality management staff (audits) care managers and an

administrative assistant. The comptroller position is necessary to have someone work between program and fiscal offices.

### **Legislative Update**

Both the House and Senate's budget are out. The Senate budget is \$50 million less for health and human services. They are trying to recoup the unspent RSN reserves. This RSN is at risk of losing \$11 million per the Senate budget proposal. This could potentially impact the projects that staff has earmarked on the PLR list. The House is asking for corrective action on how RSN's will spend the funds. Other pending items include:

- HB 1713 – Integrating the involuntary treatment systems for mental health and chemical dependency and development of secure detox facilities.
- SB6430 – Suspension rather than termination of Medicaid for incarcerated persons.
- 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 Board agreed to send a letter to the Senate re: the RSN's keeping the reserves.

### **Updates**

- Commissioner Jeffries stated that she had a great visit to Kitsap Mental Health and gained a better understanding of the service changes. Kitsap will be including dental services as well as behavioral health in their new service development.
- Joe stated that this is a very busy month to get prepared for the April 1<sup>st</sup> transition. The main goal is not having any disruption in client services. Staff is also busy trying to secure residential beds.
- Two Commissioners will be attending the National Behavioral Health conference along with staff next week in Las Vegas.
- John Tennis will send out a press release re: the BHO Advisory Board request to meet with the BHO Governing Board and the appointment of the BHO Administrator.
- Next month is the Substance Abuse in Our Area conference at the Great Wolf Lodge. Staff have historically supported this effort.
- Commissioner Blake inquired about the stand alone BHO website. Staff is researching options.
- The Board discussed meeting briefly prior to the meetings to review the upcoming meeting agenda.
- Commissioner Blake is interested in looking at another name for the BHO keeping in mind that it be reflective of the service area.

#### 4) Action Items

- a) Description:** BHO Advisory Board Appointments  
**Contact:** Mark Freedman, TMBHO Interim Administrator  
**Action:** Move to approve appointments to the Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization Advisory Board.

Commissioner Jeffreys moved to approve Mark Freedman as the BHO Administrator. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried

Commissioner Jeffreys moved to approve retaining the current RSN Advisory Board membership and tenures as the Behavioral Health Advisory Board. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There are currently no Mason County members on the Advisory Board. Staff will also be recruiting for law enforcement and tribal representation. The Board would like a brief description of the board member duties to distribute for recruiting Mason County members.

- b) Description:** Scheduling BHO Advisory Board Meetings with Governance Board  
**Contact:** Mark Freedman, TMBHO Interim Administrator  
**Action:** Move to approve setting meetings between the Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization Advisory Board and the BHO Governing Board.

Cassey Jankowiak, the BHO Advisory Board Chair introduced herself. The Advisory Board has requested to meet with the BHO Governing Board twice during the year to develop and maintain a working relationship and understand the role of each board and how they can work together. Board members would like to attend these regularly scheduled meetings, once in the Spring (March/April) and once in the Fall (October/November). The Fall meeting would likely focus on legislative topics.

Commissioner Jeffreys moved to approve setting meetings between the Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization Advisory Board and the BHO Governing Board

#### 5) Next Meeting

The next meeting will be March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.

**6) Adjournment**

Vice Chair Jeffreys moved to adjourn the meeting of February 29, 2016. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:20.

THURSTON MASON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GOVERNING BOARD

Thurston County, Washington

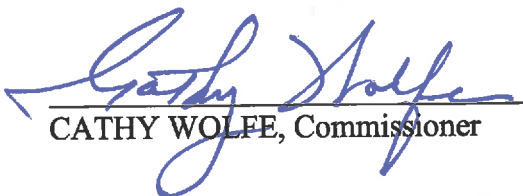
ATTEST:

  
BUD BLAKE, Chair

  
Tina Gehrig, Clerk of the Board

Date: 3/19/16

  
TERRI JEFFREYS, Vice Chair

  
CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner