Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization (TMBHO) Status Update

Since April 1, 2016, Thurston-Mason Behavioral Health Organization (TMBHO) has administered mental health and substance use disorder services (behavioral health services) for publicly funded individuals of Thurston and Mason counties. Prior to that time, under Thurston County Public Health and Social Services, the Regional Support Network managed mental health services and the Chemical Dependency Program managed substance use disorder services. Since the formation of TMBHO, we have continued to build on investments that will improve and expand the services for Thurston and Mason counties’ most vulnerable individuals.

Expansion of Services

TMBHO contracts with local licensed providers to deliver behavioral health services. The number of individuals served by the TMBHO provider network has increased significantly with behavioral health integration. In 2017:

- TMBHO contracted providers served over 11,000 individuals in our region, including over 2,500 children and youth
- More than 2,300 individuals were provided with crisis services
- TMBHO received over 2,203 referrals directly from the local criminal justice system
- Nearly 1,000 individuals accessed substance use residential treatment and/or detox services—twice the number that have historically accessed these services prior to TMBHO’s existence

Diversion

To ensure that the criminal justice system is not a default behavioral health system, TMBHO continues to work with local law enforcement to expand crisis and diversion services, these include:

- Thurston County Triage Facility for jail diversion
- Thurston and Mason Mobile Outreach Teams
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) in Thurston and Mason Counties
- Capital funding for Mason County Evaluation and Treatment Facility
- Securing the Trueblood Diversion and Re-Entry Phase II grant
- Funding for behavioral health services provided at the Community Care Center

Provider & Community Support

Throughout 2017, TMBHO has continued to support and enhance our provider network and community social services by providing events, trainings, and resources. Some examples of our local support activities included:

- The Crisis Clinic of Thurston and Mason Counties – TMBHO provided quarterly training for volunteers.
- Family Education and Support Services - TMBHO supported 10 FESS staff to attend the annual Children’s Justice Conference
- TOGETHER – TMBHO supported staff to attend the annual ‘Focus on the Future’ conference and was a sponsor for the overall conference in the amount of $5,000
- Camp Hope- TMBHO provided $3,000 worth of sponsorship
• National Alliance for Mental Health – TMBHO contributed $5,000 for an annual conference for individuals enrolled in behavioral health services and their family members
• Naloxone kits – 100 doses were distributed to Mason County Public Health to assist with the opioid overdose epidemic
• Suicide Prevention Training – TMBHO supported 56 providers to meet their continuing education hours and state requirements

**Moving Toward Full Integration**

TMBHO has recognized the need to expand our behavioral health continuum of care for 2018 in preparation for full integration by 2020. The highlights include:

- Mason County Evaluation and Treatment facility
- Pregnant and Parenting Women Substance Use Disorder Residential program
- TMBHO becomes a licensed behavioral health agency called Olympic Health and Recovery Services (OHRS). TMBHO can now provide essential crisis services that are not otherwise available and support non-licensed agencies through sub-contracts

**Future Planning**

As a step toward health care integration, the HCA offered an option (mid-adopter) for the Counties to go full integration prior to the year 2020. As a mid-adopter, Counties would give up their BHO services and funding. MCOs would assume full control of all Medicaid services and funding. Also, BHOs would return to the State all financial reserves. The carrot offered by HCA was to provide incentive funding. This funding would go to our regional Affordable Community of Health (Cascade Pacific Action Alliance-CPAA). After an analysis of the loss of TMBHO revenue and reserves vs. incentive funding for the CPAA, Thurston and Mason Counties elected to not pursue mid-adopter status and remain a BHO. TMBHO continues to work the managed care organizations, and HCA to financially and clinically integrate behavioral health care with primary health care regionally by 2020.

**Managed Care Organizations**

As TMBHO continues planning for full integration, we have partnered with selected MCOs to define the BHO’s role and responsibilities, and how to best meet the needs of our mutual individuals who are most vulnerable. Future planning includes:

- Assessing and improving our diversion services to keep individuals with a behavioral health disorder out of the criminal justice system,
- Improving our community re-entry services for individuals discharged from Western State Hospital and;
- Reducing use of local Emergency Departments for non-emergent behavioral health needs
- Accessing local housing options.

Lastly, we are also very interested in how we can partner with the MCO - Amerigroup, and our local housing providers as funds become available through the 1115 Waiver for supported housing and employment. These new funds present an opportunity for TMBHO’s licensed behavioral health agency, to work with housing providers to create new opportunities for full integrated care to include housing and employment for those with behavioral health disorders.