

North Sound Mental Health Administration

Regional Support Network for Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties

117 North First Street, Suite 8 • Mount Vernon, WA 98273 • 360.416.7013
800.684.3555 • Fax 360.416.7017 • TTY 360.419.9008 • Email nsmha@nsmha.org • Web Site <http://nsmha.org>

NSMHA Contract Memorandum 2008-011

Date: April 29, 2008

To: Tom Sebastian, CEO, Compass Health
Donna Konicki, *bridgeways*
Michael Watson, Lake Whatcom RTC
Andy Byrne, Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Center
Rod Elin, Catholic Community Services Northwest
Claudia D'Allegri, Sea Mar
Anne Deacon, Snohomish County Coordinator
Tom Robinson, Volunteers of America
Doug Benjamin, Behavioral Health Director, Interfaith
Sue Closser, CEO, Sunrise Services
Yvonne Ito, Executive Director, LKI

From: Chuck Benjamin, Executive Director

Subject: Authorization/Re-authorization requests

"It has come to our attention that NSMHA is being asked to authorize consumers who have lost their Non-RSN coverage in order to obtain coverage for their current treatment episode. These requests have come as both initial authorization and reauthorization requests. State-only dollars are being requested to be used for these consumers who no longer have insurance nor Medicaid.

However, because these consumers are not RSN consumers they must be assisted in calling VOA ACCESS to be screened as any new consumer. As these consumers do not have Medicaid coverage, they would need to meet one of the priority populations.

At time of Request for Service, State-only dollars at this time are used only for Priority populations of:

- 1) Consumers discharging from WSH without Medicaid (CNP); and
- 2) Those on LRAs/CRs without Medicaid (CNP).

If a consumer is in a treatment episode with a NSMHA provider under a non-RSN payer, or has an open authorization with us from a previous treatment episode (i.e., was open under RSN, then changed to a non-RSN payer within the open auth period) they may not meet criteria for reauthorization under NSMHA.

Authorization/Reauthorization requests received for these consumers who do not have Medicaid (CNP) with mental health benefits and do not meet the priority population criteria will be decertified effective immediately."

cc: Heather Fennell, Compass Health
Kathy McNaughton, Catholic Community Services
Kay Burbidge, Lake Whatcom
Pamala Benjamin, Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Center
Adam Horn, Volunteers of America
Jonathan Vander Schuur, Sea Mar
Maile Acoba, Skagit County Coordinator
Barbara LaBrash, San Juan County Coordinator
Gary Williams, Whatcom County Coordinator
Jackie Henderson, Island County Coordinator
Contract File