

**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
**Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration**  
PO Box 45050, Olympia, WA 98504-5050

July 6th, 2015

Greetings,

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration (BHSIA), is excited to share the latest news about integrating publicly-funded mental health and substance use disorder treatment through the establishment of regional Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs). In 2014, the legislature enacted SB 6312 (<http://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=6312&year=2013>), which sets the course for care integration in Washington State.

On July 1, 2015, DSHS released a “Request for Detailed Plan” as the first step in qualifying regional organizations to become BHOs. Each BHO’s response to this request is due back to the Department by **October 30, 2015**. The BHO Request for Detailed Plan materials are located on the BHSIA webpage: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bhsia/division-behavioral-health-and-recovery/developing-behavioral-health-organizations>

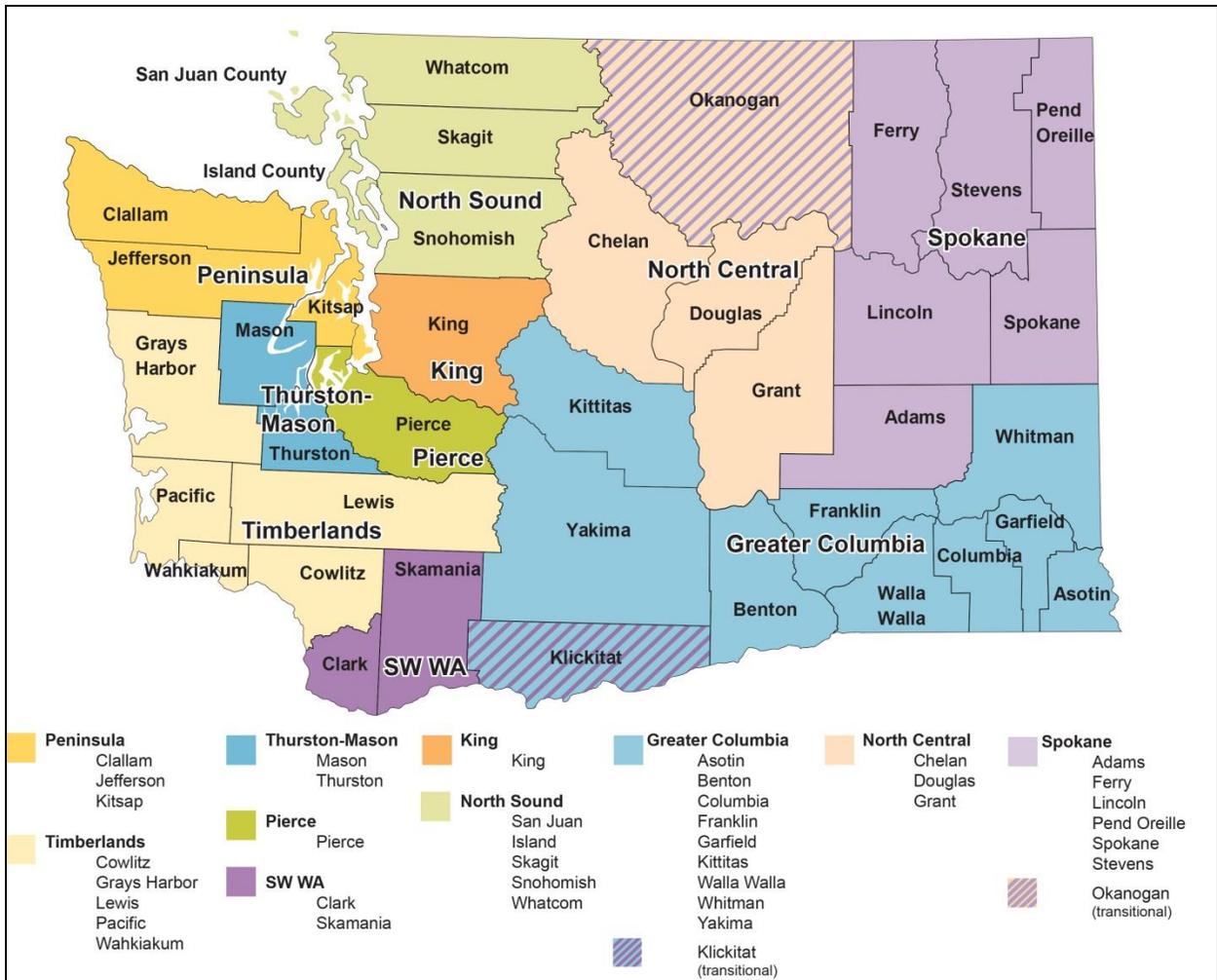
As directed in SB 6312, only the current Regional Support Networks (RSNs) may respond to this Request for Detailed Plan and the process is not a formal competitive procurement. The responses should reflect regional planning to bring substance use disorder treatment into managed care purchasing. They should also show that potential BHOs are ready to assume responsibility for administering and purchasing publicly funded behavioral health care. Questions and comments regarding this process may be sent to: [BHOtransition@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:BHOtransition@dshs.wa.gov)

**Background:**

Under SB 6312, BHOs will become the single, local entities with responsibility and financial risk for providing substance use disorder treatment and all of the mental health services currently managed by the RSNs.

DSHS and the Health Care Authority have designated geographic Regional Service Areas (RSAs) for purchasing physical and behavioral health care services, which are shown below on an updated map describing how the regions will evolve over time. BHOs will be responsible for behavioral health services within their RSA. RSAs are geographic regions; they are NOT administrative authorities.

While most RSAs will have behavioral health services provided through BHOs, the Southwest Washington RSA has chosen to pursue an option known as “early adopter”, and HCA will purchase mental health, substance use disorder and physical health services as a combined benefit in that region. In the early adopter region, there will not be a BHO or RSN operating. In August, 2015, HCA will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to contract with managed care organizations (MCOs) to provide integrated physical and behavioral health benefits. Only the existing Apple Health MCOs are eligible to respond to HCA’s RFP. More information about this option can be found at: [http://www.hca.wa.gov/hw/Pages/integrated\\_purchasing.aspx](http://www.hca.wa.gov/hw/Pages/integrated_purchasing.aspx)



- Beginning in 2016, Chelan, Douglas and Grant counties will become a Behavioral Health Organization (BHO). Okanogan County intends, at a later date, to transition into the North Central RSA. Until that time, physical and behavioral health services for Okanogan will be delivered through the Spokane RSA.
- Physical and behavioral health services for Medicaid beneficiaries residing in Klickitat County will be delivered through the Greater Columbia RSA. Klickitat intends to rejoin the Southwest Washington RSA at a later date.

We will continue to keep you updated as this process progresses.

Sincerely,

Jane Beyer  
Assistant Secretary