

# Behavioral health administrative service organization (BH-ASO) fact sheet

## What is a BH-ASO?

The Health Care Authority (HCA) is transforming health care by focusing on the whole person, and ensuring care is coordinated and delivered where and when a person needs it. By January 2020, all regions of the state will transition to an integrated system for physical health, mental health, and substance use disorder (SUD) services in the Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) program. This is called integrated managed care (IMC).

Under the IMC program, most services for Apple Health clients are provided through managed care organizations. However, some services in the community, such as services for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis, must be available to all individuals, regardless of their insurance status or income level.

For this reason, HCA will contract with a BH-ASO to provide these services within a region.

## What services will the BH-ASO provide?

Certain services must be available to anyone, regardless of their insurance status or income level. The following services may be provided by the BH-ASO to anyone in the region who is experiencing a mental health or SUD crisis:

- A 24/7/365 regional crisis hotline for mental health and SUD crises.
- Mental health crisis services, including the dispatch of mobile crisis outreach teams, staffed by mental health professionals and certified peer counselors.
- Short-term SUD crisis services for people intoxicated or incapacitated in public.
- Application of mental health and SUD involuntary commitment statutes, available 24/7/365, to conduct Involuntary Treatment Act assessments and file detention petition.

## What services will the BH-ASO provide to people who are low income, uninsured, and/or not eligible for Apple Health?

The BH-ASO may provide certain mental health services and SUD services (referred to as behavioral health services) to people not enrolled in or eligible for Apple Health. For some services, such as services funded through the federal Substance Abuse Block Grant or Mental Health Block Grant, individuals may need to meet other priority population requirements to be considered eligible.

The BH-ASO may provide the following services to individuals who are not eligible for Apple Health:

- Mental health evaluation and treatment services for individuals involuntarily detained or who agree to a voluntary commitment.
- Residential SUD treatment services for individuals involuntarily detained as described in state law.
- Outpatient behavioral treatment services, in accordance with a Less Restrictive Alternative court order.
- Within available resources, the BH-ASO may provide non-crisis behavioral health services, such as outpatient SUD and/or mental health services, or residential SUD and/or mental health services to low-income individuals not eligible for Apple Health and who meet other eligibility criteria.





## What other administrative functions will the BH-ASO manage in the region?

Within the region, the BH-ASO may:

- Provide a behavioral health ombudsman to assist individuals with grievances and appeals.
- Manage the block grants based on locally approved block grant plans.
- Manage Criminal Justice Treatment Account funds and Juvenile Drug Court funds.
- Oversee committees formerly led by the regional behavioral health organization, such as the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, Wraparound with Intensive Services, Children’s Long-term Inpatient Program, and Family Youth System Partner Round Table.

[Visit the HCA website](#) to learn more about the integration of physical and behavioral health.