



# PRSN

PENINSULA REGIONAL SUPPORT NETWORK  
Providing Public Mental Health Services in  
Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties

## Peninsula Regional Support Network: An Overview

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Clallam County  
Mike Chapman  
Mike Doherty  
Steve Tharinger

Jefferson County  
Phil Johnson  
Patrick Rodgers  
David Sullivan

Kitsap County  
Jan Angel  
Chris Endresen  
Patty Lent

### ADVISORY BOARD

Clallam County  
Lori Benton  
Arlene Engel  
Mary Robuck

Jefferson County  
Marti Anthony  
Judy Tough

Kitsap County  
Kathy Burns  
Lois Hoell, RN, MS  
Dorothea Lintz  
Bill Mosiman

### ADMINISTRATOR

Anders Edgerton

The Mental Health Reform Act of 1989 established a locally managed, accountable mental health system for the most severely disabled persons by shifting responsibility for administering local programs from the state to the county government.

Individual or multiple counties formed regional support networks (RSNs) and funds were consolidated into a single block grant to foster flexibility and establish a single point of responsibility. There are 14 RSNs statewide ranging from King County to the 11-county Greater Columbia RSN stretching from Asotin to Skamania. The Peninsula RSN covers Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties with a population of 270,000.

Under the Interlocal Agreement establishing the Peninsula RSN, the PRSN is administered from Port Orchard, by Kitsap County. The Executive Board, which is responsible for making all contracting and funding decisions, is made up of the nine county commissioners from the constituent counties.

There is also a citizen's Advisory Board, which provides recommendations to the PRSN Executive Board. The Advisory Board is made up of fifteen individuals, with five people serving from each of the member counties. At least fifty-one percent of the board members are mental health consumers or family members. The Advisory Board meets on a monthly basis, on the first Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Port Hadlock area. There are also various subcommittees that members can participate in.

There are four mental health providers subcontracted with the PRSN throughout the region to provide direct services: West End Outreach Services in Forks; Peninsula Community Mental Health Center in Port Angeles; Jefferson Mental Health Services in Port Townsend; and Kitsap Mental Health Services in Bremerton. The primary inpatient services for adolescents and adults are provided by Kitsap Mental Health Services. In addition, some consumers in need of short-term hospitalization, and most in need of long-term inpatient care are served at Western State Hospital in Steilacoom, Pierce County.

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The establishment of the RSNs introduced new services, including increased case management, easier access to crisis response, and expanded residential services. Over time, the RSNs have accepted additional responsibilities including the expansion of services to children, minorities and other underserved populations; authorization of voluntary inpatient care; and are now exploring administration of parts of the state psychiatric hospital budgets while continuing to reduce the hospital census.

The biggest challenge of the RSNs at present is transforming the mental health system to the managed-care way of doing business. To control expenditures and increase flexibility in care, the RSNs became prepaid inpatient health plans (PIHPs) operating under capitated rates for the level of care required by the consumer.

Each mental health provider offers an array of services including community support, children's services, minority services, crisis response teams, resource management, and services to the elderly and residential services.