



246-341 RULEMAKING WORKSHOP – 2SHB 1724



NISQUALLY INDIAN TRIBE



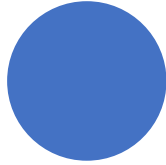
A scenic landscape view of a river valley. In the foreground, there is a dense forest of tall, green coniferous trees. A winding road or path is visible on the left side of the valley. The river flows through the center of the valley, leading towards the background. In the distance, there are blue mountains under a clear sky with a few light clouds.

The Washington State Department of Health headquarters are built on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Nisqually and Chehalis Tribes.

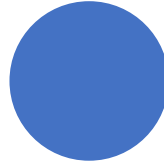
We acknowledge the systemic policies of genocide, relocation, and assimilation that have and continue to impact many Indigenous/Native American families. This land was occupied and its traditional people were displaced by settlers and the United States military.

This acknowledgement does not take the place of authentic relationships with Indigenous communities but serves as a first step in honoring the land we are on.

Introductions of DOH Staff



Dan Overton
Residential
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Behavioral
Health
Program
Manager



Julie Tomaro
Facilities
Program
Deputy
Director



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Policy
Analyst

Zoom 101



- Host, panelists and attendees
- If you need/want captions
- If you require translations or other formats
- If you want to ask a question/add a comment
 - Chat will be followed as closely as possible. Comments will be logged in notes and not necessarily responded to “live”.
 - Raise your hand if you wish to speak.
 - The Q and A will serve as a “Parking lot”. Please post questions here and at the end of the workshop we will get to as many as we can “live” and respond to the remaining in the session notes that will go out later this week.
 - More information/tutorials can be found at [Zoom Learning Center](#)

Today's Agenda

- A brief recap of 2SHB 1724
- Discuss draft language related to:
 - Changes to WAC 346-241
 - Wrap-up
 - Next steps
 - Future workshop to include discussion related to:
 - Construction Standards for Crisis Receiving Centers
 - Development and filing of CR-102 documents, public comment period and public hearing! Date TBA.
- Q and A

Let's Take
a Look



Agency Affiliated Counselor Rules in Progress

- Legislation passed in 2023 ([2SHB 1724 \(PDF\)](#)) immediately creates two new levels of agency affiliated counselor credentials.
- It keeps the current registered AAC and *adds* a certified AAC and a licensed AAC.
- The department has [filed emergency rules to implement these new credentials under WSR 23-16-031 \(PDF\)](#).
- The department has also opened standard rulemaking to develop the coursework requirements and other aspects of these [new credentials under WSR 23-16-044 \(PDF\)](#).
- The emergency rules will be rescinded when the permanent rules go into effect.

Agency Affiliated Counselor Rules in Progress

- All current AACs are registered AACs. Individuals will need to apply for the new credentials when they are available, however AACs who are designated as MHPs can practice under their current credential until it expires. Agency designations do not carry forward, and the applicants will need to provide their education and supervised experience in order to qualify for the credentials.
- The certified AAC requires a bachelor's degree in counseling or the social sciences and five years of supervised experience.
- The licensed AAC requires an advanced degree in counseling or the social sciences and two years of supervised experience.
- The current registered AAC requirements have not changed. Juvenile probation counselors, student interns, and peer counselors are all registered AACs.

Agency Affiliated Counselor Rules in Progress

- The bill is effective immediately, and the department is working to create these new credential types. The department is drafting a policy statement so AACs currently designated as MHPs can practice under their registration until their birthday, however we encourage you to apply for the licensed AAC at least three months before the current registration expires.
- Registered AACs who qualify for the certified AAC credential will need to apply for the new credential before they can work under the new scope of practice for that profession. Because there is currently no bachelor's level MHP, there has been no prior review of their qualifications, so those individuals must apply for the new credential.

WAC 246-341-0200 Behavioral health—Definitions

- (26) "Mental health professional" or "MHP" means a person who meets the ((qualifications in WAC 246-341-0515 (4))) definition in RCW 71.05.020.
 - RCW 71.05.020
 - (40) "Mental health professional" means an individual practicing within the mental health professional's statutory scope of practice who is:
 - (a) A psychiatrist, psychologist, physician assistant working with a supervising psychiatrist, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner, psychiatric nurse, or social worker, as defined in this chapter and chapter 71.34 RCW;
 - (b) A mental health counselor, mental health counselor associate, marriage and family therapist, or marriage and family therapist associate, as defined in chapter 18.225 RCW; or
 - (c) A certified or licensed agency affiliated counselor, as defined in chapter 18.19 RCW;

WAC 246-341-0515 Personnel—Agency staff requirements

- ~~(4) ((A mental health professional is:~~
 - ~~(a) A psychiatrist, psychologist, physician assistant working with a supervising psychiatrist, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP), psychiatric nurse, or social worker as defined in chapters 71.05 and 71.34 RCW;~~
 - ~~(b) A person who is licensed by the department as a mental health counselor or mental health counselor associate, marriage and family therapist, or marriage and family therapist associate; or~~
 - ~~(c) An agency staff member with a designation given by the department or an attestation by the licensed behavioral health agency that the person meets the following:
 - ~~(i) Holds a master's degree or further advanced degree in counseling or one of the social sciences from an accredited college or university who has at least two years of experience in direct treatment of persons with mental illness or emotional disturbance, experience that was gained under the supervision of a mental health professional recognized by the department or attested to by the licensed behavioral health agency;~~
 - ~~(ii) Who meets the waiver criteria of RCW 71.24.260, and the waiver was granted prior to 1986; or~~
 - ~~(iii) Who had an approved waiver to perform the duties of a mental health professional (MHP), that was requested by the behavioral health organization (BHO) and granted by the mental health division prior to July 1, 2001.~~~~



QUESTIONS??

Contact Information

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