



Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists,
And Social Workers Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2017
9 a.m.

Department of Health
Town Center Two
111 Israel Road Southeast, Room 158
Tumwater, WA 98501

Committee members present in person:

Anjanette Jorstad, LASW

Committee members present via phone:

Jany's Murphy, Ph.D., LMHC, CDP – Chair
Jennie Lindberg, LMFT – Vice Chair
Tawney Carrier, Public Member
Carlos Carreon, LICSW, ACSW, BCD

Committee members absent:

Audrey Dangtuw, MA, LMFT, LMHC
Fredda Jaffe, LMFT

AAG present:

John Macejunas, Assistant Attorney General

Staff members present:

Brad Burnham, MPA, Program Manager
James Chaney, Executive Director
Joanne Miller, Credentialing Manager
Reem Aldaghestani, Program Support

Others present:

Karen Langer, WMHCA
Thom Field, WMHCA
Craig Apperson, Self

On February 24, 2017 the Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee (committee) met at the Department of Health (department), 111 Israel Road, Room 158, Tumwater, WA. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the meeting agenda was emailed to members of the licensed counselors' professional Listserv and posted to the professions' webpages.

Open Session

1. Call to Order – Anjanette Jorstad, LASW

9:05 a.m.

1.1 **Introductions** – Introductions were made.

1.2 **Approval of the agenda** - The agenda was accepted and approved as written

1.3 **Approval of the December 9, 2016 meeting** - The December 9, 2016 meeting minutes were accepted and approved as written.

2. Manager Reports – Brad Burnham, Program Manager

2.1 **Budget report** - Mr. Burnham presented the budget information for all three professions and shared information about some of the expenses, including the online licensing project, legal services and investigations:

Profession	Fund Balance
Mental Health Counselor	\$ 701,210
Social Workers	\$ 919,448
Marriage and Family Therapist	\$ (131,458)

2.2 **Update on recruitment of advisory committee members – Brad Burnham**

Mr. Burnham said we have opened up a new recruitment of an advisory committee member's position. The applicants have until April 7, 2017 to send an application. Also, there are two open positions for the public members.

2.3 **Update on rulemaking for the definition of an "approved educational program" for mental health counselors**

Mr. Burnham said that on December 22, 2016, the Department of Health filed a notice of rule adoption (WSR 17-02-005) with Office of the Code Reviser for revising the definition of "approved educational program" for licensed mental health counselors and licensed mental health counselor associates in WAC 24-809-210. The amended definition keeps the existing option of any college or university accredited by an accreditation body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). The rule became effective on January 22, 2017.

2.4 **Suicide Prevention Training reviewers – Brad Burnham**

Mr. Burnham asked members if any of them were interested in helping the department review suicide prevention training program applications. The department is reviewing applications to be an approved provider of suicide assessment and prevention continuing education trainings. The meetings will be twice a month and run until about July 1.

2.5 Washington Health Workforce Survey – Bard Burnham

Mr. Burnham shared information about the Washington Health Workforce Survey. When licensees go online to renew their license, they will have the option to take the survey. The survey is to help the department build information about the workforce. The results are not connected with the person’s name.

2.6 Supreme Court Ruling – Bared Burnham

Mr. Burnham shared information about a recent decision by the Washington State Supreme Court, which determined that a jury can decide whether a health care provider has acted professionally in a situation concerning the duty to warn. The Washington State Legislature is considering legislation related to this topic (HB 1810, SB 5800).

3. Current licensing statistics – Joanne Miller, Credentialing Review Supervisor

Ms. Miller provided current licensing statistics for licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed mental health counselors, and licensed social workers.

CURRENT STATUS APPLICATIONS		
Advisory Committee Profession	Total Active	Total Pending
Marriage and Family Therapist	1,555	103
Marriage and Family therapist Associate	554	34
Mental Health Counselor	6,584	226
Mental Health Counselor Associate	1,891	92
Social Worker Advanced	133	37
Social Worker Associate Advanced	231	6
Social Worker Independent Clinical	4,082	411
Social Worker Associate Independent Clinical	1,633	52

4. Assistant Attorney General Report – John Macejunas, AAG

Mr. Macejunas said two cases he had been working on resulted in charges to the department’s budget. One case was about a marriage and family therapist, which went to superior court, and the other was about a mental health counselor.

5. Legislative update – Brad Burnham, Program Manager

Mr. Burnham provided a review of recent legislation related to mental health counseling, marriage and family therapy, and social work:

- House Bill 1340 - Modernizing substance use disorder professional practice.
- House Bill 1388 - Changing the designation of the state behavioral health authority from the Department of Social and Health Services to the Health Care Authority, and transferring the related powers, functions, and duties to the Health Care Authority and the Department of Health.
- House Bill 1413 – Specifying to whom information and records related to mental health services may be disclosed for the purposes of care coordination and treatment.
- House Bill 1477 – Concerning disclosure of health-related information with persons with a close relationship with a patient.
- House Bill 1753 – Concerning professionals qualified to examine individuals in the mental health and substance use disorder treatment systems.

- House Bill 1810 – Concerning obligations of mental health professionals.
- House Bill 1819 – Reducing certain documentation and paperwork requirements in order to improve children’s mental health and safety.
- House Bill 5706 – Addressing parent-initiated behavioral health treatment for children 13 to 17 years old.
- House Bill 5709 – Providing notification to parents when a minor accesses behavioral health services.

Advisory Committee members discussed concerns about the bills that broadened who can receive mental health information. They were specifically concerned about being required to share health information to a relative if domestic violence could be occurring at home.

- 6. Update on the Department of Health’s Participation in the State’s Efforts on Integration of Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, and Primary Care - Brad Burnham, Program Manager**
Mr. Burnham reviewed recent work of the Department of Health agency, and stakeholders to develop resources related to integration for both physical and behavioral health providers in Washington State.

The results have been fit together into a bill that the Legislature is considering:
Bill House 1388 – Changing the designation of the State Behavioral Health Authority from the Department for Social and Health Services to the Health Care Authority and transferring the related powers, functions, and duties to the Health Care Authority and the Department of Health.

- 7. Update on Rulemaking Concerning the Advisory Committee’s Recommended Changes to Chapter 246-809 WAC - Brad Burnham, Program Manager**

Mr. Burnham presented an update on the department’s rulemaking about continuing education for social workers, and continuing education on suicide assessment, treatment, and management. The secretary of health will make a decision on the proposed changes soon.

- 8. Update on possible changes to the Affordable Care Act - Brad Burnham, Program Manager**
Mr. Burnham shared information about recent or potential changes by the federal government to the Affordable Care Act. Congress set the stage for changes to be considered but there have not been any significant changes made yet.

- 9. Public Comment - Anjanette Jorstad, LASW**

The committee heard comments from the public:

Ms. Langer expressed concern that Washington State’s regulations do not require licensed counselors to follow codes of ethics. She suggested that the regulations require licensed counselors to follow their professions’ code of ethics.

- 10. Future Agenda Items - Anjanette Jorstad, LASW**

- Review of whether regulations can require licensed counselors to follow their professions’ code of ethics.

- 11. Adjournment**

10:36 a.m.

Submitted by:

Signature on File

Brad Burnham, Program Manager

Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapist and Social Worker Advisory Committee

Approved by:

Signature on File

Dr. Janys Murphy, Ph.D., LMHC, CDP, Chair

Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapist and Social Worker Advisory Committee