



## **Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee Minutes**

**December 10, 2021**

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

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<b>Committee members present:</b>	Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair Craig Apperson, LMHC, Vice Chair Beda Herbison, LICSW Linda Sattem, Ph.D., Public Member
<b>Committee members absent:</b>	Paul David, Ph.D., LMHC, LMFT Anjanette Jorstad, LASW
<b>Staff members present:</b>	James Chaney, Executive Director Brandon Williams, Program Manager Karen Gohlsen, Program Support Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General Melody Casiano, Policy Analyst Jeff Orwig, Financial Services Manager Ashley Broussard, Behavioral Health Program Coord.
<b>Guest presenters:</b>	none

On December 10, 2021, the Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee met online via Microsoft Teams. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of the meeting was published to [the committee's website](#) and was sent out via the GovDelivery listserv.

## Open Session:

### 1. Call to Order – Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair

- 1.1. Introductions - The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. Committee members, DOH staff, and visitors introduced themselves.
- 1.2. Agenda –*Motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded, vote 4-0.*
- 1.3. Minutes - *Motion to approve the June 4, 2021 minutes, seconded, vote 4-0.*

### 2. Program Update – Brandon Williams, Program Manager

- 2.1. Program budgets – There was an unusual number of disciplinary cases for the mental health counselor program that went to hearing and legal expenditures were higher than normal. Current program fund balances as of October 2021:
  - Marriage & Family Therapists: \$53,859
  - Mental Health Counselors: (\$8,296)
  - Social Workers: \$117,603
- 2.2. Credentialing Report - Mr. Williams presented the credentialing statistics for each program:

License Type	Active Licenses	Pending Apps.
LMFT	2,055	224
LMFT associate	669	54
LMHC	8,646	489
LMHC associate	2474	231
LASW	145	66
LASW associate	351	50
LICSW	5,499	837
LICSW associate	2503	124

- 2.3. Committee member recruitment update - Candidates have been interviewed and recommendations have been forwarded to the DOH secretary's office to fill vacancies for a marriage and family therapist, a mental health counselor, and a public member.
- 2.4. Rulemaking update - Mr. Williams briefed the committee on the discovery of a previous revision of WAC 246-809 from 2018. He added that the committee had voted on accepting the revisions, but they were never implemented. He asked that the committee review those revisions and vote to include those changes in the current rulemaking effort (see [item 4](#) below). In addition, Mr. Williams briefed the committee on a separate rulemaking effort to increase portability for licensees from other states looking to get licensed in Washington. That effort is being expedited and there will be a workshop and hearing that will be separate from the administrative rules revision.
- 2.5. 2022 legislative calls - Mr. Williams asked committee members for volunteers to attend weekly calls from 830-9 a.m. for the duration of the legislative session to discuss and learn about legislation that could impact the programs. Mr. Apperson and Mr. Fitzpatrick volunteered to join the weekly calls.

- 2.6. Advanced suicide training update - The draft language is expected to be filed with the Office of the Code Reviser in January 2022 with public hearings to follow in late February or early March 2022. However, the department is still working on the model list for training and therefore licensees will not be required to comply as long as that is still pending.

**3. Assistant Attorney General Report – Luke Eaton, AAG**

- 3.1. Mr. Eaton had nothing to report to the committee.

**4. Rules Workshop - Brandon Williams, Program Manager**

- 4.1. The committee reviewed draft language for [Chapter 246-809 WAC](#) suggested revisions to comments that had been provided from a rules workshop that took place three years ago but were sidelined due to legislative implementation. *Motion to accept the draft version from 2018 with changes, seconded, vote 4-0.*
- 4.2. *Motion to close the rulemaking workshop, seconded, vote 4-0.*

**5. Roundtable Discussion, Mike Fitzpatrick, Chair**

- 5.1. The committee had nothing to discuss.

**6. Public Comment – Michael Fitzpatrick, Chair**

- 6.1. There were no comments from the public.

**7. Future Agenda Items – Michael Fitzpatrick, Chair**

- 7.1. Rules workshop
- 7.2. Recruitment update

**8. Adjournment - Michael Fitzpatrick, Chair**

- 8.1. Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

**Submitted by:**

Brandon Williams, Program Manager  
Mental Health Counselors, Marriage & Family  
Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory  
Committee

**Approved by:**

Mike Fitzpatrick, Chair  
Mental Health Counselors, Marriage &  
Family Therapists, and Social Workers  
Advisory Committee

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