



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

December 9, 2022

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Committee members present:

Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair*
Craig Apperson, LMHC, Vice Chair
Linda Sattem, PhD, Public Member**
Megan Simmons, LMFT***
Melissa Denner, LMHC, SUDP
Beda Herbison, LICSW
Netra Kendle, EdS, Public Member
**Arrived during item #3 (9:32 a.m.)*
***Arrived during item #2 (9:10 a.m.)*
****Left meeting during item #7 (12:01 p.m.)*

Committee members absent:

None

Staff members present:

Trina Crawford, Executive Director
Brandon Williams, Program Manager
Karen Gohlsen, Program Support
Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General
Melody Casiano, Policy Analyst

Guest presenters:

Bill O'Connell, Bill O'Connell, Ed.D., LMHC, NCC,
Director, Behavioral Health Support Specialist
Clinical Training Program, University of Washington

On December 9, 2022, 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 – Craig Apperson, LMHC, Vice Chair

- 1.1. Introductions - The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Committee members, DOH staff, and visitors introduced themselves.
- 1.2. Agenda – A request was made to amend the agenda to remove James Chaney as executive director from the first-page roster and replace with Trina Crawford as the new executive director. In addition, the HELMS presentation was moved from item #4 to item #6 *Motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded, vote 5-0.*
- 1.3. Minutes - *Motion to approve the June 10, 2022 minutes, seconded, vote 5-0.*

2. Public Comment – Craig Apperson, LMHC, Vice Chair

- 2.1. There was a question regarding when the full continuing education cycle will begin since it was not required during the pandemic state of emergency. Mr. Williams confirmed that will begin on a licensee's birthday.

3. Behavioral Health Support Specialist Training Program – Bill O'Connell

- 3.1. Mr. O'Connell presented to the committee and fielded questions regarding ongoing work regarding the behavioral health support specialist training program.

4. Assistant Attorney General Report – Luke Eaton, AAG

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

5. Program Update – Brandon Williams, Program Manager

- 5.1. Program budgets –The current program fund balances as of October 2022:
 - Marriage & Family Therapists: \$10,467
 - Mental Health Counselors: (\$195,457)
 - Social Workers: \$1,400,179

- 5.2. Credentialing Report - Mr. Williams presented the credentialing statistics for each program:

License Type	Active Licenses	Pending Apps.
LMFT	2,212	217
LMFT associate	715	56
LMHC	9,419	456
LMHC associate	2,694	234
LASW	154	55
LASW associate	403	25
LICSW	6,141	897
LICSW associate	2,812	91

- 5.3. Committee member recruitment update – DOH recently ran two consecutive recruitments for a licensed advanced social worker and a public member to serve on the committee. The only applications received were from licensed clinical social workers, who were not eligible for the open position.
- 5.4. Fee Update – The licensure fees for mental health counselors will be increasing and the fees for social workers will be decreasing. There will be an upcoming hearing for public comment and the fees will go into effect July 2023.

6. HELMS Update - Marcus Bailey, HELMS Project Manager

- 6.1. Mr. Bailey briefed the committee on the status of the Healthcare Enforcement and Licensing Management System, which will be replacing the current licensing software (ILRS) in 2023.

7. Rules Workshop - Brandon Williams, Program Manager

- 7.1. Mr. Williams asked for feedback from the committee regarding revised language pertaining to supervision and program equivalency.
- 7.2. Mr. Williams provided draft language to include a health equity provision for continuing education requirements in [Chapter 246-809 WAC](#) as mandated by ESSB 5229. The committee recommended adopting the minimum standard of two hours of training every four years.

8. Roundtable Discussion, Mike Fitzpatrick, Chair

- 8.1. Mr. Williams announced that the fee for Sex Offender Treatment Providers has been cut in half in the event licensed counselors found that a barrier to getting a license.

9. Future Agenda Items – Michael Fitzpatrick, Chair

- 9.1. Committee officer elections
- 9.2. Legislative update
- 9.3. Website tool for disciplinary process
- 9.4. FAQ review for experience hours
- 9.5. Recruitment update
- 9.6. OPMA refresher

10. Adjournment - Michael Fitzpatrick, Chair

- 10.1. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 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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