



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

December 8, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Committee members present:	Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair Craig Apperson, LMHC, Vice Chair Linda Sattem, PhD, Public Member Megan Simmons, LMFT (joined at 9:10 am and left at 10:49 am) Beda Herbison, LICSW (joined at 9:13 am) Vacant, LASW Vacant, Public Member
Committee members absent:	Melissa Denner, LMHC, SUDP Netra Kendle, EdS, Public Member
Staff members present:	Lana Crawford, Program Manager Eve Austin, Executive Director Brandon Williams, Project Manager Joan Simmons, Program Support Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General Melody Casiano, Policy Analyst Jeanine Johnson, Deputy Credentialing Manager
Guest presenters:	None

On December 8 2023, the Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee met online via Microsoft Teams and in person at the Washington State Department of Health, Town Center East 2 (TC2) Building, Room #153, 111 Israel Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501. 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 9:05 a.m. Committee members, DOH staff, and visitors introduced themselves.
- 1.2. Approval of the December 8, 2023, regular meeting agenda. *Motion to approve the agenda, seconded, vote 4-0.*
- 1.3. Approval of the September 15, 2023, regular meeting minutes. *Motion to approve the minutes, seconded, vote 4-0.*

2. Public Comment – Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair

- 2.1. No comments were received.

3. Assistant Attorney General Report – Luke Eaton, AAG

- 3.1. Mr. Eaton reported he continues to work with various cases as they come in but otherwise no specific information to report at this time.

4. Program Update – Lana Crawford, Program Manager

- 4.1. Program budgets –The current program fund balances as of October 30, 2023:
 - Marriage & Family Therapists: (\$62,660)
 - Mental Health Counselors: (\$385,159)
 - Social Workers: \$1,373,505
- 4.2. Credentialing Report - Ms. Johnson presented the credentialing statistics for each program:

License Type	Active Licenses	Pending Apps.
LMFT	2,325	240
LMFT associate	771	100
LMHC	10,182	589
LMHC associate	2,945	414
LASW	143	65
LASW associate	395	98
LICSW	6,888	1095
LICSW associate	2,960	304

- 4.3. Committee member recruitment update – Ms. Crawford shared recruitment efforts are ongoing for the LASW, public member, and LMFT positions.

5. Advisory Committee Appointment – Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair

- 5.1. The advisory committee held elections for the Chair and Vice Chair positions.
- 5.2. Ms. Herbison nominated Ms. Simmons to serve as Chair. *Motion to elect Ms. Simmons to serve as Chair, seconded, vote 5-0.*
- 5.3. Ms. Herbison offered to serve as Vice Chair. *Motion to elect Ms. Herbison to serve as Vice Chair, seconded, vote 5-0.*

6. 2024 Legislative Session

- 6.1. Ms. Crawford asked for members to represent the advisory committee at the 2024 legislative update calls.
- 6.2. Ms. Simmons, Ms. Herbison, and Mr. Fitzpatrick volunteered to represent the advisory committee at the 2024 legislative calls.

7. Joint meeting with the Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee – Lana Crawford, Program Manager

- 7.1. Ms. Crawford provided shared the joint meeting is scheduled for the June 14, 2024 and asked the committee to brainstorm and provide ideas of what goals, objectives, topics, and outcomes they would like to have for the joint meeting. She also mentioned Ted Dale will join the February meeting to share the feedback he received from his committee.
- 7.2. Ideas shared included:
 - 7.2.1. Commonalities and differences faced in each profession.
 - 7.2.2. Potentially support of dual licensing pathway.
 - 7.2.3. Joint education and outreach.
- 7.3. Ms. Crawford encouraged others to send her any ideas they would like to add.

8. [Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5229](#) Update – Lana Crawford, Program Manager

- 8.1. Ms. Crawford provided an update on ESSB 5229.

9. [Counseling Compact](#) Update – Brandon Williams, Project Manager

- 9.1. Mr. Williams provided an update on the counseling compact. He shared three takeaways:

- The compact commission determined they will not establish the minimum training hour requirement for postgraduate supervised experience within the compact. That determination will be left to the state to determine.
- The compact continues to research data sharing software and systems for states to use.
- The compact is going to allow three exams as a condition to join the compact: the National Counselor Examination (NCE), National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Exam (NCMHCE), and Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Exam (CRC).

10. Approved Supervisor Directory Update – Brandon Williams, Project Manager

10.1. Mr. Williams provided an update on the approved supervisor directory and shared as of October 2023 over 50 providers have been added.

11. [Second Substitute House Bill 1724](#) Update – Brandon Williams, Project Manager

11.1. Mr. Williams provided an update on SSB 1724 specifically sections 5 and 8.

12. Roundtable Discussion, Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair

12.1. Ms. Herbison requests that the advisory committee consider meeting in person once a year.

13. Future Agenda Items – Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair

- 13.1. SSHB 1724 Updates (standing item)
- 13.2. Legislative update
- 13.3. Recruitment update
- 13.4. Identify purpose & goal of joint meeting with SUDP
- 13.5. Mr. Apperson read a letter he wrote to Dr. Shah, Secretary of State, sharing ideas of recommendations for improvement (i.e. mission statement).
- 13.6. Mission & Vision Statement
- 13.7. Credentialing Information
 - 13.7.1. Statistics regarding what percent of the LMHC active licenses are held by individuals who graduated from an MFT/CFT program
 - 13.7.2. Student resources for the application process (i.e. checklist, tutorial, or workshop)
- 13.8. Counseling Compact
 - 13.8.1. Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Exam
 - 13.8.2. Legacy Clause
- 13.9. Definition & requirements regarding 25-hours of supervision

13.10. Disciplinary Process and Trends of various crimes

14. Adjournment – Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair

14.1. The Meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lana Crawford, Program Manager
Mental Health Counselors, Marriage & Family
Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory
Committee

Approved by:

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

SIGNATURE

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DATE

DATE