

CERTIFIED PEER SPECIALIST

Creating a New Credential

Office of Health Professions



DOH Strategic Plan



What We Do

Ensure public safety

Create the healthiest next generation

Promote healthy living and healthy aging



Vision

People in Washington enjoy longer and healthier lives because they live in healthy families and communities.



How We Do Our Work

Serve our customers and continue to improve

Be efficient, innovative and transparent

Develop and support our workforce



Strategy

Through collaborations and partnerships, we will leverage the knowledge, relationships and resources necessary to influence the conditions that promote good health and safety for everyone.



Guiding Principles

Evidence-based public health practice

Partnership

Transparency

Health equity

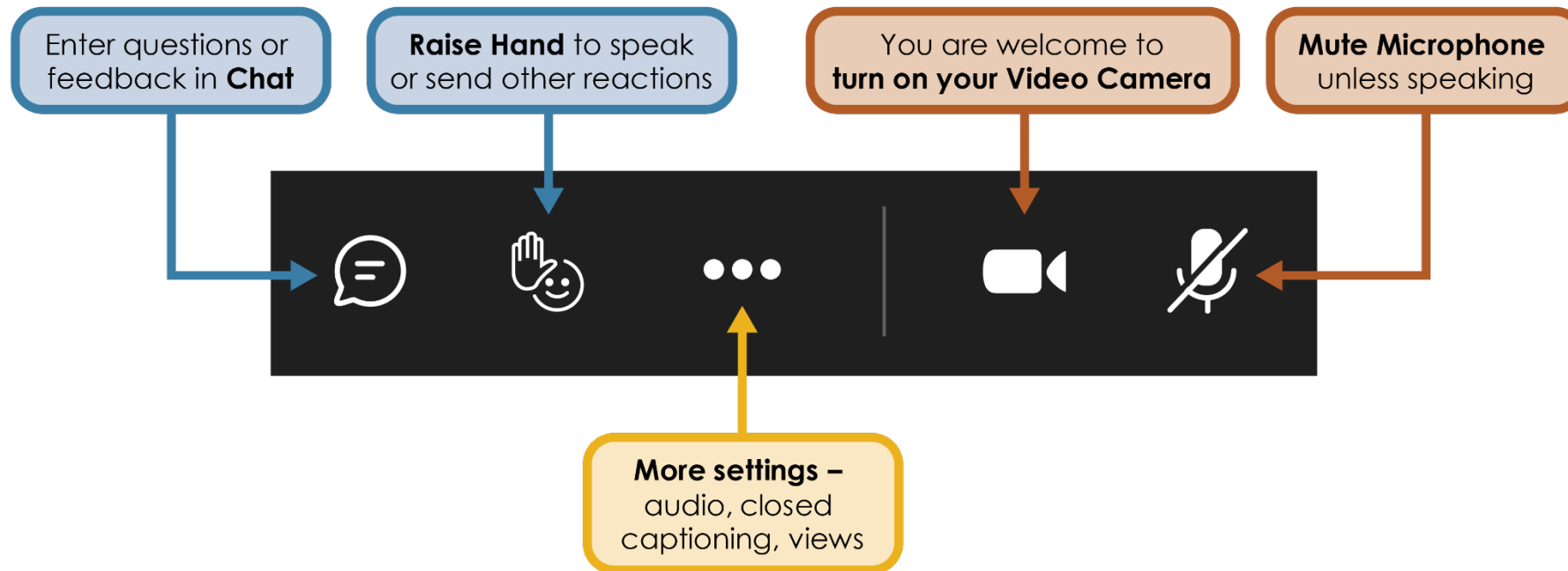
Seven generations



Mission

The Department of Health works with others to protect and improve the health of all people in Washington.

MS Teams Features We Will Use Today



Tips

- Keep your microphone muted unless speaking
- State your name before speaking
- Speak clearly

Certified Peer Specialist Credential

Rules Workshop Agenda:

- Outline the process and timeline for creating the rules.
- Provide an overview of the department's disciplinary actions around the professions and address concerns about previous criminal convictions as they do not automatically disqualify applicants.
- Review the draft rule language for WAC 246-929 Certified Peer Specialists
- Review the ethical guidelines for Peer Specialists

August Workshops:

The department will review the comments and concerns to incorporate the changes from the July rules workshops and present again in August. The August workshops should provide the final rule language we go forward with.

Certified Peer Specialist Credential

Action Items	Date to Complete
CR-101 filed. Workshops with peers, interested parties, and partners, soliciting information and recommendations to develop draft language.	Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
Workshops to share draft language with peers, interested parties, and partners to modify and round out the draft language.	Summer – Fall 2024
CR-102 filed. Public Hearing to present official draft language	January 2025
Collect further comments and feedback, make final adjustments to draft rule language, present final draft.	Winter 2025 – Spring 2025
CR-103 filed to implement final rule language.	May 2025
Rules go into effect and Certified Peer Specialist credential is available.	July 1, 2025

Am I disqualified due to a criminal conviction?

- There are no “disqualifying convictions” to obtain any DOH credential.
- Each applicant is reviewed independently on a case-by-case basis. Individuals often have a criminal history based on their life experiences.
- There can be conditions or limitations put on a credential due to criminal convictions.
- Applications are reviewed by a Case Management Team (CMT) to look at the conviction history, applicant’s explanation, and subsequent life changes. CMT includes investigators, attorneys, and the program.
- Peer Specialists have a special exemption in rule for all applicants around monitoring programs.
- The WRAMP program is designed for providers who have substance abuse concerns and requires daily check-ins and random urinalysis tests.



Certified Peer Specialists

Topics from
previous
workshops

Certification Requirements

Education and Examination Requirements

Supervised Experience Requirements

Approved Supervisor Requirements

Out of State Peers and National Certifications

Disclosure Statements

Ethics of Peers Support

Continuing Education Requirements



Draft Rule Language Review

Ethical Guidelines Language Review



Questions?



Regulations and Resources

- Second Substitute [Senate Bill 5555](#)
- Draft Rules [WAC 246-929](#) and [Ethical Guidelines](#)
- DOH Peer Specialist Webpage: [Peer Specialist | Washington State Department of Health](#)
- Certified Peer Specialist Statute: [RCW 18.420](#)
- Uniform Disciplinary Act: [RCW 18.130](#)
- Standards of Professional Conduct (including Mandatory Reporting Requirements): [WAC 246-16](#)
- Health Care Authority Peer Website: [Peer counselors | Washington State Health Care Authority](#)



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