



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

February 23, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Committee members present:	Megan Simmons, LMFT, Chair Beda Herbison, LICSW, Vice Chair Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT Melissa Denner, LMHC, SUDP Vacant, LASW Vacant, Public Member Vacant, LMHC
Committee members absent:	Linda Sattem, PhD, Public Member Netra Kendle, EdS, Public Member
Staff members present:	Lana Crawford, Program Manager Eve Austin, Executive Director Joe Miller, Executive Director John Simmons, Program Support Brandon Williams, Project Manager Claire Wilson, Program Manager Joan Simmons, Program Support James Smartt, Program Support Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General Melody Casiano, Policy Analyst Jeanine Johnson, Deputy Credentialing Manager
Guest presenters:	None

On February 23, 2024, 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 – Megan Simmons, LMFT, Chair

- 1.1. Introductions - The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. Committee members, DOH staff, and visitors introduced themselves.
- 1.2. Approval of the February 23, 2024, regular meeting agenda. *Motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded, vote 4-0.*
- 1.3. Approval of the December 8, 2023, regular meeting minutes. *Motion to approve the minutes, seconded, vote 4-0.*

2. Public Comment – Megan Simmons, LMFT, Chair

- 2.1. No comments were received.

3. Assistant Attorney General Report – Luke Eaton, AAG

- 3.1. Mr. Eaton had no professions updates to report on at this time. He did share that Ms. Herbison can continue to serve on the committee unless there is language in the committee's bylaws that states other.

4. Program Update – Lana Crawford, Program Manager

- 4.1. Program budgets –The current program fund balances as of January 31, 2024:
 - Mental Health Counselors: (\$495,730)
 - Social Workers: \$1,270,000
 - Marriage & Family Therapists: (\$20,380)
- 4.2. Credentialing Report - Ms. Johnson presented the credentialing statistics for each program:

License Type	Active Licenses	Pending Apps.
LMFT	2,354	261
LMFT associate	826	86
LMHC	10,387	577
LMHC associate	3,110	367
LASW	146	66
LASW associate	442	65
LICSW	7,125	1037
LICSW associate	3,068	232

- 4.3. Committee member recruitment update – Ms. Crawford shared an update of the recruitment efforts for the LASW, public member, and LMFT positions. She asked for a volunteer from the committee to serve on the panel. Ms. Denner volunteered, and Ms. Crawford will contact her with more information to begin the interview process next month.

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

- 5.1. Discussion was held to identify the purpose and goal of the joint meeting with SUDP program managers. Topics to discuss at the joint meeting are dual license pathway and impacts in both professions. *Motion to continue with one joint meeting the SUDP per year, seconded by, vote 4-0.*
- 5.2. New Behavioral Health Support Specialist (BHSS) Profession – Ms. Wilson gave an overview of the new BHSS credential to the committee and answered questions.

6. HSQA Reorganization – Eve Austin, Executive Director

- 6.1. Ms. Austin provided information on the reorganization and shared the BCC communication document.

7. HELMS (Health Enforcement Licensing Management System) - Eve Austin, Executive Director

- 7.1. Ms. Austin provided information and updates on the HELMS project and answered questions from the committee.

8. 2024 Legislative Session – Lana Crawford, Program Manager

- 8.1. Ms. Crawford shared an update on the legislative session and highlighted the following bills:
 - 8.1.1. [SHB 1939 – Adopting the Social Work Licensure Compact](#)
 - 8.1.2. [E2SHB 2245 - Co-Response Services for Crisis Care](#)
 - 8.1.3. [E2SHB 2247 – Addressing Behavioral Health Provider Shortages](#) – Mr. Williams provided more information sharing specific impacts on the professions.
 - 8.1.4. [ESSB 5481 – Concerning the Uniform Telehealth Act](#)

9. [Counseling Compact](#) Update - Lana, Crawford, Project Manager

- 9.1. Mr. Crawford provided a brief update on the counseling compact, which at this time is still in process. She also mentioned information on the [CRC Exam Overview](#) was sent out.

10. Second Substitute House Bill 1724 Update – Brandon Williams, Project Manager

- 10.1. Mr. Williams provided a quick background, overview, and updates on 2SHB 1724. He also shared language that will be posted on the profession website specifically to individuals licensed in another state as well as update the professions' FAQs pages.

11. Roundtable Discussion, Megan Simmons, LMFT, Chair

- 11.1. Ms. Crawford asked the committee to take into consideration Ms. Herbison's request to have the full committee meet in person at a future meeting. This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

Mr. Eaton shared due to the OPMA, meeting spaces are available, and members can decide to attend any meeting in person.

- 11.2. Ms. Crawford informed members that she may need to reach out to members for their expertise when she needs guidance on reviewing classes offered for the professions.

12. Future Agenda Items – Megan Simmons, LMFT, Chair

- 12.1. SSHB 1724 Updates (standing item)
- 12.2. Legislative update
- 12.3. Recruitment update
- 12.4. Mission & Vision Statement (September meeting)
- 12.5. Committee By-laws
- 12.6. Disciplinary Process and Trends of various crimes
- 12.7. Credentialing Information
 - 12.7.1. Statistics regarding what percent of the LMHC active licenses are held by individuals who graduated from an MFT/CFT program
 - 12.7.2. Student resources for the application process (i.e. checklist, tutorial, or workshop)
- 12.8. Suicide Prevention Training
- 12.9. Discuss/vote to have full committee attend the September meeting in person.
- 12.10. Presentation to explain the difference between boards, commissions, and committees.
- 12.11. Trainings: Robert's Rules or Order and Ethics

13. Adjournment – Megan Simmons, LMFT, Chair

- 13.1. The Meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Submitted by:

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

Approved by:

Megan Simmons, Chair
Mental Health Counselors, Marriage &
Family Therapists, and Social Workers
Advisory Committee

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

DATE

DATE