



# PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

**CR-101 (October 2017)**  
**(Implements RCW 34.05.310)**

Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

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FILED

DATE: June 16, 2025

TIME: 4:00 PM

WSR 25-13-086

**Agency:** Department of Health

**Subject of possible rule making:** Co-Occurring Disorder Specialist Enhancement - considering the development of training program curriculum standards.

The Department of Health (department) is considering amendments to the co-occurring disorder specialist (CODS) enhancement rule chapter, chapter 246-804 WAC. This rulemaking will open all current rule sections and consider: (1) adding new rule sections; (2) clarifying current standards for the CODS enhancement, application process, and definitions; (3) creating new curriculum standards for training programs; and (4) developing an educational program application and approval process.

This rulemaking may also address other related issues raised by the department, partners, or interested parties.

**Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:** RCW 43.70.280 and 18.205.105

**Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:**

Co-occurring treatment is emerging as a high need in Washington. In 2019, the legislature passed Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1768 (chapter 444, Laws of 2019) to create the CODS enhancement as an expedited pathway to support mental health professionals in obtaining training in substance use disorder treatment. Since the CODS enhancement was created, two university-based programs have offered an approved curriculum for interested providers, but the interest in the enhancement has expanded. While this enhancement initially involved a minimal implementation when the statute was amended (2019), the department now has more clarity on the needs of the workforce. To support this need, the department needs to have consistent training standards that apply equally to all education and training programs interested in developing CODS enhancement curricula. This rulemaking will clarify the role of the CODS enhancement in the workforce and the rules for providers who have obtained the enhancement.

**Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:** None.

**Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):**

- ☐ Negotiated rule making
- ☐ Pilot rule making
- ☐ Agency study
- ☒ Other (describe) Collaborative rulemaking

**Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:**

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(If necessary)

Name:

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Other:		Other:	
<p>Additional comments: Interested parties can participate in drafting the proposed rules. The department will be conducting rules workshops with interested parties and subject matter experts. The department will use the GovDelivery Substance Use Disorder Professionals, Licensed Counselors, and Agency Affiliated Counselors lists to inform interested parties of opportunities to provide input on proposed rule language.</p> <p>To subscribe to GovDelivery, please go to <a href="http://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOH/subscriber/new">http://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOH/subscriber/new</a>. After signing in, please click open the box labeled "Health Systems Quality Assurance." Next click open the box labeled "Health Professions" and then click on the professions to which you wish to subscribe. You may check the box next to one or more of the other professions listed to receive information related to that specific profession.</p>			
<b>Date:</b> June 16, 2025		<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Name:</b> Kristin Peterson, JD, for Jessica Todorovich, MS			
<b>Title:</b> Chief of Policy for Acting Secretary of Health			