



**Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee and Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee
Joint Meeting Minutes**

June 13, 2025

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams n person at Washington State Department of Health 111 Israel Road, Room 153, Tumwater, WA 98501

Substance Use Disorder Professional Advisory Committee

Members Present:

Susan Cherry, SUDP, Chair
Bergen Starke, LMHC, SUDP, Vice Chair
Alicia Egan, SUDP
Dr. Kimber Rotchford, MD
Gayle Martinsen, Healthcare Authority (non-voting member)
Vacant, SUDP
Vacant, SUDP

Members Absent:

Raymond Gregson, Public member

Assistant Attorney General Staff:

Kristi Knieps, AAG

DOH Staff:

Eve Austin, Executive Director
Joe Miller, Executive Director
Alie Dobson, Program Support
James Smartt, Program Support
John Simmons, Program Support
Melody Casiano, Policy Analyst
Evan Shigaya, Policy Analyst
Hyon Yi, Deputy Credentialing Manager
Zach Patnode, QA/CQI Administrator

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

Members Present:

Megan Simmons, LMFT, Chair
Beda Herbison, LICSW, Vice Chair
Melissa Denner, LMHC
Linda Sattlem, Ph.D., Public Member
Joel Freedman, LMHC
Vacant, LASW
Vacant, Public Member
Vacant, Public Member

Members Absent:

Assistant Attorney General Staff:

Marie Carp, AAG

Guest Presenters:

Sue Hall, WRAMP Program Lead

On June 13, 2025, the Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee and the Mental Health Counselors, Marriage & Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee met online via Microsoft Teams and in person at Washington State Department of Health 111 Israel Road, Room 153, Tumwater, WA 98501. Notice of the meeting was published on the Substance Use Disorder, Mental Health Counselor, Marriage & Family Therapist, and Social Worker profession websites and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv for each profession.

Open Session:

1. Call to Order (9:00 a.m.) – Susan Cherry, SUDP, Chair/ Megan Simmons, LMFT, Chair

Meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m.

- 1.1 Introductions – *Members of both committees as well as Department of Health staff introduced themselves.*
- 1.2 Approval of the June 13, 2025, joint meeting agenda – *Motion to approve the June 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes, seconded, motion approved. Motion to add proposed 2026 meeting dates to the agenda, seconded, motion carries.*
- 1.3 Approval of the February 7, 2025, Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory committee meeting minutes – *At this time, the SUD Advisory Committee did not have quorum. Minutes were not approved and will be reviewed at the next scheduled meeting.*
- 1.4 Approval of the March 7, 2025, Licensed Counselors Advisory Committee meeting minutes – *Motion to approve the March 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes, seconded, motion carries.*

2. Public Comment – Susan Cherry, SUDP, Chair/ Megan Simmons, LMFT, Chair

There was a public comment from Pedro Lopez, SUDP, regarding whether there were plans for increasing the availability of approved supervisor trainings. There was a public comment from Frances Schopick regarding the content of R.C.W. 18.130.063. There was a public comment from Pedro Lopez, SUDP regarding changes to the license renewal communication format.

3. Program Manager Reports – Lana Crawford / Claire Wilson, Program Managers

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

Budget Report – The committee received a presentation on the program budget report from program staff.

Rulemaking Update – The committee received an update on recently adopted rules packages that affect the program's professions.

3.2 Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee

Budget Report - The committee received a presentation on the program budget report from program staff, as well as ongoing efforts towards the high cost of discipline in the profession.

4. Credentialing and HELMS Updates – Zach Patnode, QA/CQI Administrator/Hyon Yi, Deputy Credentialing Manager

4.1 Joint LC and SUDP Update

The joint committee received updates about the HELMS system and ongoing changes to credentialing processes.

5. Review of the WRAMP program – Sue Hall, WRAMP Program Lead

5.1 WRAMP Presentation Slides

The committee received a presentation about the WRAMP program.

6. Discipline Enforcement Action – Claire Wilson / Lana Crawford, Program Managers

6.1 Disciplinary Data for 2024 (Wilson / Crawford)

The joint committee received a presentation on 2024 trends in Discipline Enforcement Action.

7. Assistant Attorney General Reports – Marie Carp, AAG / Kristi Knieps, AAG

7.1 Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee (Carp)

There were no items for the committee to be updated on at this time.

7.2 Substance Use Disorder Advisory Committee (Knieps)

There were no items for the committee to be updated on at this time.

8. Website Updates – Lana Crawford and Claire Wilson, Program Managers

The joint committee received an update on recent changes to the Department of Health website.

9. Legislative Report –Lana Crawford, Program Manager

The joint committee was briefed on the implementation status of behavioral health bills that were introduced in the 2025 legislative session.

10. Overview of Alternate Pathways for SUDP Licensure – Claire Wilson, Program Manager

The joint committee was briefed on an overview of the existing alternate pathway to SUDP licensure as well as the co-occurring disorder specialist enhancement.

11. Presentation: Licensed Associate Counselors Application Process - Beda Herbison, LICSW, Vice Chair/ Kim McBride, LMFT, Advisory Member.

The committee was updated on the subcommittee's presentation regarding the application process.

12. SUD Certification Advisory Committee Elections

The members of the SUD Certification Advisory Committee held an election for their new chair and vice chairpersons.

Motion to elect Alicia Egan as Chair, seconded, motion carries.

Motion to elect Bergen Starke as Vice Chair, seconded, motion carries.

13. 2026 Proposed Advisory Committee Meeting Dates

Motion to approve the 2026 SUDP Committee meeting dates, seconded, motion carries.

Motion to approve the 2026 Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee meeting dates, seconded, motion carries.

14. Future Agenda Items

The committees discussed the following agenda items for future meetings:

For next Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee meeting: education and budget implications.

For the next Substance Use Disorder Professional Advisory Committee meeting: ways to be proactive about comprehensive and collaborative care.

15. Meeting Adjourned- Susan Cherry, SUDP, Chair/ Megan Simmons, LMFT, Chair

Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded, motion carries. Meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Submitted by:

Claire Wilson, Program Manager
Substance Use Disorder Professional Advisory Committee

Approved by:

Susan Cherry, Chair
Substance Use Disorder Professional Advisory Committee

on file
SIGNATURE

on file
SIGNATURE

DATE

DATE

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

on file
SIGNATURE

on file
SIGNATURE

DATE

DATE