



**Certified Counselors & Hypnotherapist Advisory Committee**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**October 10, 2025**

Hybrid Meeting via Microsoft Teams and in-person WA DOH 111 Israel Road SE, Town Center 2, Room 153, Tumwater, WA 98501

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**Committee members present:** Anthony Gitch, Hypnotherapist, Chair  
Lisa Haglund, Public Member, Vice Chair  
Nichole Basile, Public Member  
Vacant, Hypnotherapist  
Vacant, Certified Counselor

**Committee members absent:** Sarah Prince, Public Member  
Lisa Webb, Certified Counselor

**Staff members present:** Brandon Williams, Acting Executive Director  
Eve Austin, Operations Director  
Carmen Leso, Program Manager  
Joan Simmons, Program Support  
Melody Casiano, Policy Analyst  
Shelly Buchannon, Supervising Staff Attorney

**Assistant Attorney General:** Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General

**Guest presenters:** None

On October 10, 2025, the Washington State Certified Counselors and Hypnotherapist Advisory Committee met in person at Washington State Department of Health and online via Microsoft Teams. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of the meeting was published on the Certified Adviser, Certified Counselor, and Hypnotherapist professions' websites and was sent out via the GovDelivery listserv for each profession.

1. **Call to Order – Anthony Gitch, Hypnotherapist, Chair** – Due to no quorum, there was no call to order, however the informational meeting began at 9:11 a.m.
  - 1.1. Introductions
  - 1.2. Approval of the October 10, 2025, agenda. Due to no quorum, the agenda was not approved. The meeting continued as **informational only**.
  - 1.3. Approval of July 18, 2025, meeting minutes. Due to no quorum, this item will be added to the January 23, 2026, meeting.

**2. Management Reports**

**2.1. Budget Report – Carmen Leso, Program Manager**

Ms. Leso presented the program budgets for certified counselors/advisers and hypnotherapists as of Sept 2025.

Program	Current Fund Balance
Certified Counselors/Advisers	(\$1,230,000)
Hypnotherapists	(\$46,270)

**2.2. Program Report – Carmen Leso, Program Manager**

Ms. Leso shared that recruitment notices for the vacant certified counselor and vacant hypnotherapist had been posted with an end date of October 31, 2025.

**3. Public Comment – Anthony Gitch, Hypnotherapist, Chair**

- 3.1. Informational meeting only. No comments were received.

**4. Credential Advocacy – Carmen Leso, Program Manager**

- 4.1. Ms. Leso shared recommended next steps for credential advocacy for informational purposes only. This item will be added to the next advisory committee meeting.

**5. Break**

**6. Committee Elections – Anthony Gitch, Hypnotherapist, Chair**

- 6.1. Due to no quorum, this item will be added to the January 23, 2026, meeting.

**7. Public Comment – Anthony Gitch, Hypnotherapist, Chair**

- 7.1. Informational meeting only. No comments were received.

**8. Future Business – Anthony Gitch, Hypnotherapist, Chair**

- 8.1. Legislation for 2026
- 8.2. Annual Advisory Committee Bylaws Review
- 8.3. Credentialing Advocacy
- 8.4. Chair & Vice Chair elections



8.5. One page information for schools (similar or same as the information that is on the professions' external webpages)

9. Meeting Adjourned – Anthony Gitch, Hypnotherapist, Chair

9.1. The meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

**Submitted by:**  
Carmen Leso, Program Manager  
Certified Counselors & Hypnotherapists  
Advisory Committee

**Approved by:**  
Anthony Gitch, Chair  
Certified Counselors & Hypnotherapists  
Advisory Committee

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