



**Washington State Department of Health
Certified Counselors and Hypnotherapists
Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

October 11, 2018 - 9:30 a.m.

Department of Health
Kent Regional Office
20425 72nd Avenue S., Building 2, Suite 310
Kent, WA 98032

Committee Members Present: Miriam Dyak, Certified Counselor, Chair
Drue Larson, Certified Counselor
Ray Zakowski, Hypnotherapist
Karen Hausrath, Public Member

Committee Members Via Phone:

AAG Present: Joyce Roper, Assistant Attorney General

Staff Members Present: Brett Lorentson, Program Manager
James Chaney, Executive Director
On Conference Call:
Joanne Miller, Credentialing
Kevin Robbins, Credentialing Supervisor
Ted Dale, Program Manager

Public Present: Tim Livingston
Arlen Hurd

On October 11, 2018, the Certified Counselors and Hypnotherapists Advisory Committee met at the Department of Health, Kent Regional Office, 20425 72nd Avenue S., Building 2, Suite 310, Kent, WA 98032. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the meeting agenda was emailed to members of the certified counselor, certified adviser, and hypnotherapy professions through the department's GovDelivery and posted to the professions' websites.

1. **Call to Order - Miriam Dyak, Certified Counselor, Chair**

9:30 a.m.

1.1 **Introductions**

The committee and agency staff members along with the public attendees introduced themselves and their area of practice.

1.2 **Approval of meeting agenda**

The agenda was accepted and approved as written.

1.3 **Approval of January meeting minutes**

The meeting minutes from July 12, 2018, were accepted and approved as written.

2. **Department Reports**

2.1 **Credentialing staff presented license statistics.**

Mr. Robbins reported the following credentialing statistics:

Current Credential Total As of July 2, 2018	
Certified Counselor:	
Number of active applications	496
Number of pending applications	71
Certified Adviser:	
Number of active applications	4
Number of pending applications	1
Hypnotherapist:	
Number of active registrations	731
Number of pending applications	11
Total active credential holders:	1231
Total pending applications:	83

The committee discussed what they would like to see and how they could get a better picture of the types of people coming into the profession – possibly by using a survey. The committee asked the department to check with other committees to see what, if anything they have done in the past.

2.2 **Operating budget report**

Mr. Lorentson shared the 2017-2019 Biennium Balance Report showing that the program is currently over budget. The current budget for the Certified Counselors has a negative balance of (\$1,580,634). The current budget for the Hypnotherapist profession is a positive balance of \$91,719.

The question was raised regarding what could be done to fix the budget deficit. The recent fee increase would help, however not fix the deficit. Disciplinary action is not a

big concern for certified counselors, however if an individual has dual licensure then the costs are split between their programs/professions. New legislations are expected during the 2019 legislative session with an emphasis on behavioral health so there could be more changes coming. The committee should expect that there may be more legislative activity for the professions this session than in the past since one proposal is focused on a bachelor's level counseling profession.

3. Rules Update

- 3.1** Continuing education, WAC 246-810-029. Program provided update about the rule status. Mr. Lorentson shared that the public hearing was on September 12, 2018. The final language should be through internal review soon. When it is adopted, this will allow more distance learning courses to be taken.
- 3.2** Mr. Lorentson shared information about the recent rule petition WAC 246-810-024 counseling-related degrees that meet the requirements for certified counselor and certified adviser. The CR 101 has been filed and we will have more to discuss at the next committee meeting. The committee asked if they could get a synopsis before the next meeting, an outline to help guide the discussion. The public comment period is open with the CR 101 filed. We will use the comments to draft the language and file the CR 102. Language finalized in the CR 102 stage will be adopted and added into the CR 103 unless the CR 101 is retracted.

4. Rule Discussion

Committee discussed WAC 246-810-0293, recognized institutions of higher learning along with local, state, national, and international organizations providing continuing education courses to be approved to provide continuing education for certified counselors. Currently, the department has a list of about 15 organizations to evaluate and discuss with the committee. The concerns include location (both sides of the state), whether distance learning is available and amount of interaction verifying participation, and criteria for inclusion or removal from this standing list. The document is fluid, we can either add or subtract organizations. The committee and department would work together to review websites to determine if they meet standards prior to being added to the approved list.

The representative from the association did recommend not posting this list due to potential costs and time required to maintain. Additionally, it would cause numerous organizations to be in contact with the department in order to be added to or removed from the list. The AAG reminded the committee that the rule require the department maintain a list and unless the rule is changed, it could be less of a workload to post it online than to provide it upon request. The department did note that this is the only profession that, through rule, must maintain a list of approved continuing education providers.

5. Outreach to potential credential applicants

The association representative, Tim Livingston, referred to the department and committee request for marketing the programs to potential applicants. The certified counselor and adviser credentials are not well-known in educational establishments and the association wants to

increase public awareness. Mr. Livingston found 13 items on the department's website that could be useful and intends on discussing with the department at a later time. He also noted that most correspondence coming into his office is focused on rules and about filling out the application for licensure.

The association wants to gather available information and create a PowerPoint presentation focused on completing the application. The department could add the presentation to the FAQ page. The executive director shared with the committee that department is actively meeting with schools to provide information for students in the Behavioral Health field. The association would like to expand this concept working with the department to extend the awareness of these credential types. However, one concern is 3rd party reimbursed that could be addressed working with the Health Care Authority or through legislation.

6. Committee Member Selection Update

The committee reviewed the requirement for public members. Public members cannot hold a certified counselor, certified advisor, or hypnotherapy credential. Additionally, they must represent the public having no direct or indirect interest in the profession.

7. Future Meeting Dates

Date	Location
1/10/2019	TC2 Rm 145
4/18/2019	TC2 Rm 145
7/11/2019	TC2 Rm 145
10/10/2019	Kent Rm 305

8. Committee Position Election

A motion and carried to elect Drue Larson as committee chair and Ray Zakowski as vice-chair. Committee elections will continue to be held in October of each year, unless the committee votes otherwise to postpone to another meeting.

9. Public Comment – Miriam Dyak, Certified Counselor, Chair

Ms. Young Seo asked a question related to distance learning. The committee informed Ms. Seo that continuing education, even distance learning must be accredited, offer CEUs (not just training), and if required, have a test to verify competency. The committee further advised that in person training for continuing education does not include webinars.

Mr. Arland Hurd expressed his concerns related to the denial of his application for licensure. He believes the department misunderstood and is not using its authority to allow approved coursework towards credentialing more individuals as certified counselors. The committee informed Mr. Hurd of it's authority and reminded him the committee only serves in an advisory capacity.

10. Future Business

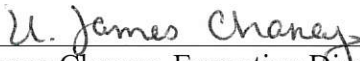
No items presented for future business.


11. Adjournment – Miriam Dyak, Certified Counselor, Chair

12:09 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:


James Chaney, Executive Director
Certified Counselors and Hypnotherapist
Advisory Committee


Miriam Dyak, Certified Counselor, Chair
Certified Counselors and Hypnotherapist
Advisory Committee

