



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

March 27, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Committee members present: Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Vice Chair
Paul David, PhD, LMHC, LMFT
Craig Apperson, LMHC

Committee members absent: Anjanette Jorstad, LASW, Chair

Staff members present: James Chaney, Executive Director
Pam Ranes, Program Manager
Karen Gohlsen, Program Support
Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General
Melody Casiano, Policy Analyst
Joanne Miller, Credentialing Supervisor

Guest presenters: None

On March 27, 2020, the Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee met virtually via GoToMeeting. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of the meeting was published on the Mental Health Counselors', Marriage & Family Therapists', and Social Workers' profession websites and was sent out via the GovDelivery listserv.

1. Call to Order – Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Vice Chair

- 1.1. Introductions: Committee members, DOH staff, and visitors introduced themselves.
- 1.2. Agenda: motion to approve the March 27, 2020 agenda, seconded, vote 3-0.
- 1.3. Minutes: motion to approve the December 6, 2020 minutes, seconded, vote 3-0.

2. Licensing Statistics – Joanne Miller, Credentialing Supervisor

Ms. Miller briefed the committee on the most recent statistics for the mental health counselor, marriage and family therapist, and social worker programs. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the committee could see statistics on retiring licensees and Ms. Miller offered to provide that information at the next regular meeting.

Figure 1 – Application Data

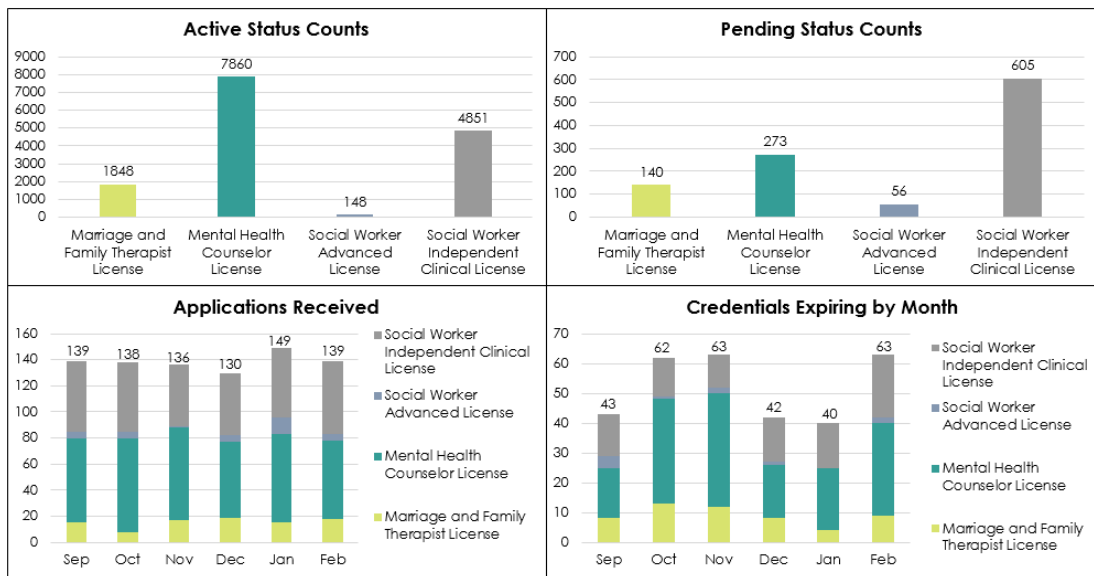


Figure 2 – Application Data (Associates Level)

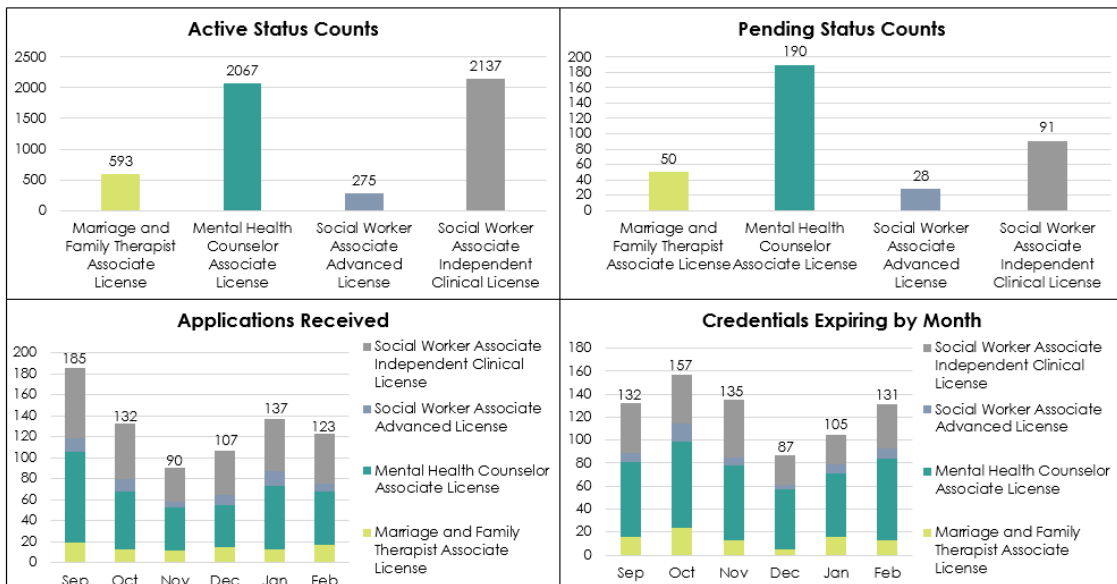
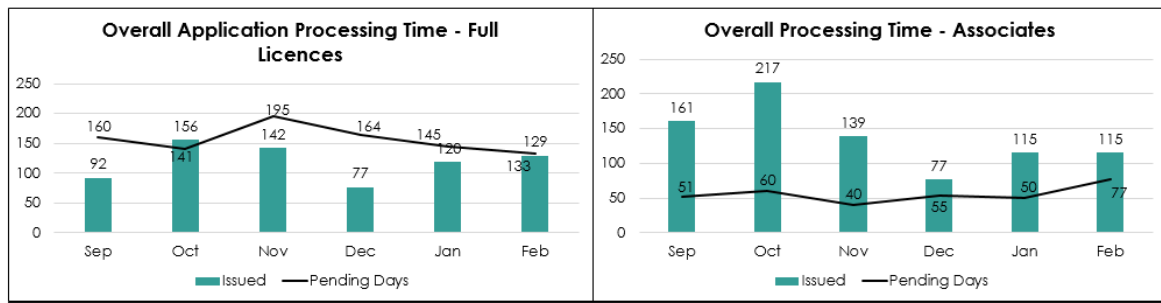


Figure 3 – Application Processing Times



3. Management Report – Pam Ranes, Program Manager

3.1. Budget Report – Ms. Ranes briefed the committee on the budget for all three programs. While the Marriage & Family Therapists program budget started the fiscal year with a deficit close to \$230,000, revenues have been outpacing expenses for this fiscal year and the deficit has been reduced to \$169,401 as of the end of February. Mr. Chaney added that the better than expected revenues could affect the size of the fee increase that is planned for the future. For the Mental Health Counselors program, the balance as of the end of February 2020 was \$615,833 and expenditures slightly outpaced revenues. The Social Workers program budget continues to do very well, with revenues well outpacing expenditures. The balance for that program as of the end of February 2020 was \$1,366,899. Mr. Chaney added that there will be an uptick in expenditures as a result of implementing recent behavioral health legislation as well as having to share the cost for HELMS, which is the new licensing system that DOH is expecting to roll out around January 2023.

4. Assistant Attorney General Report – Luke Eaton, AAG

4.1. AAG Eaton briefed the committee on telehealth in terms of the relaxing of HIPAA requirements temporarily in terms of video conferencing tools such as Skype without penalty from the Office for Civil Rights at HHS. AAG Eaton also provided clarification and answered the committee’s questions regarding the temporary waiving (30 days, with an option for the legislature to extend that after the initial 30-day period) of some licensure requirements ([Governor’s Proclamation 20-32](#)).

5. 2019 Legislative Update – James Chaney, Executive Director

5.1. Mr. Chaney updated the committee on the progress of implementing [SB 5054](#), [HB 1768](#), and [HB 1907](#). The revised rules for affected behavioral health programs are scheduled to be in place in July 2020.

6. 2020 Legislative Update – James Chaney, Executive Director

6.1. Mr. Chaney updated the committee on legislation that may be of interest, namely [SB 6641](#), which is intended to increase the number of sex offender treatment providers, as well as [SB 6061](#) (training standards in providing telemedicine and [HB 2411](#) (suicide prevention), which is awaiting signature by the Governor. Mr. Chaney added that he does expect more behavioral health legislation to be introduced in 2021 (possible amendments to 1768 and 5054 among other bills).

7. Rules Discussion – Pam Ranes, Program Manager

- 7.1. Ms. Raney encouraged the committee to open WAC 246-809 for revision in light of the upcoming implementation of SB 5054, the impact of telehealth, and other COVID-19-related issues. Mr. Fitzpatrick suggested that a rules workshop should be added to an upcoming meeting or a special meeting.

8. COVID-19 – Craig Apperson, LMHC

- 8.1. Mr. Apperson briefly discuss possible impacts of the virus on the mental health professions and provided a handout of resources for COVID-19-related issues.

9. Public Comment – Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair

- 9.1. The first comment was regarding student interns and assisting with assessments. The commenter was unhappy to find out that interns could not participate at all in assessments unless they are under direct supervision and she found that to be very restrictive and feels that it will dampen the desire for agencies to use interns given the supervision requirement.
- 9.2. The next public comment was from someone concerned that they would not be able to get fingerprinted as part of the application process and Ms. Miller from Credentialing clarified that so long as the rest of the application was complete, they would accept it without the fingerprints, but the applicant was still responsible for getting those as soon as feasible.
- 9.3. Another public comment was a concern that Portland mental health providers serve many Washington residents and would either need to violate the rules to see those patients or deny service given they cannot provide services to people residing in Washington via telehealth. She asked if there was temporary licensure being considered to address the issue. Mr. Chaney acknowledged the situation and told the commenter that he brought up the concern, but he does not have the power, nor does the advisory committee, to change the rule personally. It will need to go through the governor's office or the legislature to provide that authority.
- 9.4. A representative from Antioch University asked Mr. Chaney how they can become a provider for the new co-occurring enhancement training. Mr. Chaney requested that they discuss that topic after the meeting.
- 9.5. There was a comment from a California-licensed LICSW who expressed gratitude at changing the requirement for the 4000-hour internship.
- 9.6. A commenter who currently has a "retired-active" license was given confusing information regarding the requirements for determining hours. She went on to say that she ended up getting an active license because of the lack of clarity. Ms. Raney offered to clarify, but noted that the rule was not specific to the licensed counselors program, but an overarching rule for all professions.

10. Future Business – Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair

- 10.1. Meeting to determine which rules to open.
- 10.2. Special meeting for rules workshop.
- 10.3. Volk Decision discussion requested by Mr. Apperson.
- 10.4. 2019-20 legislative update.
- 10.5. Behavioral health conference discussion requested by Mr. Chaney.

11. 2021 Meeting Dates – Pam Ranes, Program Manager

11.1. Tabled until the next regular meeting.

12. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

12.1. Tabled until the next regular meeting.

13. Adjournment

13.1. Meeting adjourned at 11:18 A.M.

Submitted by:

Pam Ranes, Program Manager
Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and
Family Therapists, and Social Workers
Advisory Committee Minutes

Approved by:

Anjanette Jorstad, Chair
Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and
Family Therapists, and Social Workers
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SIGNATURE

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DATE

DATE