



**Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

November 20, 2020

Virtual Meeting via MS Teams

Committee members present:	Kenneth Pimpleton, SUDP, Chair Susan Cherry, SUDP
Committee members absent:	Daniel Friesen, SUDP Bergen Starke, LMHC, SUDP Theresa Adkison, SUDP Gayle Martinsen, HCA Representative
Staff members present:	Ted Dale, Program Manager James Chaney, Executive Director Karen Gohlsen, Program Support Chris Gerard, Assistant Attorney General Melody Casiano, Policy Analyst Ashley Broussard, Behavioral Health Program Coord.
Guest presenters:	None

On November 20, 2020, the Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee met online via MS Teams. Notice of the meeting was published on the [Substance Use Disorder profession website](#) and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv.

Open Session:

1. Opening of Public Meeting – Kenneth Pimpleton, Chair

- 1.1. Call to Order – Mr. Pimpleton called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Committee and agency staff members as well as public attendees introduced themselves and their area of practice.
- 1.2. Agenda: no quorum present, the agenda could not be approved.
- 1.3. Minutes: no quorum present, the minutes could not be approved.

2. Management Report – Ted Dale, Program Manager

- 2.1. Budget Report – Mr. Dale briefed the committee on the budget and reported that the committee is on par with what was projected. Investigations and legal services were underspent from what was allotted in October 2020. There was overspending mainly in the areas of the call center and legal compliance. He noted that the deficit of approximately \$200,000 for indirect costs for the biennium is incorrect and will be updated once all the numbers have come in. There was speculation that the lowered costs for investigations and legal can be attributed to the 2019 legislation that reduced the number of individuals who could be placed in WRAMP and due to the effort the department has made to reach out to students and licensees to better educate them on requirements and regulations.
- 2.2. Recruitment Update – Mr. Dale briefed the committee on the recruitment process to-date for two open positions (physician/mental health practitioner and a public member). Committee members Ken Pimpleton and Susan Cherry have volunteered to be part of the interview panel for eligible candidates.

3. Assistant Attorney General Report – Chris Gerard, AAG

- 3.1. AAG Gerard had no business to report. He will reserve going over his role as AAG for new members at the next meeting when they are all present.

4. Current Licensing Statistics – Ted Dale, Program Manager

- 4.1. Mr. Dale briefed the committee on the current licensing statistics and reported that there has been an increase in applications primarily due to the reciprocity program. Many of those applicants are from border states who would benefit from dual licensure. Pending application wait times are higher than normal due to the renewal extension provided for all professions that expired at the end of September 2020. The credentialing system was not able to accommodate online renewals for all of those taking advantage of the renewal extension; all those renewals had to be mailed to DOH and processed manually by staff.

As requested at the last meeting, dual licensure numbers were presented showing that mental health counselors and social workers were the ones who mostly were taking advantage of the alternative training method for dual licensure. Mr. Chaney brought up that many trainees have reached their final year of renewal and are reaching out requesting an exception for an extension, but the department is bound to what is written in the RCW on the limit of renewals and there are no exceptions.

It was brought to the committee's attention that some trainees have experienced issues with supervisors not signing off on their hours or being qualified to do so. The department clarified that it is the trainee's responsibility to do their own research to ensure the supervisor they are selecting meets the supervision requirements. It was suggested that the trainees should submit their hours every three to six months to avoid finding out the supervisor is not qualified or refuses to sign off on hours.

5. Proposed Legislation & RCW Implementation – Ted Dale, Program Manager

- 5.1. Weekly legislative update calls: Mr. Dale informed the members that while the legislature was in session, the department holds legislative update calls every Wednesday morning to discuss pending legislation to identify potential impact on health professions. Mr. Pimpleton and Ms. Cherry volunteered to participate in the calls and the department will reach out to the other members to coordinate back up participants.
- 5.2. SB 6061: This bill requires those providing telehealth services to get telehealth training once it is available in January 2021. It is unclear when the training needs to be completed or the exact date when it will be available. A representative of the Health Care Authority informed the committee that the Behavioral Health Institute at the University of Washington will be doing online trainings beginning December 15, 2020 and these will meet the legislative requirement. Those who are interested can visit the [website](#) or email Melody McKee at melmckee@uw.edu for more information.

6. OPMA Training – Chris Gerard, AAG

- 6.1. Tabled until the next meeting when all of the committee's new members are expected to attend.

7. SUDP Education Discussion – Kenneth Pimpleton, Chair

- 7.1. Mr. Pimpleton requested clarification on a recurring question regarding educational requirements for licensure. There seems to be a misunderstanding that there is no need to take SUD courses if the applicant has an associate's or bachelor's degree in another behavioral health field. They will still need to complete the 45 credits in SUD courses to meet the education requirement. In addition, it was brought up that even though the department no longer required the four-hour HIV overview training as a requirement to get licensed, this does not eliminate the required HIV coursework required for the SUD credential per [WAC 246-811-030 subsection 2g](#).

8. Public Comment – Kenneth Pimpleton, Chair

- 8.1. Megan Fowler with the Health Care Authority (HCA) announced that her agency was awarded \$3.1 million to collect data and create a road map for improvement of SUD treatment services. For those interested in participating, more information can be found on the [website](#), reviewing the [roadmap](#), or by emailing Ms. Fowler at megan.fowler@hca.wa.gov.
- 8.2. A member of the public informed the committee that Spokane Falls Community College and Eastern Washington University both offer a 15-credit SUD course. Both are offered online and are flexible when choosing the courses that a student might be lacking to meet the SUD requirements.

- 8.3. Mr. Dale gave a quick recap on the co-occurring enhancement credential which was enacted in the 2019 legislation for those with certain behavioral health professions. They can obtain this credential by taking a 60-hour course approved by the department. Currently, only [Eastern Washington University](#) is offering the course. The discussion continued with a question around billing for SUD services under this credential. Mr. Chaney explained that with this credential they would be able to bill under the agency license, however there is some debate about what is already included in the scope of practice for masters-level counselors and psychologists. He also noted that billing and insurance is all coordinated through the Health Care Authority so that may be a better source of information.

9. Future Agenda Items - Kenneth Pimpleton, Chair

- 9.1. No future agenda items.

10. Adjournment

- 10.1. The meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Submitted by:

Ted Dale, Program Manager
Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory
Committee

On file
SIGNATURE

DATE

Approved by:

Kenneth Pimpleton, Chair
Substance Use Disorder Certification
Advisory Committee

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DATE