

## CYBHWG Workforce and Rates subgroup

June 15, 2022

**Leads:** Representative Mari Leavitt, Hugh Ewart, Laurie Lippold

### General updates

Workforce Board (Renee Fullerton)

#### Behavioral Health Assessment project

- Behavioral Health (BH) Assessment project is looking at reports from 2016, 2017, and 2020, with the help of a contractor to see what items have had success, are no longer valid, or still need energy put behind them.
- Reports recommended addressing issues around reimbursement rates, increasing provider wages and BH integration.
- Other workforce issues to look at are around supervision, and training of the behavioral health workforce in a community setting.
- Stakeholder meetings will likely begin over the next couple of weeks; most of the work will be done via email.
- A future update will be given on the progress and what remains to be done.

Behavioral Health Workforce Development Initiative, UW (Vaughnetta Barton)

#### Conditional Grants

- Fall of 2020 launched a quick start initiative with the Balmer Group.
- 20 students from the quick start initiative have graduated and are heading into the workforce!
- 2021 cohort has started and students for fall of 2022 are currently being selected.
- There are 28 students from 13 universities that are in the process of getting their masters with a commitment to community behavioral health.
- Discussions are underway with the Center for Workforce Studies regarding data collection, this includes a meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss barriers to data collection.
- Visit [WA BH Workforce Development Initiative](#) website for additional information.

Harborview Behavioral Health Institute (Sheryl Schwartz)

#### Apprenticeships

- Three tracks: BH Tech, Peer Counselor, and Substance Use Disorder Professional (SUDP).
- BH Techs will be the first cohort starting in August, the second cohort will start in the winter/spring of 2023 and the third in late summer/early fall of 2023.
- There are 20 people in a cohort.
- 10 employers have fully committed plus 2 more are in the works. Sites are not yet public but getting good geographic distribution.
- Just completed job training plans which gives the employers a structured approach to all the competencies the apprentices will need to learn during their one-to-two-year training.

Washington State Achievement Council (Becky Thompson)

#### Loan Repayment

- The state Health Core program loan repayment can be up to \$75,000 of loan repayment for a 3-year commitment of full-time service.
- Initial appropriation for BH was around 1 million dollars for the program, with an increase to the program for a total of around \$7 million.
- In 2022 the legislature added a nurse educator program to the Health Core program. The BH program is separately appropriated by the legislature.
- 150 eligible applicants, but with funding will likely only be able to fund 85 of them.
- The WSAC is working to have the state and federal programs work in a complementary fashion.

## Office of the Insurance Commissioner (Barb Jones & Jane Beyer)

- Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) is continuing their work regarding parity.
- Currently working with Milliman to develop extensive provider and consumer education materials and to do outreach with providers and consumers.
- OIC is willing to come to a future meeting to talk about parity and their work in implementation of HB1688.

## Access Survey

- Two surveys: one for providers and one for families with lived experience related to access and wait times.
- Preliminary results below show the category percentage that had limited access and unreasonable wait times:
  - 89% - Intensive outpatient
  - 85% - Residential
  - 92% - Crisis Services
  - 82% - Inpatient Psych hospital services
  - 69% - Rural suburban and urban
- More details to come at a future meeting.

## Barriers to licensure and workforce retention and recruitment (sara and Shannon)

- A work session took place June 14<sup>th</sup> with a strong stakeholder presence to look at different workforce licensure issues.
- They collected feedback for several issues, including but not limited to the work gap from postgraduation to seeking licenses, independent licenses, supervision, insurance billing, community mental health and wellness and burnout.
- 80 signed up but only 30 showed for the work session. A [work session survey](#) was shared with attendees to gather more feedback.
- Follow up meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Burning issues for 2023 legislation

It was proposed the subgroup focus on the following:

- Workforce issues related to initiatives that were passed in 2021 and 2022.
- Workforce issues from other subcommittees.
- New issues that aren't being covered by another group.
- Supporting/joining forces with the Workforce Board, the barriers group, etc.

## Respite for youth with behavioral health issues – 2021 legislation update

- Bring back to the next meeting.

## Other / next meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2022, from 10 to 11 a.m.
- Please let Laurie and Hugh know if you have concerns about proposed issues for 2023 legislation, ideas around prioritization of previous initiatives, and if you have new issues.

## Attendees:

Sarah Alkurdi, Washington State  
Achievement Council (WSAC)

Vaughnetta Barton, University of  
Washington (UW)

Jane Beyer, Office of the Insurance  
Commissioner (OIC)

Rachel Burke, Health Care Authority  
(HCA)

Tina Burrell, HCA

Phyllis Cavens, Child and Adolescent Clinic

James Chaney, Department of Health  
(DOH)

Christine Cole, HCA

Paul Davis, HCA

Hugh Ewart, Seattle Children's

Anusha Fernando, Molina Healthcare

Renee Fullerton, Workforce Training  
Board (WTB)

Kristin Houser, Parent

Marissa Ingalls, Coordinated Care

Todd Jensen, HCA

Barb Jones, OIC

Terry Lee, Community Health Plan of  
Washington (CHPW)

Joe LeRoy, HopeSparks

Laurie Lippold, Partners for Our Children

Steve Perry, HCA

Rich Reathaford, Daybreak Youth Services

Kari Samuel, HCA

Sheryl Schwartz, Harborview Behavioral  
Health Institute

Sharon Shadwell, Department of  
Children, Youth and Families (DCYF)

Susan Skillman, UW

Sara Stewart, WA Mental Health

Counselors Association (WMHCA)

Mary Stone-Smith, Catholic Community  
Services

Ashlen Strong, WSHA

Suzanne Swadener, HCA

Becky Thompson, WSAC

Andy Tucker, Children's Home Society of  
Washington

Sarah Walker, UW

Alex Wehinger, Washington State Medical  
Association (WSMA)

Cindi Wiek, HCA

Kristin Wiggins, Perigee Fund & Prenatal through 5  
Relational Health subgroup