

CYBHWG Workforce and Rates subgroup

June 7, 2023

Leads: Representative Mari Leavitt, Hugh Ewart, Laurie Lippold

Implementation of HB 1724 and SB 5555

Christie Spice & Cory Torreswell, Department of Health (DOH)

See page 3 for slides

Highlights

- [HB 1724](#) focuses on the behavioral health workforce to address the shortage through changes to professional licensure and process requirements.
- High level overview:
 - Immediate changes to licensure requirements removed some restrictions that have been in place for behavioral health professionals that come to Washington from another state.
 - Established systems to facilitate associates getting their supervised hours which takes away the requirement of working in a behavioral health agency setting and reduces supervision hours required.
 - Expanded agency affiliated counselor profession and made modifications to mental health professional designations.
 - Requires Department of Health (DOH) in collaboration with the Workforce Training board and Examining Board of Psychology to do a very extensive review of licensure requirements and work to remove the identified barriers.
 - Removed a requirement that had been in place for licensing authorities to essentially do an assessment to verify the applicant met all other licensure requirements before they could be approved for an exam, now it allows exam approval right away.
- The bill requires DOH in collaboration with the Workforce Training Board and the Board of Psychology to take a deep dive into credentialing requirements for behavioral health professions with the goal of identifying changes in law or rulemaking that would remove workforce barriers to help people enter and stay in the workforce.
- Making future changes to licensing requirements allows professionals to be tracked to see the career trajectory to give greater understanding and inform staffing needs in private practice, community behavioral health agencies, and other behavioral health service settings.
- [SB 5555](#) creates 2 new professions: certified peer specialists and trainees for the profession.
- The profession will be in effect July 1, 2025.
- The new credentials will allow peers to practice independently with the ability to bill Insurance or Medicaid for their services.
- The new credential will allow a supervisory path for peers to supervise peers.
- The bill extends the required health care authority training to 80 hours.
- Rulemaking for the peer credential requirements will be in August.
- DOH is required to submit a report to the legislature in 2027.

Q/A

- Could you talk a little bit more about how that's going to expand access?

In the past people were only allowed to work with their probationary license in a behavioral health agency, with the change, those individuals will be able to work in a broader array of settings and essentially have no setting limitation in their ability to practice.

- Does the out of state license change apply to people coming from other counties?
No, only the United States.
- Which professions apply to the new licensure requirements?
Social work professions, and the probationary license piece which affects several professions, including mental health counselors, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and psychologists.
- Our greatest workforce issue is people going into private practice, how do we combat this?
As we talk about other aspects of HB 1724, there will be an opportunity as an agency to go back to the Legislature in November and make some recommendations, and so that's something we do want to hear from the community at large about to help inform how we shape our recommendations.

Rates Discussion

Catrina Lucero & Michele Wilsie, Health Care Authority (HCA)

See page 19 for slides

Highlights

- Behavioral health related rate increases, and other rate increases relative to behavioral health were shared with the subgroup.
- Working on putting together a rate increase overview to be displayed in a chart form.

Next Meeting

- Next meeting will take place June 21st from 10 to 11 a.m.
- We went to the end with presentations, so were going to bring back the discussion of possible issues for 2024.
- Determine if there is a need for sub-sub committees.

Attendees

Dan Barth,
Vaughnetta Barton, University of Washington (UW)
Rep. Lisa Callan, Legislator
Thalia Cronin, Community Health Plan of WA.
Paul Davis, HCA
Kiki Fabian, HCA
Renee Fullerton, Workforce Training Board
Bob Hilt, Seattle Children's Hospital
Libby Hein, Molina Healthcare
Kristin Houser, Parent
Marissa Ingalls, Coordinated Care
Terry Lee,

Joe LeRoy, HopeSparks
Joan Miller, The Washington Council for Behavioral Health
Julia O'Connor, The Washington Council for Behavioral Health
Kari Samuel, HCA
Sheryl Schwartz, UW
Mary Stone-Smith, Catholic Community Services
Katherine Switz
Sarah Walker, UW Co-Lab
Alex Wehinger,
Cindi Wiek, HCA
Michele Wilsie, HCA
Larry Wissow, UW



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE BILL IMPLEMENTATION

CHILDREN & YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
WORKGROUP, WORKFORCE & RATES SUBGROUP

June 7, 2023



Agenda

- 2SHB 1724 (Behavioral Health Workforce): Changes and Opportunities to Engage
- Certified Peer Specialists
- Behavioral Health Support Specialists
- Mental Health Counselor Interstate Licensing Compact
- Discussion, Q&A

2SHB 1724 – Behavioral Health Workforce

- Seeks to address the workforce shortage in behavioral health through changes to professional licensure requirements
- The bill:
 - Makes immediate changes to licensure requirements,
 - Establishes systems to facilitate acquisition of supervised experience hours,
 - Expands agency affiliated counselor profession and modifies mental health professional designation, and
 - Requires DOH to review licensure requirements and remove barriers

Immediate Changes to Licensure Requirements

- Removes the restriction that behavioral health professionals with a probationary license may only work in a licensed behavioral health agency.
- Decreases the hours of supervised experience for social worker credentials.
- Requires licensing authorities to waive education, training, experience, and exam requirements for applicants that are licensed in another state with substantially equivalent standards or hold national certification.
- Removes requirement for licensing authorities to screen applicants before scheduling their exam.
- Allows licensing authorities to contract for application review.

Facilitation of Supervised Experience

- Requires DOH to develop a program to facilitate placement of associates with clinical supervisors by October 1, 2023.
- Establishes a stipend program to defray out-of-pocket expenses incurred by associates for supervised experience by July 1, 2024.

Expansion of Agency Affiliated Counselors

- Creates a new **licensed** AAC:
 - Advanced degree and 2 years of supervised experience under a mental health professional (MHP).
 - Scope allows mental health assessments and diagnosis.
 - May only practice in a licensed behavioral health agency.
- Creates a new **certified** AAC:
 - Bachelor's degree and 5 years experience working under a MHP.
 - Scope allows preliminary mental health assessments and diagnosis with review by a clinical supervisor.
 - May only practice in a licensed behavioral health agency.
- Maintains the **registered** AAC with no degree requirement and the current scope of practice limitations.

Changes to MHP Designation

- The bill created a bridge between MHP designation and health profession credentials by:
 - Expanding the AAC credential so all MHPs are authorized to perform assessments and diagnoses and
 - Defining a MHP as someone practicing within the statutory scope of practice of their credential.
- The bill also creates a bachelor's level pathway to be a MHP.

Review of Licensure Requirements

- Requires DOH to examine credentialing requirements for BH professions to identify changes in law or rule that would remove workforce barriers and streamline credentialing
- Must review exam, supervised experience, and CE requirements and consider:
 - Peer reviewed research and requirements of other states
 - Changes to facilitate licensure of out of state applicants
 - Changes to supervised experience
 - Modifications to improve timelines for licensure
 - Creation of an associate-level license for psychologists
 - Whether AACs should be allowed to practice in FQHCs
 - Provision of technical assistance on license applications
 - Equity impacts of licensure requirements

Opportunities to Engage

- DOH is conducting listening sessions to gather ideas on changes to credentialing requirements that would make it easier to attract and retain workforce:

[June 7th](#) (1:30-3:00), [June 12th](#) (5:00-6:30), and [June 15th](#) (5:00-6:30)

- DOH and the Examining Board of Psychology will engage in rulemaking to implement changes to credentialing requirements
- DOH will have two opportunities to present to the legislature on recommendations for statutory changes to credentialing requirements: November 2023 and November 2024

Planned Rulemaking for 2SHB 1724

Topic of Rulemaking	Rulemaking Begins
Minimum qualifications for supervisors of MHC, SW, and MFT associates, and rules for the stipend program	September 2023
Requirements for certified and licensed agency affiliated counselors, including required coursework	October 2023
Rules on waiver of education, training, experience and exam requirements for applicants credentialed in another state with substantially equivalent standards	October 2023
Rules to implement changes following review of licensure requirements for behavioral health professions	November 2024

Certified Peer Specialists

- 2SSB 5555 creates the certified peer specialist and certified peer specialist trainee professions
- Certification is voluntary, but must be obtained to bill insurance or Medicaid
- Rulemaking will begin in August 2023
- DOH will begin certifying peer specialists on July 1, 2025
- DOH must analyze various aspects of peer specialist supervision and report to the legislature by December 2027

Behavioral Health Support Specialists

- SSB 5189 creates the certified behavioral health support specialist position
- Delivery of brief, evidence-based interventions under the supervision of a provider with authority to diagnose in their scope
- Requirements:
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Completion of a BHSS program that meets UW guidelines
 - Completion of a professional exam and jurisprudence exam
- Rulemaking will begin September 2023
- DOH will begin issuing certifications in January 2025

Mental Health Counselors Compact

- SHB 1069 adopts the interstate licensing compact for mental health counselors.
- Allows people to practice in any member state if they have an unrestricted license and meet with jurisprudence, CE, and background check requirements.
- DOH will begin rulemaking in September 2023 on requirements to participate in the compact and fees for a compact privilege.
- Final implementation timeframe is dependent on the compact commission.

Discussion and Q&A

Contact Information

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2023-25 Operating Budget Funded Rate Increases

Behavioral Health Related Rate Increases

Title	Effective Date	Rate Increase
Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)	Jan 1, 2024	15%-20% depending on code.
Low level Behavioral Health (non-BHA)	Jan 1, 2024	7% but no more than Medicare. Code specific. Applies to non-BHA providers.
BH Residential Room and Board	July 1, 2023	Funding to be added to MCO wrap around and BH-ASO contracts.
Fee for Services BH Rates	Jan 1, 2024	22%, code specific. Excludes rates for long-term civil commitments and hospital based inpatient psychiatric.
MCO BH Rates (BHA)	Jan 1, 2024	15%. Excludes hospital based inpatient psychiatric. Includes WISe and New Journeys. Additional money in the non-Medicaid contracts to extend a similar increase.
Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP)	Jan 1, 2024	15%
Children's Long-term Inpatient Program (CLIP)	July 1, 2023	Rates were increased 29% Jan 1, 2023. 2023-25 budget maintained that rate increase and provided funding for an additional 8%.

Other Rate Increases

Title	Effective Date	Rate Increase
Air Ambulance	Jul 1, 2023	50% of the of the gap between Medicaid and Medicare.
Ambulance and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation	Jul 1, 2023	Code specific
Children's Dental	Jan 1, 2024	40% increase for D1120.
Developmental Screening	Jan 1, 2024	100%
Fee for Services Health Home	Jul 1, 2023	Varies
Home & Birthing Center	Jan 1, 2024	\$2,500 for Birthing Center Facility Fee, \$500 for kit
Kidney Dialysis	Jan 1, 2024	30% Code specific.

Other Rate Increases

Title	Effective Date	Rate Increase
Newborn Screening Fee	Jan 1, 2024	\$15.73
Pediatric Palliative Care	Jan 1, 2024	Average 158%
Primary Care	Jan 1, 2025	2% code specific.
Professional Services	Jul 1, 2024	50%, 65% or 100% of Medicare depending on service.
Sole Community Hospital	Jan 1, 2024	25%

Need more information?

- ▶ Additional information about items funded in the budget is available here:
 - ▶ *Final conference budget detail*
<https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2023proposals/ho2325bien>
 - ▶ *State-wide agency detail*
<https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2023proposals/Documents/co/cohStatewideSummaruAndAgencyDetail-ConferenceProposal.pdf>