



Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group – Workforce & Rates (W&R) Subgroup

October 22, 2025

Glossary of Terms

W&R: Workforce & Rates Subgroup
ASD/IDD: Autism Spectrum Disorder/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
BHC: Behavioral Health Catalyst
BHA: Behavioral Health Agency
CCBHC: Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic
CHW: Community Health Worker
DOH: Department of Health
FIT: Family Initiated Treatment
FTE: Full Time Employee
HCA: Health Care Authority
ITA: Involuntary Treatment Act
PAL: Partnership Access Line
UW: University of Washington
SoS: Statement of Support
WAC: Washington Administrative Code
WISe: Wraparound with Intensive Services

Meeting Topics

Welcome & Agenda
Updates from Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group Meeting
Statements of Support Working Session
Future Planning
Next Steps & Close

Discussion Summary

Updates

Renee Fullerton and Hugh Ewart (Workforce and Rates Subgroup Leads) shared updates on CYBHWG 10/14 Meeting. The full work group voted on 2026 legislative priorities and recommendations on October 14th. The recommendations were organized into several categories:

Final Decisions:

1. Members approved the Washington Thriving Strategic Plan for submission to the Legislature on Nov 1.
2. Members approved advancing the recommendations below in the following categories:
 - a. Primary Recommendation: Washington Thriving Strategic Plan
 - b. Overarching Legacy Recommendations



- i. Fund CCBHC implementation
 - ii. Restore PAL funding
- c. Protecting and Building on Legacy Recommendations
 - i. Maintain state investments in school BH
 - ii. Preserve existing Bridge Housing sites
 - iii. Conditional scholarships and longitudinal study
 - iv. Commercial coverage for pediatric CHWs
 - v. Behavioral health teaching clinic designation and enhancement rate
- d. Top Priority New Recommendations – *These were consistently ranked as the top 3 recommendations across three different voting approaches.*
 - i. Strengthen statewide guidance on school BH
 - ii. Suspend consideration of leg impacting DOH credentialing
 - iii. Mandatory training for WISE to support youth with ASD/IDD
- e. Additional Recommendations
 - i. Technical Assistance & Training Network
 - ii. Convene an Advisory Group to improve FIT and ITA implementation

W&R Discussion on CYBHWG meeting outcomes:

1. Significant concerns were raised about the extensive and unfunded training requirements for behavioral health providers, particularly:
 - a. The WISE training for ASD/IDD was noted as an unfunded mandate that could burden providers already facing hundreds of hours of required trainings
 - b. Certified peer support specialists on crisis teams face approximately 136-156 hours of required training
 - c. Ruby training for autism services costs \$500 for parents, creating accessibility barriers for families in crisis
 - d. A parent shared personal experience about the need for better access to specialized training for families with children with complex needs
2. Further discussion:
 - a. Need for a comprehensive assessment of all child and adolescent behavioral health training requirements
 - b. Evaluation of training effectiveness and evidence base
 - c. Alternative financing mechanisms to reduce burden on providers
 - d. Allowing agencies to provide trainings internally when they have capacity, rather than requiring repeated state-mandated trainings
 - e. Creating pathways for families in crisis to access training through scholarships or priority placement
 - f. The group noted the challenging fiscal environment for the 2026 legislative session and acknowledged that some recommendations may require additional socialization before securing funding in future years.

Statements of Support Working Session

1. No statements of support were brought forward to the W&R Subgroup for consideration for the 2025-2026 Legislative Session.



Future Planning

1. The group will prioritize examining training requirements profession during the 2026 interim as a part of alleviating Administrative Burden.
 - a. Consider how these issues fit within the Washington Thriving strategic plan implementation and governance structures

Next steps

1. Co-leads will coordinate before the legislative session regarding advocacy and lobbying efforts for the Subgroup's priorities.
2. The subgroup's next meeting is to be determined. *If you are not already on the W&R mailing list and would like to be added, you can email cybhwg@hca.wa.gov indicating your preference.*