

## CYBHWG Workforce and Rates subgroup

May 3, 2023

Leads: Representative Mari Leavitt, Hugh Ewart, Laurie Lippold

### Brief overview of timeline for the interim

- The timeline for the CYBHWG and its subgroups was shared with the workforce and rates subgroup to identify key dates.

### Review what happened with the workforce and rate subgroup priorities

#### Rates

- A Medicaid rate increase of 15% was approved.
- A rate increase was approved for the reimbursement of inpatient services.
- The Children's Long-term Inpatient Program (CLIP) rate was adopted at the requested level of funding.
- An increase in utilization of CLIP beds was approved, scaling up to meet 72 beds.

#### Compact apprenticeships

- [HB 1069](#) – adopting mental health counselor compact passed and will determine the next steps for establishing the compact.
- [HB 1021](#) – Aligning social worker licensing requirements passed.

#### Barriers/HB1724 – *has not been signed by the Governor as of 5/3/2023*

- [HB 1724](#) – Increasing the trained behavioral health workforce passed.
  - This bill will be key in terms of barriers to getting staff practicing in behavioral health (BH).
  - Research included looking through 5 different types of licensure/credentialing that are universally used in BH and how to make the pathway smoother.
  - The requirement for social worker hours decreased from 4000 to 3000.
  - Changes were made to agency affiliate counselor types, which are used by the community behavioral health agencies in the state, including the creation of a Bachelor's, with the ability to diagnose and assess under appropriate supervision.
  - Billing is now allowed for folks who are licensed in pre- psychology, which more impacts federally qualified health center (FQHC) settings that have residency programs for psychologists.
  - We can now accept licensure from another state, with the criteria of 2 years of full licensure from another state.
    - This will make it easier for folks by giving them a more expedited pathway. This is not included for other countries.
- There is the creation of the joint Legislative and Executive Committee on Behavioral Health, charged with creating a strategic plan to improve access to behavioral health services due on June 1, 2025.
- New professions were created with the first being Agency Affiliated license credential and the second will be in the primary care setting, Agency Affiliated Counselor (AAC).
  - People with bachelor level can qualify in various settings where we have AAC's now.
  - Agency affiliated license credential will help the Designated Mental Health Professionals (DMHP) challenge.

### **Loan repay/conditional scholarships**

- \$20 million dollars was awarded to the Student Achievement Council for health services and \$10 million of the funds will be used for behavioral health.
- The Washington State Behavioral Health Workforce Development Initiative (WDI) is focusing on the fall 2023 students.
- Balmer group awarded \$22 million in conditional grants to graduate students in exchange for posts graduation employment and community behavioral health.
- There are 2 universities across the State with accredited clinical mental health, counseling marriage, family therapy and social work programs.
- The goal is 415 graduates before 2028.
- We have a goal to reduce the clinical staff turnover rate, so we are working in partnership to create greater alignment between higher ed. and behavioral health.
- For the 2023 academic year, we are working toward a goal of 205 scholarship recipients.
- The class of 2022 had 141 conditional scholarship awardees.

### **Peer Services**

- [SB 5555](#) - Creating the profession of certified peer specialists.
- Currently, peer specialists through healthcare authority take a 40-hour class and oral and written examination and that is how they become a certified peer in the new rules.
- The change includes an additional 40-hour training course and 1000 hours of training that they receive under a supervisor.
- The bill creates that second tier of billable provider, one being the peer trainee, and the second one being the fully certified peer.
- The bill stands up the Washington State certified peer Specialist Advisory Council, which will have 11 members, 9 of which must be certified Peers.
- July 1, 2025, is the final date to decide how to incorporate folks who were certified peers prior to these new rules into the new landscape, and then folks will have a full year after that to complete whatever requirements are determined

## **Where are we with our access to services focus and where should we go from here with that?**

- Be thinking about the future vision to have a conversation moving forward.
- Determine if we want to move forward with anything from our list that was not included in legislation.
- Questions to think about:
  - What are the root causes of behavioral health issues?
  - How do we address them?
  - What do we need to address them?
  - What kind of services are most beneficial to children, youth and young adults and do we have the workforce?
  - How do we collaborate with all the work happening in the different agencies? Want to eliminate duplicate work.
- Would like to have an update on the strategic plan in the future.
- Could be important to map out a chart that shows different groups doing the work and their timelines to align the work as much as possible and use this information to think through agenda setting.
- Would like to have Sheryl Schwartz come back to talk about the newly created joint, legislative, executive group that will focus on behavioral health.
- Would like to have someone come to talk about HB5121 which expanded another group to include behavioral health.

## Chat

[Governor's budget ESSB 5187](#)

[Washington State Behavioral Health Workforce Development Initiative](#)

New report on [Behavioral Health Comparison Rates](#)

## Attendees

Randy Ashford, Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF)

Donna Christensen

Thalia Cronin, Community Health Network of Washington (CHNW)

Paul Davis, Health Care Authority (HCA)

Kiki Fabian, HCA

Scarlett Gentry, Community Youth Services

Megan Gillis, Molina Healthcare

Bob Hilt, Seattle Children's Hospital

Kristin Houser, Parent

Marissa Ingalls, Coordinated Care

Avreayl Jacobson, King County Behavioral Health and Recovery

Joe LeRoy, HopeSparks

Terry Lee, Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW)

Melody McKee, University of Washington (UW)

Julia O'Connor, The Washington Council for Behavioral Health

Steve Perry, HCA

Kari Samuel, HCA

Sheryl Schwartz, UW

Daniel Smith, CHPW

Sara Stewart, Washington Mental Health Counselor Association

Mary Stone-Smith, Catholic Community Services

Suzanne Swadener, HCA

Cindi Wiek, HCA

Michele Wilsie, HCA