



Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee Minutes

September 15, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Committee members present:	Craig Apperson, LMHC, Vice Chair Linda Sattem, PhD, Public Member Megan Simmons, LMFT Melissa Denner, LMHC, SUDP Beda Herbison, LICSW
Committee members absent:	Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair Netra Kendle, EdS, Public Member
Staff members present:	Harold Wright, Jr., Executive Director Brandon Williams, Project Manager Lana Crawford, Program Manager Joan Simmons, Program Support Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General Melody Casiano, Policy Analyst Jeanine Johnson, Deputy Credentialing Manager
Guest presenters:	Shannon Thompson, Executive Director, Washington Mental Health Counselor Association

On September 15, 2023, the Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee met online via Microsoft Teams and in person at the Washington State Department of Health, Town Center East 2 (TC2) Building, Room #153, 111 Israel Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of the meeting was published to [the committee's website](#) and was sent out via the GovDelivery listserv.

Open Session:

1. Call to Order – Craig Apperson, LMHC, Vice Chair

- 1.1. Introductions - The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. Committee members, DOH staff, and visitors introduced themselves.
- 1.2. Approval of the September 15, 2023, regular meeting agenda. *Motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded, vote 5-0.*
- 1.3. Approval of the February 10, 2023, regular meeting minutes. *Motion to approve the amended minutes, seconded, vote 5-0.*

2. Public Comment – Craig Apperson, LMHC, Vice Chair

- 2.1. No comments were received.

3. Staffing Updates – Brandon Williams, Project Manager

- 3.1. Mr. Williams shared staffing updates with the committee which included his transition to the Project Manager and reviewed the new staff who will be supporting the advisory committee as mentioned during introductions.

4. Assistant Attorney General Report – Luke Eaton, AAG

- 4.1. Mr. Eaton reported that litigation with the professions remains steady with two cases in process and answered questions from the committee.
- 4.2. He is continuing to work with Mr. Williams and DOH staff regarding HB 1724.
- 4.3. He briefed the committee about a special project handled by Ms. Chalia Stallings-Ala'ilima, AAG related to recovery efforts in Maui due to the wildfires with the need for mental health professions and explained the [governor's proclamation](#) that mental health professions can voluntarily practice in Hawaii depending on certain criteria.
- 4.4. Ms. Stallings-Ala'ilima shared an overview of the special project and answered questions received from the committee. The direct contact on the ground for coordinating mental health is Jazzy Wong and she can be reached at aloha@mauimentalhealthrelief.org.
- 4.5. Additional resources shared: <https://health.hawaii.gov/about/> and <https://health.hawaii.gov/amhd/>.

5. Presentation – Washington Mental Health Counselor Association, Shannon Thompson, Executive Director

- 5.1. Ms. Thompson provided a summary of the data collected on the barriers related to supervision and answered questions from the committee.

6. Program Update – Lana Crawford, Program Manager

6.1. Program budgets –The current program fund balances for June 2023 as of August 30, 2023:

- Marriage & Family Therapists: (\$20,743)
- Mental Health Counselors: (\$522,709)
- Social Workers: \$1,326,267

6.2. Credentialing Report - Ms. Johnson presented the credentialing statistics for each program:

License Type	Active Licenses	Pending Apps.
LMFT	2,291	225
LMFT associate	744	118
LMHC	10,074	534
LMHC associate	2,800	489
LASW	146	57
LASW associate	404	82
LICSW	6,691	1083
LICSW associate	3,018	243

6.3. Committee member recruitment update – Mr. Williams shared recruitment efforts will continue for the vacant LASW and public member positions.

7. 2024 Meeting Dates – Lana Crawford, Program Manager

7.1. The committee established meeting dates for 2024 as February 23, June 14 (joint meeting), September 6, and November 15.

7.2. Better planning for topics of discussion for the joint meeting to be worked out, topic solicitations from members. The joint meeting should be goal driven and supported to work together.

8. Advisory Committee Appointment Discussion – Brandon Williams, Project Manager

8.1. Mr. Williams opened a discussion regarding the advisory committee appointments and shared Mr. Fitzpatrick is relinquishing his chair position. Mr. Apperson’s position has termed but he can continue to serve on the committee until a replacement is appointed.

8.2. Ms. Herbison offered to serve as vice-chair.

8.3. Ms. Simmons offered to serve as Chair.

8.4. Mr. Apperson recommended the department to provide an outline of what is expected from the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson serving on the committee as well as meet with them routinely to discuss and prepare for legislative and policy issues.

8.5. Official elections will take place at the next meeting in December.

9. Counseling Compact Update – Brandon Williams, Project Manager

9.1. Mr. Williams provided an update on the counseling compact.

10. Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5229 Update – Lana Crawford, Program Manager

10.1. Ms. Crawford provided an update on ESSB 5229.

11. Approved Supervisor Directory Update – Brandon Williams, Project Manager

11.1. Mr. Williams provided an update on the approved supervisor directory and explained the purpose of the directory.

12. Second Substitute House Bill 1724 Update – Brandon Williams, Project Manager

12.1. Mr. Williams provided an update on SSB 1724 specifically sections 9, 8, and 5.

13. Roundtable Discussion, Craig Apperson, LMHC, Vice Chair

13.1. Mr. Apperson asked about the status of the suicide prevention training requirements.

13.2. Ms. Thompson asked if there is guidance on topics related to health equity courses.

14. Future Agenda Items – Craig Apperson, LMHC, Vice Chair

14.1. Committee officer elections (chair & vice chair)

14.2. Suicide Prevention Training

14.3. SSHB 1724 Updates (standing item)

14.3.1. Official stance regarding emergency rules to implement SSHB 1724 section 5

14.4. Legislative update – draft bills, how to prepare and legislative call participation

14.5. Update on Peer Counselors

14.6. Invite Health Care Authority Representative

14.7. Recruitment update

14.8. Identify purpose & goal of joint meeting with SUDP

14.9. Flow chart – What to expect if a complaint is filed against a provider

15. Adjournment - Craig Apperson, LMHC, Vice Chair

15.1. The Meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lana Crawford, Program Manager
Mental Health Counselors, Marriage & Family
Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory
Committee

Approved by:

Craig Apperson, Vice Chair
Mental Health Counselors, Marriage &
Family Therapists, and Social Workers
Advisory Committee

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