



**Washington State
Department of Health
Certified Counselors and Hypnotherapist
Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

October 23, 2014

Department of Health
Town Center One
101 Israel Road S.E., Conference Room 337
Tumwater, WA 98501

Committee members present:

William Gant, Public Member, Chair
Janet Large, Hypnotherapist, Vice Chair
Miriam Dyak, Certified Counselor
Mary Long, Hypnotherapist
Diane Green, Certified Counselor

Committee members absent:

None

Others Present:

Tim Livingston, Washington Professional
Counselors Association (WAPROCA)
Travis Turner

AAG present:

Krystl Murphy, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

Staff Present:

Mariama Gondo, MPH, Program Manager
Sonia Ferguson, Program Representative
Betty Moe, Program Manager
Debra Mendoza, Program Manager
Jeff Wise, Policy Analyst

On October 23, 2014, the Certified Counselors and Hypnotherapist Advisory Committee (committee) met at Department of Health (department), Town Center 1, Room 337, Tumwater, WA 98501. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the meeting agenda was emailed to members of the certified counselor, certified adviser, and hypnotherapy professions through the department's Listserv and posted to the professions' websites.

1. Call to Order – William Gant, Public Member, Chair 9:30 a.m.

- 1.1 The committee members, staff, and public members introduced themselves. Mr. William Gant asked if anyone had any additions or would like to see anything stricken from the agenda. Ms. Miriam Dyak said she would like to strike item No. 5 (record keeping) from the agenda. Ms. Dyak wanted to strike the item because the scope of practice may be changed during the upcoming legislative session with removing the global assessment of functioning information. Ms. Mariama Gondo asked to keep item No. 5 on the agenda. Ms. Gondo said she and Ms. Murphy worked on follow-up information as requested from the previous meeting on this topic. Also, members of the committee were given the opportunity to review the agenda prior to the meeting so it would be appropriate to discuss what the follow-up entailed. Ms. Mary Long said she would like to hear what Ms. Gondo had prepared. Mr. Gant asked for a motion to approve striking item No. 5 from the agenda. The vote was 3-2, with keeping item No. 5 on the agenda.
- 1.2 The July 24, 2014 meeting minutes were approved and accepted as presented.

2. Manager Report – Mariama Gondo, Program Manager

- 2.1 Ms. Gondo gave an update on the executive director vacancy. She said Ms. Mona Johnson’s last day with the department was July 31, 2014. The executive director position has not been filled yet. Ms. Gondo said interviews were being conducted and the department hoped to have an executive director hired on November 16, or December 1, 2014.
- 2.2 Ms. Gondo shared program staffing updates. Ms. Debra Mendoza joined the team as a program manager for the Sex Offender Treatment Providers Program (SOTP) and the Agency Affiliated Counselors (AAC) Program; she started October 1, 2014. Ms. Gondo said because of family issues, she would be leaving her position and moving; as of right now, her last day is December 31, 2014 but this may change.
- 2.3 As requested from the previous meeting, Ms. Gondo updated the terms “license” to “certification” on the credentialing reports. She provided the credentialing statistics as of October 13, 2014. The statistics are as presented below:

Current Credential Totals	October 13, 2014
Certified Counselor:	
Number of applications pending	237
Active certifications	675
Certified Adviser:	
Number of applications pending	2
Active certifications	2
Hypnotherapist:	

Number of applications pending	12
Active registrations	734
Total applications pending:	251
Total active credential holders:	1,411

Ms. Mary Long asked why there were only two certified advisers. Ms. Gondo said there are different credentialing requirements for certified advisers than there are for certified counselors. The certified adviser requires an associate degree, and the certified counselor requires a minimum a bachelor's degree as well as a slightly different scope of practice.

Ms. Gondo discussed the discipline cases and exam statistics.

- 2.4** Ms. Gondo discussed the certified counselors' budget, saying it continues to be overspent; however, that number is slowly decreasing. She said that each profession needs to be self-supporting.

Mr. Gant asked what legislators do when they see a profession is overspent. Ms. Moe said all professions were in the general fund (02g fund), so the legislators don't see which individual professions are overspent. Ms. Janet Large asked about a strategy to get out of the deficit. Ms. Moe said the profession is relatively young in comparison to the other behavioral health professions and needs more credential holders. Promotion with the various colleges and universities may help to increase the number of applicants. Ms. Moe said she and Ms. Gondo are very frugal with the program's spending, but costs can't be cut when it comes to investigations and disciplining in order to maintain public safety.

Ms. Gondo discussed the hypnotherapist budget. The hypnotherapists program is maintaining a good balanced budget based on the expenditures and revenues.

3. Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Report – Krystl Murphy, AAG

Ms. Krystl Murphy didn't have anything to report.

4. Continuing Education – William Gant, Public Member, Chair

Mr. Gant said at the previous meeting, the committee asked Ms. Gondo to look into accepting international continuing education credits.

Ms. Gondo recommended opening the rule to broaden the organizations that are acceptable in providing CE training. The rule states the department must maintain a list when recognizing other CE providers as WAC 246-810-0293(17). Ms. Gondo said there is no set process.

Mr. Gant said the committee would need to motion for Ms. Gondo to do the work. It was Moved and approved for Ms. Gondo to open and update WAC 246-810-0293.

Ms. Dyak asked about how organizations would be added to the list. Ms. Gondo said this would have to be a discussion for the next meeting when more information is provided.

Ms. Gondo reminded the group that that WAC 246-810-029 is in conjunction with WAC 246-810-0293.

5. Recordkeeping

Mr. Livingston declined to comment on recordkeeping until after the legislative session is over, but he would like to hear what Ms. Gondo and Ms. Murphy worked on at minimum. Ms. Gondo asked why Mr. Livingston wanted his comments off the record. Mr. Jeff Wise said there are business files that need to be kept for tax purposes, but patients may not want certain things kept on file. Ms. Gondo confirmed at minimum, records need to be kept of the patient's name and how long the patient has been receiving counseling sessions as required by WAC 246-810-035.

Ms. Dayak said she is hoping for some changes to go through during the legislative session, but she doesn't want to discuss them until session is over.

Ms. Gondo repeated that the legislative session is often unpredictable and so it is not guaranteed that the agency-proposed legislation for the scope of practice of certified counselors and certified advisers. Mr. Livingston said whether the legislature changes WAC 246-810-035 or not, the WAC needs to be cleaned up.

Mr. Gant said the committee needs to have more conversations such as this about the profession's rules since it meets only quarterly.

6. Voting of Executive Positions and Setting Next Year's Meeting Dates

The committee nominated and voted in Ms. Dyak as the new chair and Ms. Green as the new vice chair.

The committee discussed the potential next meeting dates. Proposed 2015 Certified Counselor and Hypnotherapist Advisory Committee meeting dates are:

Thursday, January 15

Thursday, April 23

Thursday, July 9

Thursday, October 15

These dates will be sent to committee members to confirm before being filed with the code revisers.

Ms. Long thanked Mr. Gant for serving as the chair for the past year.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Travis Turner said he is investigating the change in abolishing the registered counselor credential from 2010. He said he doesn't believe the public has benefited from removing these counselors.

Mr. Gant said this is an advisory group and he suggests that Mr. Turner speak with the department or the legislators about his concerns.

Mr. Turner wanted the committee to consider doing research or making a statement about how the abolishment of RC was not really beneficial, asserting a report in The Seattle Times was based on incomplete information.

8. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was approved and accepted as presented.

9. Future Agenda Items

- Discuss the record keeping topic as an issue to monitor based on the 2015 session
- Next steps in CE rules

10. Adjournment

11:26 a.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Signature on file

Signature on file

Kim-Boi Shadduck, MBA, Program Manager
Certified Counselors and Hypnotherapist
Advisory Committee

Miriam Dyak, Certified Counselor, Chair
Certified Counselors and Hypnotherapist
Advisory Committee