



Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists,  
And Social Workers Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes

**February 26, 2016**

**Physical Location:**

Washington State Department of Health  
Town Center Two  
111 Israel Road S.E., Room 158  
Tumwater, WA 98501

**Committee members present in person:**

Janys Murphy, Ph.D., LMHC, CDP - Chair  
Jennie Lindberg, LMFT – Vice Chair  
Audrey Dangtuw, MA, LMFT, LMHC  
Tawney Carrier, Public Member

**Committee members present via phone:**

Fredda Jaffe, LMFT

**Committee members absent:**

Carlos Carreon, LICSW, ACSW, BCD

**Staff members present:**

Brad Burnham, MPA, Program Manager  
Nancy Tyson, Executive Director  
Linda Kuntz, Administrative Support  
Jeff Wise, Policy Analyst

**AAG present:**

Lilia Lopez, AAG

Joanne Miller, Credentialing

**Other present via phone:**

Christie Lynk

**Other present:**

Thom Field, WMHCA  
Karen Langer, WMHCA  
Seth Shelby, CMFT, CDP-T

On February 26, 2016 the Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee (committee) met at the Department of Health (department), 111 Israel Road, Room 158, Tumwater, WA. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the meeting agenda was emailed to members of the licensed counselors' professional Listserv and posted to the professions' webpages.

## Open Session

1. **Call to Order – Janys Murphy, Ph.D., LMHC, CDP – Chair** **9:13 a.m.**
  - 1.1 **Introductions** – Participant introduced themselves.
  - 1.2 **Approval of the agenda** - The agenda was accepted and approved.
  - 1.3 **Approval of the December 11, 2015 meeting minutes** - The December 11, 2015 meeting minutes were accepted and approved as presented.
  - 1.4 **Approval of the January 15, 2016 sub-committee meeting minutes on clinical supervision** – The January 15, 2016 sub-committee meeting minutes were accepted and approved as presented.
  - 1.5 **Approval of the January 15, 2016 Sub-committee meeting minutes on record retention** – The January 15, 2016 sub-committee meeting minutes were accepted and approved as presented.
2. **Manager Reports – Brad Burnham, MPA, Program Manager**

**2.1 Budget report** - Mr. Burnham presented the budget information for all three professions. The mental health counselors' (MHC) budget has a positive operating balance of \$919,000; the social workers' (SW) budget has a positive operating balance of \$882,407; and the marriage and family therapists' (MFT) budget has a negative operating balance of -\$60,483.

There were questions and discussion regarding the continued negative balance for the marriage and family therapists' budget. Mr. Burnham explained several items went over expense expectations. These are staff salaries due to disciplinary work, personal contracts, AAG discipline reports, and judicial services. It was suggested that staff members give the committee a presentation on the personal contracts and discipline items from two years ago to present. The presentation will consist of:

- Two-year history of cases, including:
  - Number of cases
  - Types of cases
  - Length of time per case
  - Demographics

When asked what the plan was to adjust the budget, Mr. Burnham said the fees will be reviewed and the income versus expenses should level out in a couple biennia.

**2.2 Legislative update** – Mr. Burnham reported on HB 1713, which was referred to as “Ricky’s Law” and passed out of the policy committee with some amendments. It integrates the treatment systems for mental health and chemical dependency. Department of Health will continue to track its progress.

Mr. Burnham also reported on HB 2439, which has to do with increasing access to adequate and appropriate mental health services for children and youth. It forms a workgroup to review data on mental health care for children and their parents. The department will be a member of the workgroup. The bill would extend the Partner Access Line (PAL) program, which connects providers to patients in

rural communities. An amendment removed funding for screening of children for mental health issues. It had a cost of \$3 per assessment.

Ms. Lindberg noted that she listens to the Legislative “Meet Me” calls weekly and these two bills were not talked about. Mr. Wise assured us that the Department of Health and DSHS are working on these bills together and other items may be attached to them. They are being watched. Ms. Tyson said usually the bills discussed on the “Meet Me” calls are the ones affecting multiple professions.

Mr. Burnham explained that legislative session ended in mid-March.

Ms. Murphy asked if there was a legislative Listserv. Ms. Tyson and Mr. Burnham agreed to look into setting up a Listserv or other similar method to provide summaries of relevant legislation during legislative session.

**2.3 Correspondence concerning potential national trend in credentialing requirements related to CACREP standards** – The handout is from the American Association of State Credentialing Boards. It outlines the benefits of having all states require applicants to attend CACREP accredited schools for licensure. The association believes it will better protect the public and provide portability of licensure between states.

**2.4 Recruitment for vacant advisory committee positions** – Ms. Lindberg and Mr. Carreon are two members whose terms ended in December 2015. They can continue on the committee until they are replaced or reappointed. The department has received 11 applications for the open positions, which include two public member vacancies and the practitioner vacancies. The hope is to have a full committee by the June meeting.

Ms. Murphy would like to have a committee member for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and one for Licensed Mental Health Counselors. Mr. Burnham explained it would take a legislative rule change for that to happen.

**2.5 Update on assignment of new assistant attorney general** – No one has been appointed yet. Ms. Lilia Lopez will report in item four.

**New Process for English Language Learner (ELL) Candidates** - Mr. Burnham reported on a new letter he received regarding a process for English Language Learner (ELL) candidates to be able to request special arrangements for taking the Marriage and Family Therapy national examination. After explaining the letter and attached form, Mr. Burnham told the committee he has a pending request from a candidate who could benefit from the special arrangements. He asked the committee to consider the request and all agreed.

**Proposed Document for CDC** - Mr. Burnham also reported on creating a proposed document for chemical dependency counselors. The hearing has not yet been announced but it is approaching the CR102 stage. This could occur at the end of March, the public hearing held the last week of April, and the effective date at the end of June or early July. Once the proposed document is ready, the website will be updated and a Listserv notice will be sent out. The next Chemical Dependency Provider meeting is scheduled for April 8 in Tumwater.

**Survey Question** - A survey is being developed for providers renewing their licenses. The question Customer Service staff members would like to ask on the survey is: What is your practice site affiliation? Their question for the committee is: Are they allowed to ask providers this question? The committee found this question confusing and suggested the survey ask the question: What is your practice setting? And also offer multiple choice answers such as: private practice, state or federal practice, non-profit practice, hospital, in-patient/out-patient, and other.

**New Book** - Mr. Burnham also received a flyer for a new workbook titled “Road to COM.”

3. **Current licensing statistics** – Ms. Joanne Miller reviewed the licensing statistics and explained the terms “expired” and “closed.”

<b>Profession</b>	<b>Current Number of Credential Holders</b>
LMFT	1,466
LMHC	6,206
LASW	115
LICSW	3,937
LMFTA	503
LMHCA	1,765
LSWAA	219
LSWICA	1,485
Total among all professions	15,696

4. **Assistant Attorney General Report – Lilia Lopez, AAG (temporary assignment)** Ms. Lopez reported that the process to replace Debra Defreyn, former AAG, has been completed and the new candidate should be on board in March and present at the next meeting.
5. **Review of information related to the approved supervisor requirements and the experience requirements for mental health counselors – Thom Field, PhD, LMHC, NCC, ACS, Associate Professor, City University of Seattle**

Mr. Field presented an analysis of states’ requirements for supervisors of mental health counselor candidates, which included:

- Registry listing.
- Referencing requirements.
- Maximum number of supervisors by state.
- Requirements regarding supervising supervisors.

Points of discussion included:

- Confusion among applicants who meet an agency’s qualifications but do not have number of hours of experience.
- Credentialing notifies applicants when they do not qualify.
- Creating a supervisory registry would require a legislative change. If created, then the status could appear on their license?
- Ms. Miller will check with Diane Young about adding information to a license and report at next meeting.
- Fees

- Maximum number of trainees
- Other requirements

Mr. Field also compared the Council of Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs' (CACREP) standards with Washington State's experience requirements for mental health counselor applicants. A discrepancy of 500 or 600 required hours was discussed and whether the number of hours can be split between supervisory experience and one on one experience.

- 6. Rules Workshop – Brad Burnham, MPA, Program Manager** The advisory committee reviewed and discussed the current draft chapter 246-809 WAC, which included recommended changes and comments from the subcommittees. The definition of “client” was suggested to mean a person being treated by a licensed counselor or associate. Ms. Lopez, AAG, specified the definition for “client” needs to be kept broad because it is used throughout the WAC.

Ms. Murphy requests that the changes for the rules be put on hold until the permanent AAG can review them.

It was determined that more work needs to be done on the rules by the sub-committees, and the sub-committee meetings will alternate with the advisory committee meetings until the work is done.

Ms. Tyson noted that a provision in Senate budget, bill S-4871.1/16, section 804, could result in the transfer of \$500,000 from the health professions account to general fund state.

- 7. Consent Agenda – Janys Murphy, Ph.D., LMHC, CDP – Chair** The consent agenda was approved and accepted as presented.
- 8. Public Comment –** Two documents were submitted for public comment by the Washington State Society for Clinical Social Work (WSSCSW):
- “Position Paper – Alternative Chemical Dependency Professional Path for LICSWs”
  - “Chemical Dependency and Mental health: A World Divided”
- 9. Future Agenda Items – Janys Murphy, Ph.D., LMHC, CDP – Chair**
- **Credentialing**
  - **Disciplinary Actions**
  - **Alternating sub-committee with the advisory committee for June 10, 2016**

- 10. No Items to Monitor**

**11. Adjournment**

**12:41 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Signature on file

Brad Burnham, Program Manager

Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapist and Social Worker Advisory Committee

Approved by:

Signature on file

Dr. Janys Murphy, Ph.D., LMHC, CDP, Chair

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