

1724 Recommendations – First Round - DRAFT

Draft recommendations by profession

All behavioral health professions	
Recommendation	Type of authority needed
Remove continuing education requirements, except those required by statute.* (For master’s level counselors, a statute change is needed first)	Rulemaking

* CE required by state law includes: health equity once every 4 years, and suicide prevention once every 6 year.

Substance Use Disorder Professionals	
Recommendation	Type of authority needed
Remove limitations on the number of renewals for trainee credentials.	Legislative
Remove restrictions on Substance Use Disorder Professional trainees limiting them to working only in a behavioral health agency licensed to provide substance use disorder services.	Legislative
Remove requirements that supervisors must be on-site, allowing for remote supervision.	Rulemaking
Lower years of licensure requirement for licensure by endorsement from 5 years to 1 year.	Rulemaking
Modify coursework review requirement so that a review is only required if the applicant did not complete a substance use disorder counseling program with a degree.	Rulemaking
Eliminate the 7-year cap on supervised experience earned.	Rulemaking
Reduce the years of practice requirement to become an approved supervisor to 1 year.	Rulemaking

Master’s Level Counselors (includes Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Mental Health Counselors)	
Recommendation	Type of authority needed
Create a pathway for students completing their practicum to continue providing services to established patients.	Legislative
Remove limitations on the number of renewals for associate credentials.	Legislative
Adopt the social work compact as an alternate pathway to legal practice in Washington	Legislative
For marriage and family therapists, remove restrictive language that requires a portion of the required supervision to be under a marriage and family therapist that has 5 years’ experience, allowing any qualified marriage and family therapist to supervise.	Legislative
Remove continuing education requirements in statute	Legislative
After the statute is changed, amend rules for marriage and family therapists to align the definition of “equally qualified licensed mental health practitioner” more closely with other master’s level counselor professions.	Rulemaking
Lower years of licensure requirement for licensure by endorsement from 5 years to 1 year.	Rulemaking

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Allow for professional experience to substitute for clinical practicum requirements. (except social workers)	Rulemaking
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Psychology	
Recommendation	Type of authority needed
Establish an associate level credential for psychology.	Legislative
Establish an easier pathway to access licensure through non-American Psychology Association accredited educational programs.	Rulemaking
Reduce the number of residency hours required.	Rulemaking
Allow “online-only” schools that meet qualifications established by the board to qualify for licensure.	Rulemaking
Increase the number of courses that can be completed outside the doctoral program.	Rulemaking
Modify licensure by reciprocity and endorsement to establish different standards for different lengths of practice.	Rulemaking

Agency Affiliated Counselors	
Recommendation	Type of authority needed
Allow agency affiliated counselors to practice at federally qualified health centers.	Legislative