



# RULES WORKSHOP

Behavioral Health Support Specialist

# Communication Avenues

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- DOH Program Staff: [BHSS@doh.wa.gov](mailto:BHSS@doh.wa.gov)
- Sign up for [GovDelivery](#) for updates
- Check our [website](#)

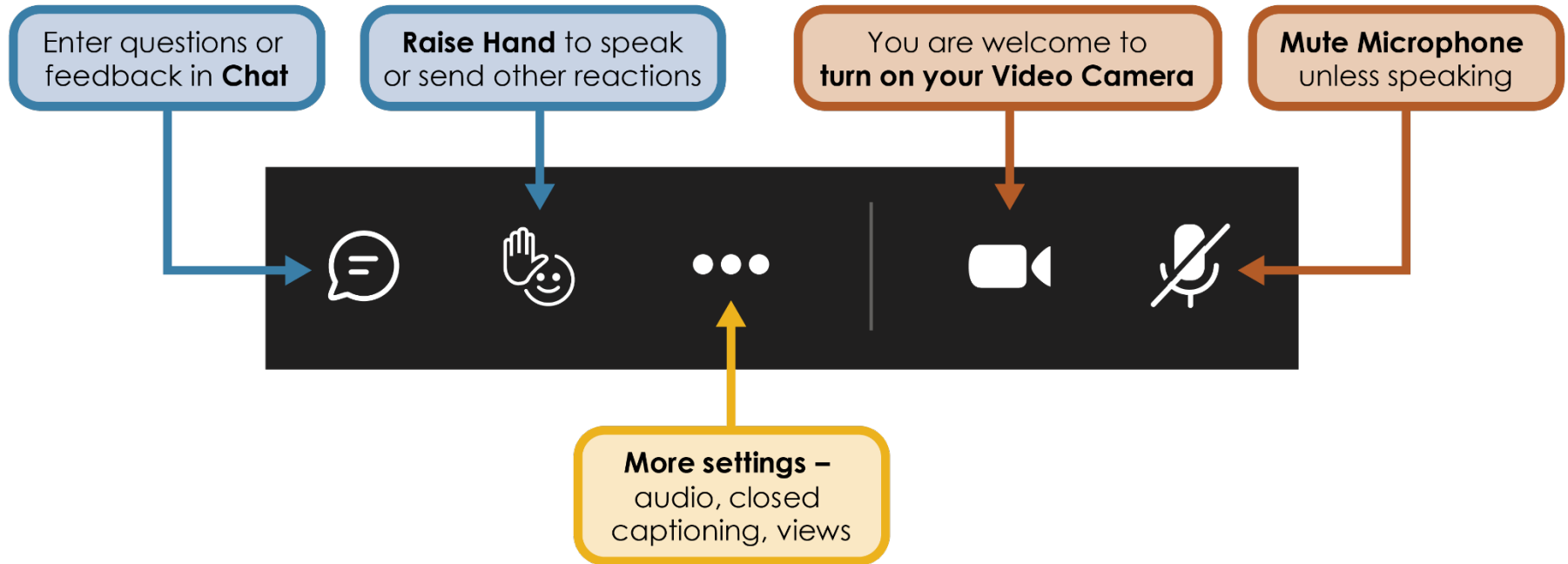
## Other

- University of Washington [website](#)



# MEETING GUIDELINES

# MS Teams Features We Will Use Today



## Tips

- Try to be present
- State your name before speaking
- Speak clearly



# OVERVIEW

# Overview

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Substitute Senate Bill 5189 (2023) established a new profession: Behavioral Health Support Specialist (BHSS)

- Per the bill a BHSS is “a person certified to deliver brief, evidence-based interventions with a scope of practice that includes behavioral health under the supervision of a Washington state credentialed provider who has the ability to assess, diagnose, and treat identifiable mental and behavioral health conditions as part of their scope. A behavioral health support specialist does not have within their scope of practice the ability to make diagnoses but does track and monitor treatment response and outcomes using measurement-based care.”

# Approximate Timeline for Rulemaking

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File a new CR101 – completed July 2023

Rules workshops – Fall 2023 and Spring 2024

File CR102 – Summer 2024

Public Hearing – Fall 2024

File CR103 – November 2024

New BHSS credentials available – January 1, 2025

# Dates and Topics

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- November 1, 2023 - 12:00pm - (Practicum/Supervisors/Supervision)
- November 1, 2023 - 5:30pm - (Continuing Education)
- November 6, 2023 - 12:00pm (tentative)
- November 7, 2023 - 1:00pm (tentative)





# WORKSHOP – PRACTICUM/SUPERVISORS/SUPERVISION

# Licensing Requirements

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## Section 8:

- Graduation from a bachelor's degree program
- Successful completion of a BHSS program that is approved to meet standards consistent with the UW BHSS clinical training program guidelines, including a supervised clinical practicum with demonstrated clinical skill in core competencies
- Successful completion of an approved jurisprudential examination

## Bill Language

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### Section 3:

“...shall include a practicum component and may be integrated into a bachelor's degree program or structured as a postbaccalaureate continuing education program or registered apprenticeship in combination with an approved bachelor's degree or postbaccalaureate certificate.”

# Practicum

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Practicum component can be completed within:

- a) Bachelors' degree program
- b) Postbaccalaureate continuing education program
- c) Apprenticeship

Questions:

- What should be the minimum hours requirement?
- Should there be a minimum time (semesters or quarters) the hours should be completed within?
- Should educational programs set pre-practicum course requirements? If so, are there any specific core competencies that should be met before being eligible for the practicum? Or should the practicum be the last part of the educational program?
- Should there be a minimum direct service hours requirement?
- In person vs telehealth?

# Supervisors

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## Section 2:

Under the definition of a BHSS:

“a person certified to deliver brief, evidence-based interventions with a scope of practice that includes behavioral health under the supervision of a Washington state credentialed provider who has the ability to assess, diagnose, and treat identifiable mental and behavioral health conditions as part of their scope. A behavioral health support specialist does not have within their scope of practice the ability to make diagnoses but does track and monitor treatment response and outcomes using measurement-based care.”

# Potential Supervisors

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## Under statute:

- Physicians
- Physician Assistants
- Psychologists
- Psychiatric ARNP
- Osteopaths
- Social Workers
- Mental Health Counselors
- All associate levels of the above professions

## To be determined:

- Marriage and Family Therapists

## Not qualified:

- Substance Use Disorder Professional

# Questions

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- Should a supervisor be licensed for a minimum amount of time?
  - Should that only be applicable to associate level supervisors?
- Is this definition of a supervisor clear enough?
  - “a Washington state credentialed provider who has the ability to assess, diagnose, and treat identifiable mental and behavioral health conditions as part of their scope”
- Location of supervisor: Same building? Remote? Different requirements if supervision under practicum vs licensed?

# Questions

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- Supervisor for practicum
  - What work is being supervised?
  - Topics required for discussion?
  - Experience areas vs general
  - Progressive responsibilities?
  - Meeting time required? (example:1 hour every week?)
- Supervisor once licensed
  - Meeting topics?
  - Treatment plans?
  - Meeting time required? (example:1 hour every week?)
  - Supervisor/BHSS relationship? License repercussions for supervisor? Training requirements for supervisor?



Questions?

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