



LISTENING SESSION

Behavioral Health Profession Licensure Requirements

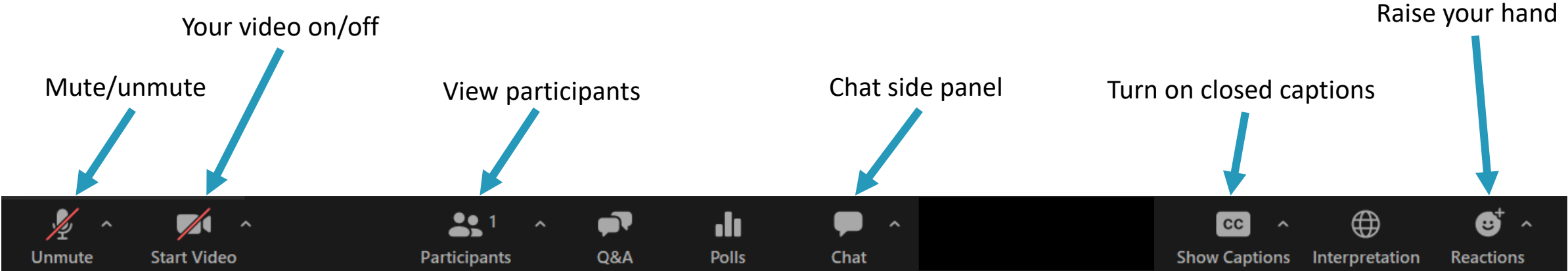
Health Systems Quality Assurance Division/Office of Health Professions



Agenda

- DOH Staff Introductions
- Zoom navigation and accessibility overview
- Background
 - Credentialing process improvement overview
 - Review of 2023 statute and rule changes
- Listening Session

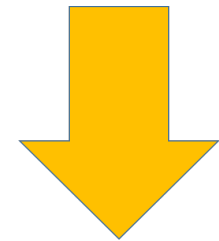
Zoom Navigation and Accessibility



INTERPRETATION / INTERPRETACIÓN

Click on the globe shaped icon on the bottom right of your screen. It says "Interpretation" under the icon. Click on the language you would prefer to hear the webinar in. You can choose whether to mute the original audio. This is a feature you would use if you choose to listen to the webinar in a language other than English. It will mute the English speaker so that you only hear the translator speaking in the language of your choice.

Haga clic en el icono con forma de globo en la parte inferior y a la derecha de su pantalla. Dice "interpretation" debajo del icono. Haga clic en el idioma en el que prefiere escuchar el seminario. Puede elegir si silenciar el audio original. Esta es una función que usaría si elige escuchar el seminario en un idioma que no sea inglés. Silenciará al hablante de inglés para que solo escuche al traductor hablar en el idioma de su elección.



Background

➤ 2023 RECOMMENDATIONS

2023 Legislative Recommendations (adopted as part of [E2SHB 2247](#) during the 2024 legislative session)

Masters Level Counselors (SW, MFT, MHC)

Remove limits on renewals for associate licenses

For MFT, reduce the 5-year experience requirement to supervise associates to align with other professions

Allow applicants for associate license to continue providing care to established patients while their application is pending

Align master's level provider CE requirements with other professions by moving the specific hour requirements to rule.

Adopt the social work compact (Not included in 2247, adopted by [SHB 1939](#))

Psychology

Establish an associate credential for psychology trainees

Allow EBOP to create standards for licensure without exam that reflect the reality of the applicant's professional experience

Substance Use Disorder Professionals

Remove limits on renewals for trainee licenses

Remove practice location restrictions on SUDP trainees

Remove the time limit for earning supervised experience hours

Other recommendations

Allow AAC to practice in Federally Qualified Health Centers (effective 2028)

2023 Rulemaking Recommendations



Substance Use Disorder Providers

- Reduce CE hour requirements
- Reduce the number of years of licensure in a substantially-equivalent state required for licensure by endorsement
- Modify coursework review requirements so review is only required if the applicant did not complete a SUD counseling program with a degree
- Reduce years of practice required to supervise SUDP trainees
- Allow supervisors to provide remote supervision after the first 50 hours of training

2023 Rulemaking Recommendations



Masters Level Counselors

- Reduce CE hour requirements
- Allow professional experience to substitute for practicum requirements
- Reduce the number of years of licensure in a substantially-equivalent state required for licensure by endorsement



Psychology

- Increase the number of courses that can be completed outside the doctoral program
- Reduce the number of residency hours required
- Allow graduates from programs accredited by the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System to undergo the same simplified review as APA accredited programs

Listening Session



Please Keep In Mind

- Be mindful and respectful of all attendees and staff.
- Please raise your hand to speak.
 - When you begin, please state your name and the name of the group you represent (if applicable)
- Please limit comments to 2 minutes per person, due to the number of participants.
 - If you go beyond 2 minutes, staff may ask you to finish your thoughts so we can leave space for others to share.
- Please stay on the topic of behavioral health licensing barriers
 - Provider pay, reimbursement rates, educational opportunities, etc. are important factors, but they are outside the department's authority and outside the scope of the listening session.
 - We ask that comments that fall outside of licensing issues be directed to the appropriate program manager via email. (See slide 13 for contacts)

Public Comment

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- What licensing or credentialing barriers exist that prevent providers from entering or staying in the behavioral health workforce?
 - A la hora de obtener autorización o credenciales, ¿qué obstáculos impiden que los proveedores se sumen a la fuerza laboral de salud conductual o permanezcan en ella?
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- What licensing or credentialing barriers exist that place an unfair burden on applicants from disadvantaged communities?
 - A la hora de obtener autorización o credenciales, ¿qué obstáculos representan una carga injusta para los solicitantes que vienen de comunidades desfavorecidas?
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- What licensing or credentialing barriers exist that cause delays in applying for and receiving a credential from the department?
 - A la hora de obtener autorización o credenciales, ¿qué obstáculos causan retrasos en el proceso de solicitar y recibir credenciales del departamento?
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- What other licensing or credentialing related barriers does the department need to be aware of and consider?
 - ¿Qué otros obstáculos debe tener en cuenta o considerar el departamento acerca de la obtención de autorización o credenciales?

Next Steps

- Staff will review all comments received during listening sessions or in writing, perform any needed research, and draft preliminary recommendations.
- DOH will then hold more virtual sessions to review the draft recommendations and get feedback from interested parties
 - Anticipated timeframe: July/August 2024
- Present final recommendations to the legislature in November 2024.

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