On February 23, 2018, the Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee met at the Department of Health, 111 Israel Road, Town Center 2, 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 – Anjanette Jorstad, LASW, Chair 9:00 a.m.

   1.1 Introductions – The Committee members and staff members introduced themselves.

   1.2 Approval of the agenda – The agenda was accepted and approved as written.

   1.3 Approval of the previous meeting minutes - The December 8, 2017 meeting minutes were accepted and approved as written.

2. Manager Reports – Brad Burnham, Program Manager

   2.1 Budget report - Mr. Burnham shared information about the budget for all three professions. All three professions are on pace for estimated revenue and expenditures, and specific instances of overages were noted.

   Question: Are there trends related to seasons and complaints? Such as more in the winter or less in spring? There were no obvious trends noted in the data.

   2.2 Update on the department’s rulemaking related to marriage and family therapist licensing fees
   Rulemaking to increase fees is complete. This was based off of a fee review the department does every couple years. The CR103 has been posted and rules adopted by the department. The fees were increased 25%-30% with the plan to balance out the costs/expenditures within a couple of years. The biggest expenditure is discipline.

   2.3 Committee member recruitment and expiring appointments:
   • Fredda Jaffe, LMFT – expires May 1, 2018 – not eligible for renewal (2 consecutive terms) Fredda is not allegeable for renewal.
   • Tawney Carrier – expires May 1, 2018 –eligible for renewal
   • Mr. Burnham will send out information on the new recruitments
   • Mr. Burnham shared that we still have 2 vacant public member positions, and he is attempting to fill those as well.

3. Current licensing statistics – Joanne Miller, Credentialing Review Supervisor
   Ms. Miller provided current licensing statistics for licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed mental health counselors, and licensed social workers. The overall time to process licenses is increasing and they are not currently making the 14 day timeline. Working on improvement; currently 88% processed on time but are working toward 95%.

Mr. Eaton did not have anything to report to the committee. He did note that, based on the previous budget discussion that discipline costs rise if cases go to trial for litigation and testimony.

5. **Suicide Prevention Training – Neetha Mony, DOH Prevention and Community Health**

DOH emphasizes that anyone can work at suicide prevention, it doesn’t require special training just learning to recognize the signs to get someone help. Each suicide effects an estimated 115-125 other people. Working to lower the rate by 2020.

- Prevention Plan – 4 Strategic Directions
- Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention – Connecting resources; expanding existing programs, focus on priority populations, changing the framework, and improved data collection.
- Additional Projects being conducted by certain state agencies – OSPI, Veteran Affairs, health care providers.
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline
- Crisis text line

It was also suggested to recruit Law Enforcement as a partner. They have resources already and are often in contact with at-risk persons. There was a comment about the military community being more than just veterans, and the distinction is important to them. Neetha offered to be a resource for anyone with questions. Here email is Neetha.Mony@doh.wa.gov.

6. **Review and Planning for Joint Meetings with the Chemical Dependency Professional Certification Advisory Committee – Brad Burnham, Program Manager**

The Advisory Committee discussed the 2018 joint meeting in June with the Chemical Dependency Professional Certification Advisory Committee. The following topics are scheduled to be discussed during the June 2018 joint meeting:

- Integrations of mental health, substance use disorder, and primary care by 2020
- Dually credentialed options and related matters
- Interest/Need for co-occurring credential/degree
- Trends in graduate/undergraduate degrees related to the profession
- Workforce development in rural areas
- Telehealth

7. **Legislative Session Update – Brad Burnham, Program Manager.**

Mr. Burnham shared update on the current session. DOH ‘Meet Me’ calls are concluded. There should not be any new legislation at this point. Today (Feb. 23) is the last day for bill to pass through committee in the opposite house to move forward, otherwise they are dead. Updates on surviving bills related to the professions:

- 2489/6150 Opioid Omnibus Bills – Medication assisted treatment, requires interagency cooperation for a statewide approach, standard order for opioid reversal medicine, Prescription Monitoring Program involvement.
• 2671 – Focusing on Mental Health services for Agriculture Workers.
• 2779 Children’s Mental Health – Provision for reimbursement to providers who supervise associates.
• 6452 Children’s Mental Health (not companion) – PAL line for HC providers, adds resources for parents. (*Note both Children’s bills keep the workgroup going)

Other Bills of Interest:
• Duty to Warn: Needs to move today or is dead. Noted the Supreme Court kicked the “Volk” decision back down to the lower courts so it may be coming back next year.
• Behavioral Health Integration – programs from DSHS to HCA & DOH. Alive and well. If it survives the Ways and Means Committee it could pass. Budgetary impacts could drag it out until the end of session.

8. **Rulemaking for Chapter 246-809 WAC – Brad Burnham, Program Manager**
The Department is still working on filing the announcement to open the rule. Working on wording for what we want to do. We are tied to it, cannot add things later.

Summary of 5 specific topics: Education requirements, recordkeeping, supervision, CE, and supervisor eligibility.

Concerns raised about Social Workers required to have face-to-face supervision. Not a national requirement, not required for other counselors. Will we have the ability to modify definitions? Yes, according to our Policy Analyst at DOH, Jeff Wise, we will have that ability.

Please send questions, comments, concerns to Brad Burnham and we will discuss.

9. **Public Comment - Anjanette Jorstad, LASW, Chair**
There was no public comments.

10. **Future Agenda Items - Anjanette Jorstad, LASW, Chair**
• Joint meeting topics and preparations.
• Duty to Warn update, push to fall meeting if necessary.

11. **Adjournment**

11:10 AM
Submitted by:

Brad Burnham, Program Manager
Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapist and Social Worker Advisory Committee

Approved by:

Anjanette Jorstad, LASW, Chair
Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapist and Social Worker Advisory Committee