



Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee Minutes

June 10, 2022

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Committee members present:

Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair*
Craig Apperson, LMHC, Vice Chair
Anjanette Jorstad, LASW
Linda Sattem, PhD, Public Member
Megan Simmons, LMFT
Melissa Denner, LMHC, SUDP
**Arrived during item #2 (9:59 a.m.)*

Committee members absent:

Beda Herbison, LICSW
Netra Kendle, EdS, Public Member

Staff members present:

James Chaney, Executive Director
Brandon Williams, Program Manager
Karen Gohlsen, Program Support
Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General
Melody Casiano, Policy Analyst
Stephanie Vaughn, Rules Manager

Guest presenters:

Isabel Eliassen, Policy Associate, The Council of State Governments

On June 10, 2022, the Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee met online via Microsoft Teams. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of the meeting was published to [the committee's website](#) and was sent out via the GovDelivery listserv.

Open Session:

1. Call to Order – Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair

- 1.1. Future committee meeting format – On June 1, 2022, the emergency proclamation allowing for virtual meetings was lifted. However, the committee can still opt to meet virtually during the state of emergency if they still feel unsafe meeting in person and the committee was asked to vote on that. *Motion to approve meeting virtually until the state of emergency due to COVID-19 is lifted, seconded, vote 5-0.*
- 1.2. Introductions - The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Committee members, DOH staff, and visitors introduced themselves.
- 1.3. Agenda – There were a couple of items that needed to be amended: correction of the AAG’s name in item #4 and changing the presenter from Brandon Williams to Isabel Eliassen. *Motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded, vote 4-0.*
- 1.4. Minutes - *Motion to approve the December 10, 2021 minutes, seconded, vote 4-0.*

2. ESSB 5229 Update – Stephanie Vaughn, Rules Manager

- 2.1. Ms. Vaughn provided an update regarding [ESSB 5229](#), which requires all professions to include an equity training as part of continuing education requirements starting January 1, 2024.

3. Counseling Compact – Isabel Eliassen, The Council of State Governments

- 3.1. Ms. Eliassen presented information regarding the [Counseling Compact](#) and fielded questions from the committee and public.

4. Assistant Attorney General Report – Luke Eaton, AAG

- 4.1. Mr. Eaton had nothing to report to the committee.

5. Program Update – Brandon Williams, Program Manager

- 5.1. Program budgets – There was an unusual number of disciplinary cases for the mental health counselor program that went to hearing and legal expenditures were higher than normal. Current program fund balances as of October 2021:
 - Marriage & Family Therapists: \$18,414
 - Mental Health Counselors: (\$141,306)
 - Social Workers: \$1,485,677

- 5.2. Credentialing Report - Mr. Williams presented the credentialing statistics for each program:

License Type	Active Licenses	Pending Apps.
LMFT	2,136	227
LMFT associate	677	60
LMHC	9,068	443
LMHC associate	2,462	341
LASW	149	72
LASW associate	353	61
LICSW	5,789	867
LICSW associate	2,603	208

- 5.3. Committee member recruitment update – DOH is currently running a recruitment for two positions on the committee (one licensed advanced social worker and one public member). The deadline to submit applications is June 15, 2022.
- 5.4. Mr. Williams briefed the committee on the outcome of the 2022 legislative session and bill implementation from the 2021 session.
- 5.5. Advanced suicide training update - The draft language is expected to be filed with the Office of the Code Reviser in January 2022 with public hearings to follow in late February or early March 2022. However, the department is still working on the model list for training and therefore licensees will not be required to comply as long as that is still pending.

6. Rules Workshop - Brandon Williams, Program Manager

- 6.1. Mr. Williams asked for feedback from the committee regarding international programs and making it more streamlined for those candidates to get licensed. In addition, he asked the committee for feedback regarding clarifying the definition of “peer” as it appears in [WAC 246-809-110](#) (social worker definitions). Next steps will be to present the draft language to the committee for final review.

7. Roundtable Discussion, Mike Fitzpatrick, Chair

- 7.1. The committee and AAG discussed scheduling refresher training regarding the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) at a future meeting.

8. Public Comment – Michael Fitzpatrick, Chair

- 8.1. A representative from the Washington chapter of the [National Association of Social Workers \(NASW-WA\)](#) inquired about the possibility of the credentialing office creating a list supervisors and portal for keeping track of supervision hours. Mr. Williams was not sure that would be possible, but he would check.

9. Future Agenda Items – Michael Fitzpatrick, Chair

- 9.1. Recruitment update
- 9.2. OPMA refresher
- 9.3. Rulemaking update
- 9.4. Advanced suicide training
- 9.5. Health equity continuing education
- 9.6. Disciplinary stats
- 9.7. Committee elections
- 9.8. Future meeting dates

10. Adjournment - Michael Fitzpatrick, Chair

- 10.1. Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Submitted by:

Brandon Williams, Program Manager
Mental Health Counselors, Marriage & Family
Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory
Committee

Approved by:

Mike Fitzpatrick, Chair
Mental Health Counselors, Marriage &
Family Therapists, and Social Workers
Advisory Committee

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