



Certified Counselors & Hypnotherapist Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2023

Hybrid Meeting via Microsoft Teams and in-person WA DOH 111 Israel Road SE, Town Center
2, Room 153, Tumwater, WA 98501

Committee members present: Drue Larson, Certified Counselor, Chair
Betty Jensen, Certified Counselor
Sarah Prince, Public Member
Vacant, Hypnotherapist
Vacant, Hypnotherapist
Vacant, Public Member
Vacant, Public Member

Committee members absent:

Staff members present: Carmen Leso, Program Manager
Ted Dale, Program Manager
Eve Austin, Executive Director
Vacant, Assistant Program Manager
Joan Simmons, Program Support
Melody Casiano, Policy Analyst
Jeanine Johnson, Deputy Credentialing Manager

Assistant Attorney General: Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General

Guest presenters: None

On October 13, 2023, the Washington State Certified Counselors and Hypnotherapist Advisory Committee met in person at Washington State Department of Health and online via Microsoft Teams. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of the meeting was published on the Certified Adviser, Certified Counselor, and Hypnotherapist professions' websites and was sent out via the GovDelivery listserv for each profession.

1. **Call to Order – Drue Larson, Certified Counselor, Chair** – The meeting began at 9:01 a.m. however, due to there not being enough members present at the meeting, there was no quorum, and the meeting agenda was limited to items that required no committee action and therefore was informational only.

1.1. Introductions

Board members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

1.2. Approval of the October 13, 2023 agenda – *Item not covered due to no quorum.*

1.3. Approval of July 14, 2023, meeting minutes – *Item not covered due to no quorum.*

2. **Public Comment – Drue Larson, Certified Counselor, Chair**

2.1. Ms. Leso provided a public comment from a certified counselor who asked that their email be read aloud. The comment was regarding their frustration with the increased fee for licensure and renewal.

2.2. Tim Livingston, president of the Washington Professional Counselors Alliance (WAPROCA) provided a public comment from his constituents. The public comment was regarding the membership of Russell Alfaro on the committee. The constituents do not want Mr. Alfaro on the committee as issues with his attendance have prevented quorum.

3. **Management Reports – Carmen Leso, Program Manager and Jeanine Johnson, Deputy Credentialing Manager**

3.1. **Program Budget – Carmen Leso, Program Manager**

Ms. Leso presented the program budgets for certified counselors/advisers and hypnotherapists as of June 2023.

| Program | Current Fund Balance |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Certified Counselors/Advisers | \$(1,495,082) |
| Hypnotherapists | \$ 57,625 |

3.2. **Credentialing Report – Jeanine Johnson, Deputy Credentialing Manager**

Ms. Johnson presented the latest licensure statistics for the certified counselors/advisers and hypnotherapists.

| Program | Active | Pending |
|----------------------|--------|---------|
| Certified Counselors | 324 | 118 |
| Certified Advisers | 1 | 3 |
| Hypnotherapists | 711 | 10 |

3.3. **Examination report – Carmen Leso, Program Manager**

Ms. Leso informed the committee about the new exam software for the certified counselor/adviser examination, ExamSoft. While there have only been a few applicants to use the new software, feedback has been positive.

4. Recruitment Update – Carmen Leso, Program Manager

4.1. Ms. Leso provided an update that an interview has been scheduled next week for the Hypnotherapist position.

5. 2SHB1009 Provision Mandate – Carmen Leso, Program Manager

5.1. Ms. Leso provided a summary of the required military spouse employment training.

6. Rulemaking and HB 1724 Updates – Ted Dale, Program Manager

6.1. Mr. Dale provided a recap of recent rulemaking activities for Health Equity CE and gave a presentation on 1724 listening sessions feedback for reducing barriers.

7. Rules Review WAC Chapter 246-810 – Drue Larson, Certified Counselor, Chair and Carmen Leso, Program Manager – *informational only*

7.1. Ms. Leso revisited the potential changes the committee wanted to make to the WAC 246-810 chapter.

8. Schedule 2024 Meeting Dates – Carmen Leso, Program Manager

8.1. Ms. Leso shared potential 2024 meeting dates as January 26, April 12, July 19, and October 11.

9. Meeting Adjourned – Drue Larson, Chair

9.1. The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Submitted by:

Carmen Leso, Program Manager
Certified Counselors & Hypnotherapists
Advisory Committee

Approved by:

Drue Larson, Chair
Certified Counselors & Hypnotherapists
Advisory Committee

On file
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