



**Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee and Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee  
Joint Meeting Minutes**

**May 31, 2024**

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams n person at Washington State Department of Health 111 Israel Road, Room 153, Tumwater, WA 98501

**Substance Use Disorder Professional Advisory Committee**

**Members Present:**

Susan Cherry, SUDP, Chair  
Bergen Starke, LMHC, SUDP, Vice Chair  
Lisa Rudduck, LMHC, SUDP  
Gayle Martinsen, STR Treatment Mgr., HCA\*  
Vacant, SUDP  
Vacant, SUDP  
Vacant, MD or MHP  
*\*ex-officio member*

**Members Absent:**

Raymond Gregson, CPC, Public Member

**Assistant Attorney General Staff:**

Kristi Knieps, AAG

**DOH Staff:**

Eve Austin, Executive Director  
Joe Miller, Executive Director  
Claire Wilson, SUD Program Manager  
Lana Crawford, LC Program Manager  
John Simmons, Program Support  
James Smartt, Program Support  
Joan Simmons, Program Support  
Melody Casiano, Policy Analyst  
Jennifer Herbrand, Deputy Credentialing Mgr.  
Brandon Williams, Project Manager

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

**Members Present:**

Megan Simmons – LMFT, Chair  
Beda Herbison, LICSW, Vice Chair  
Melissa Denner, LMHC  
Linda Sattem, Ph.D., Public Member  
Vacant, LMHC  
Vacant, LASW  
Vacant, Public Member

**Members Absent:**

Michael Fitzpatrick, LMFT, Chair  
Netra Kendle, Public Member

**Assistant Attorney General Staff:**

Luke Eaton, AAG

**Guest Presenters:**

Elizabeth Geisler, HELMS Business Deputy Project Director  
Kitty Slater, Legal Services Case Manager  
Kevin Taylor, Legal Services Case Manager

*On May 31, 2024, the Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee and the Mental Health Counselors, Marriage & Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee met online via Microsoft Teams and in person at Washington State Department of Health 111 Israel Road, Room 153, Tumwater, WA 98501. Notice of the meeting was published on the Substance Use Disorder, Mental Health Counselor, Marriage & Family Therapist, and Social Worker profession websites and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv for each profession.*

## Open Session:

1. Opening of Public Meeting – Susan Cherry, SUDP, Chair and Megan Simmons, LMFT, Chair
  - 1.1. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. Committee and agency staff members as well as public attendees introduced themselves and their area of practice.
  - 1.2. Agenda - *Motion to approve the May 31, 2024, agenda, seconded, motion passed (Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee), motion passed (Mental Health Counselors, Marriage & Family Counselors, and Social Workers Advisory Committee).*
  - 1.3. Minutes - *Motion to approve the June 9, 2023, joint meeting minutes, seconded, motion passed (Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee), motion passed (Mental Health Counselors, Marriage & Family Counselors, and Social Workers Advisory Committee).*

## 2. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

## 3. Program Manager Reports – Lana Crawford and Claire Wilson, Program Managers

- 3.1. Mental Health Counselors, Marriage & Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee (MHC, MFT, and SW) budget report.

Ms. Crawford presented the current budget numbers. The following is the current fund balance for the three programs:

- Budget Report
  - o Marriage & Family Therapists – (\$7,880).
  - o Mental Health Counselors – (\$464,800).
  - o Social Workers – (\$1,240,000).
- Credentialing Report
  - o Ms. Herbrand presented the current credentialing numbers and trends to the committee.

Credential	Active Status	Pending Apps
LMFT	2,401	256
LMFT assoc.	807	130
LMHC	10,544	610
LMHC assoc.	3,112	480
LASW	141	76
LASW assoc.	453	51

LICSW	7,275	1,219
LICSW assoc.	3,154	240

3.2. Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee (SUD)

- Budget Report

- o Ms. Wilson presented the current budget numbers. The fund balance for the program is (\$323,700).

- Credentialing Report

- o Ms. Herbrand presented the current credentialing numbers and trends to the committee.

Credential	Active Status	Pending Apps
SUDP	2,994	220
SUDPT	1,408	136

**4. HELMS Presentation – Ratna Craig, HELMS Project Director and Elizabeth Geisler, Business HELMS Deputy Project Director**

4.1. Ms. Geisler presented an update on the HELMS project implementation.

**5. Discipline Enforcement Action – Claire Wilson / Lana Crawford, Program Managers and Kitty Slater, Legal Services Case Manager / Kevin Taylor, Legal Services Case Manager**

5.1. Disciplinary Data (Ms. Wilson and Ms. Crawford)

Ms. Wilson & Ms. Crawford presented disciplinary data and trends for Licensed Counselors (MHC, MFT, and SW) and SUDP/Ts. Mr. Eaton & Ms. Knieps added information on which types of cases are more expensive.

5.2. Introduction to Case Management and Investigations (Ms. Slater and Mr. Taylor)

Mr. Taylor and Ms. Slater presented an overview of the process of complaints and investigations.

**6. Assistant Attorney General Report – Luke Eaton, AAG & Kristi Knieps, AAG**

6.1. MHC, MFT, and SW (Mr. Eaton) – There were no updates.

6.2. SUD (Ms. Knieps) – There were no updates.

## 7. Legislative Report – Claire Wilson and Lana Crawford, Program Managers

- 7.1. Ms. Wilson presented an update on the implementation status of behavioral health bills that were introduced in the 2024 legislative session, including SB 6228, E2SHB 2247, HB2245, and HB 1939. Ms. Wilson and Ms. Crawford gave an update on current emergency rules and upcoming rulemaking workshops.

## 8. Overview of Alternate Pathway for SUDP Licensure – Claire Wilson, Program Manager

- 8.1. Ms. Wilson provided an overview of the existing alternate pathways to SUDP licensure.

## 9. Approval of University of Washington’s Co-Occurring Disorder Enhancement

- 9.1. Ms. Wilson presented the curriculum for University of Washington’s Co-Occurring Disorder Enhancement. The committees discussed and approved the Co-occurring Disorder Enhancement. *Motion to approve the Co-Occurring Disorder Enhancement curriculum, seconded, motion passed (Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee), motion passed (Mental Health Counselors, Marriage & Family Counselors, and Social Workers Advisory Committee).*

## 10. Future Agenda Items

- No future agenda items added.

## 11. Meeting Adjourned

- 11.1. The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 p.m. *Motion to adjourn, seconded, motion passed (Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee), motion passed (Mental Health Counselors, Marriage & Family Counselors, and Social Workers Advisory Committee).*

**Submitted by:**

Claire Wilson, Program Manager  
Substance Use Disorder Professional Advisory Committee

**Approved by:**

Susan Cherry, Chair  
Substance Use Disorder Professional Advisory Committee

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on file  
SIGNATURE

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DATE

**Submitted by:**

Lana Crawford, Program Manager  
Mental Health Counselors, Marriage & Family  
Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory  
Committee

**Approved by:**

Megan Simmons, Chair  
Mental Health Counselors, Marriage &  
Family Therapists, and Social Workers  
Advisory Committee

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