



Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group – Workforce & Rates (W&R) Subgroup

October 1, 2024

Glossary of Terms

BHSS: Behavioral Health Support Specialist

CCBHC: Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic

DOH: Washington Department of Health

OSPI: Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

P5RH: Prenatal through Age Five Relational Health (Subgroup)

PAL: Partnership Access Line

SBBHSP: School-based Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention (Subgroup)

WAC: Washington Administrative Code

Meeting Topics

Updates to current recommendations

2025 W&R final prioritization survey & group discussion of results

Discussion Summary

Updates to current recommendations

1. The Partnership Access Line (PAL) and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) are advancing as overarching items.
2. Behavioral Health Teaching Clinic – *Julia O'Connor*
 - a. No updates to this recommendation.
 - b. Discussion surrounding this item included the following:
 - i. The issue leads are meeting with their membership next week to establish more specifics about the dollar amount and scalability.
3. Conditional Scholarships - *Vaughnetta Barton*
 - a. Dr. Jennifer Stuber is very involved in the School-based Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention (SBBHSP) subgroup and Christian Stark at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has been instrumental in supporting the work that is being pursued around conditional scholarships for school social workers.
 - b. The proposal has been updated to include the fact that this recommendation is also endorsed by the SBBHSP subgroup.
 - c. Discussion surrounding this item included the following:
 - i. This proposal is scalable, if needed. The issue leads would rather shrink the number of students rather than the services provided.
 - ii. The value of the program also involves helping new entrants into the workforce understand the demands of the behavioral health field, to avoid burnout.
 - iii. This proposal includes mental health, school social work, and crisis response – as the field changes and more people are focused on behavioral health, this model is very expandable.



4. Supervisor stipend program – *Laurie Lippold*
 - a. This recommendation has changed.
 - i. There is roughly \$1.8 million per fiscal year to begin the supervisor stipend program for 2025-2027, which would serve roughly 900 people per year.
 1. The funding is incorporated into the maintenance budget for Department of Health (DOH).
 - ii. This proposal is now to keep an eye on this (rather than asking for new money) and make sure that the dollars stay in the budget, as well as assess the program.
 - b. There is a decision package from DOH regarding this, with the following language:
 - i. "The cost of meeting supervised experience requirements can be a significant obstacle to becoming licensed as a behavioral health provider. The Behavioral Health supervisor stipend program, which was not fully funded in the 2024 budget is seeking \$3.566 million in ongoing biennial funding to address this issue."
 - ii. 803 people would benefit from this in fiscal year 2026, 953 in fiscal year 2027, and increasing from there.
 - iii. The dollars are for the stipends themselves and for the FTE to administer the program.
 - c. We don't yet know if the governor will include this in his budget, so the outstanding question is, is there money to begin implementing this even if they don't get additional funds in 2025?
 - d. At this time, this is being advanced as a recommended priority legacy item.
5. Behavioral Health Support Specialists (BHSS) – *Bill O'Connell*
 - a. The BHSS is a new profession at the bachelor's level in Washington state.
 - b. BHSS's would be supervised by psychologists, mental health counselors, clinical social workers, or licensed Marriage and Family therapists
 - c. BHSS's can remain in their role as a career, or it may be an opportunity to move into one of the master's level professions in the future.
 - d. The competencies in the draft rules are there because it is a new professional role – these competencies came from international models for task sharing around providing mental health care.
 - i. There is a gap between current bachelor's programs education and moving into the workplace setting, from a generalist perspective.
 - ii. The competencies are to create a common core of applied skills needed to bridge that gap between theory and practice.
 - iii. There needs to be room for growth for this role.
 - e. The Ballmer Group funding that the program is currently working with was aimed at adult curriculum, and this is a one-time ask to develop youth-based curriculum.
 - i. This includes hiring subject matter experts to help move this forward.
 - f. The estimate of cost is around \$900k spread over two years.
 - g. Discussion surrounding this item included the following:
 - i. The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) states that to qualify for BHSS you must meet 1.5 pages worth of specific criteria in order to be credentialed as a BHSS by DOH.



1. This might be better addressed separately as a workforce and retention issue outside of this specific ask, which is related to the youth-focused curriculum.
6. Well-being Specialist designation – *Sarah Walker*
 - a. There were no changes to this proposal.

2025 W&R Final Prioritization Survey

1. All items received majority vote to be elevated to the larger work group.
2. Prioritization of legacy items was tentatively as follows:
 - a. #1 – Conditional Scholarships
 - b. #2 – Teaching Clinic
 - c. #3 – Stipend Program
3. Prioritization of new items was as follows:
 - a. #1 – BHSS
 - b. #2 – Well-Being Specialist

Group discussion of final prioritization results

1. The survey link will be sent out one final time for 24 hours to allow anyone who missed the meeting to provide their input.
2. Subgroup members think that it would be helpful to have the guiding principles and criteria for the recommendations from the Prenatal through Age Five (P5RH) subgroup incorporated as part of the process earlier – to help inform recommendation development and voting.
3. Subgroup members would like to have more information about expectations for the Work Group meeting on October 14th.

Look Ahead: 24/25 Schedule

**(April-August) All meetings will take place on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, unless otherwise indicated.*

(September-October) All meetings will take place on the first and third Thursday of the month, unless otherwise indicated.

- October 24 – 10-11am
- November 6 – 10-11am
- December 5 – 10-11am