



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
Aging and Disability Services Administration  
*Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery*  
PO Box 45330, Olympia, WA 98504-5330

September 14, 2010

Dear Stakeholders,

For some time now we have been hearing about the need to reduce the administrative burden on agencies that provide services to co-occurring clients by consolidating the chemical dependency, problem gambling, and mental health rules into integrated chapters of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). I am pleased to share with you a Charter, which has been developed to guide this work and offer you the opportunity to provide us with your thoughts on how this work should be framed before we proceed.

The Co-Occurring Disorders & Treatment Conference, which is being held in Yakima, is a testament to how the chemical dependency and mental health fields have come together to improve and expand services to this critical population. We feel this is an excellent venue to launch this new endeavor.

Join us on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at 6:30p.m. in the Yakima Conference Center to participate in an evening of exchange, so that you can share your thoughts about the principles the new WACs should embody, as well as your hopes and concerns for how this initiative may impact your work.

Please RSVP Jessica Bayne, at [Jessica.bayne@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Jessica.bayne@dshs.wa.gov), so that we can anticipate the size of room we will need. We look forward to seeing you in Yakima.

Sincerely,

David A. Dickinson  
Director

Enclosure

cc: Victoria Roberts, Office Chief  
Dennis Malmer, Certification Section Supervisor  
Peter Marburger, Mental Health Licensing and Certification Supervisor  
Proposed Initial Community Partner Advisory Group



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
 Aging and Disability Services Administration  
*Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery*  
 PO Box 45330, Olympia, WA 98504-5330

**CHARTER FOR DBHR INTEGRATED WAC  
 CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT AGENCIES  
 AND COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AGENCIES**

Date: September 14, 2010

Customer/End User Group: Chemical Dependency, Problem Gambling, and Community Mental Health Agencies licensed and/or certified by the Department of Social and Health Services (the Department), Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR).

Project Managers: Dennis Malmer and Pete Marburger

Executive Sponsors: David Dickinson, Director, DBHR  
 Victoria Roberts, Chief, DBHR

Problem Addressed: Chemical dependency and mental health agencies, licensed and/or certified by DBHR, that treat patients with substance abuse, problem gambling, and/or mental health conditions are required to meet multiple sets of laws (Revised Code of Washington (RCW)) and rules (Washington Administrative Code (WAC)), along with a number of federal rules, in order to provide treatment services. Agencies must comply with regulations authorized by:

Chapter 10.05 RCW*	Chapter 70.96A RCW*	42 CFR – Public Health (Medicaid)
Chapter 10.77 RCW	Chapter 71.05 RCW*	42 CFR Part 2
Chapter 43.20A.890 RCW*	Chapter 71.24 RCW*	42 CFR Part 8
Chapter 46.61 RCW	Chapter 71.34 RCW*	45 CFR Parts 160 & 164
Chapter 49.60 RCW	Chapter 74.50 RCW	
Chapter 70.02 RCW*		

Chapter 388-805 WAC  
 Chapter 388-816 WAC  
 Chapter 388-865 WAC (includes Credentialed Community Mental Health Agencies)

\*Primary Rules

Scope and Background: To allow DBHR-licensed and/or -certified agencies that treat patients with substance abuse, gambling, and/or mental health conditions to meet one set of rules (WAC) rather than multiple sets of rules.

DBHR became an integrated division – substance abuse, gambling, and mental health – in July 2009. During the first year of integration, the DBHR Licensing and Certification Section explored and discussed a number of opportunities to collaborate and integrate licensing and certification procedures. The review process identified a number of similar procedures, which if consolidated, could lead to enhanced and more effective licensing and certification activities,

increased focus on patient health, patient safety, and risk management requirements, while reducing the regulatory burden on agencies that provide behavioral health treatment services.

High Level Deliverable: DBHR will write, review, and implement an integrated WAC that will allow licensed and/or certified chemical dependency, problem gambling, and mental health agencies that treat patients with substance abuse, gambling, and mental health conditions, or a combination of the three to meet one set of rules (WAC) to provide behavioral health treatment services.

Steps:

- Draft Integrated WAC charter
- Complete literature search
- Confirm project team members
- Determine project time line
- Determine resources available for the project
- Determine key assumptions
- Conduct cross-walk of current WACs
- Focus integrated WAC to address public and private behavioral health treatment entities
- Draft integrated WAC
- Provide for stakeholder review and comments
- Develop rule-making schedule and rule-making documents to codify new WAC
- Usability testing

Key Staff:

Pete Marburger	Dennis Malmer	Kathy Sayre	Linda Graves
Tony O'Leary	Deb Cummins	Julián Gonzales	

Proposed Initial Community Partner Advisory Group:

Stacey Alles, Compass Health  
Ann Christian, Washington Community Mental Health Council  
Phillip Gonzales, Citizen's Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse  
Linda Grant, Association of Alcoholism and Addiction Programs  
William Hardy, Timberlands Regional Support Network  
Mary Jadwisiak, Mental Health Advocacy Training and Consulting  
Gayle A. Jones, Tulalip Tribal Behavioral Health Services  
Pat Knox, Recovery Centers of King County  
Jennifer LaPointe, Puyallup Tribal Treatment Center  
Cheryl Mogensen, Kitsap Mental Health  
Helen Nilon, Mental Health Planning & Advisory Council  
Mikel Olsson, Behavioral Health Resources  
Nancy Parker, Columbia River Mental Health  
Jim Vollendroff, King County Mental Health Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services  
Rick Weaver, Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health

Key Assumptions: The DBHR Licensing and Certification Section will draft a new set of rules for licensing and certifying chemical dependency, problem gambling, and community mental health agencies under one WAC. The DBHR Licensing Certification Section will maintain four WACs for agencies to choose from which are:

- WAC 388-805 – Certification Requirements for Chemical Dependency Service Providers
- WAC 388-816 – Certification Requirements for Problem and Pathological Gambling


- WAC 388-XXX – Certification Requirements for Behavioral Health Services
- WAC 388-865 – Community Mental Health and Involuntary Treatment Programs

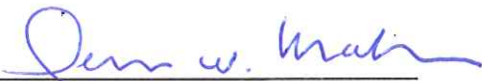
The new set of rules for agencies providing integrated behavioral health services must:

- Support the goal of recovery and resiliency for all clients who seek our care.
- Contain rules allowing for a single set of agency administrative, personnel, and clinical policy and procedures manuals that address specific treatment populations and levels of care.
- Contain rules allowing for clinical staff competency, patient rights, a single assessment, treatment plan, treatment plan review, clinical documentation, discharge plan, continuing care plan, patient records, complaints/grievance procedures, and quality management.
- Support a simple set of data requirements for publicly-funded patients (combined TARGET/ CIS data base).
- Allow flexibility to publicly-funded agencies and private for-profit agencies to seek licensure or certification through the new integrated WAC.
- Align with Medicaid Rules, the State Plan, and Federal Block Grant requirements.

Key Constraints: Tackling this effort during a period of diminishing resources is both a challenge and an opportunity for DBHR, providers, contractors, and stakeholders. In order to be successful, there will need to be a dedicated effort by everyone involved in the project. It will also be critical to do substantial work with stakeholders so that the final product can meet the needs of providers, contractors, the State, and most importantly the clients we serve.

Project Managers (signature):

  
Pete Marburger

  
Dennis W. Malmer

Executive Sponsors (signature):

  
Victoria Roberts

  
David A. Dickinson