New Behavioral Health Services Rules
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) adopted new rules effective July 1, 2013:

- WAC 388-877 which establishes administrative standards; and
- WAC 388-877A, B and C which establishes program-specific standards for licensing agencies as behavioral health agencies, and certifying the mental health, chemical dependency, and/or problem and pathological gambling services they choose to provide.

These rules replace the Chapter 388-805 WAC that regulated chemical dependency, Chapter 388-816 WAC that regulated problem and pathological gambling, and specific sections in Chapter 388-865 WAC that regulated outpatient mental health services. To help guide you through the changes, below you will find a few of our frequently asked questions.

**Will training on the new behavioral health services rules be provided by DBHR?**

Trainings were offered in Summer 2013. No new trainings are scheduled.

**Is there a document that identifies and explains what has changed under these new rules?**

PowerPoint presentations developed by DBHR are available for download: http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/CertLicensing.shtml#dbhr.

**Where can I find the new behavioral health services rules?**

- **Chapter 388-877 WAC Behavioral Health Services Administrative Requirements.** These rules:
  - Establish the licensure, certification, administrative, and personnel requirements, and clinical policies and procedures for agencies that provide behavioral health services.
  - Reflect the requirements for agencies applying for licensure and agencies currently licensed to provide behavioral health services.
- **Chapter 388-877A WAC Outpatient Mental Health Services.**
- **Chapter 388-877B WAC Chemical Dependency Services.**
- **Chapter 388-877C WAC Problem and Pathological Gambling Services.**
  - These rules establish the program-specific requirements for mental health, chemical dependency, and problem and pathological gambling services.
How does my agency become a licensed behavioral health agency, or become certified to provide a behavioral health service(s)?

If your agency was certified under the previous WAC, a Behavioral Health Agency License is issued at the time of renewal. No application is needed. If your agency is a new agency:

- You must complete and submit an initial application for behavioral health licensure and certification for mental health, chemical dependency, and/or problem gambling services.
  - Section I of the application form is the Initial Application for Agency Licensure.
  - Section II is the application for certification for the "main agency" behavioral health service(s).
- Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) staff reviews the application and issues licenses to agencies to provide certified services.

Which behavioral health services does DBHR certify?

DBHR certifies the following behavioral health services:

- Chapter 388-877A WAC Outpatient Mental Health Services
  
  Outpatient Mental Health Services:
  - Individual treatment services (RULE EFFECTIVE 4/4/14) - WAC 388-877A-0138
  - Brief intervention treatment - WAC 388-877A-0140
  - Group therapy services - WAC 388-877A-0150
  - Family therapy services - WAC 388-877A-0155
  - Case management services - WAC 388-877A-0170
  - Psychiatric medication services - WAC 388-877A-0180
  - Day support services - WAC 388-877A-0190
  - Less restrictive alternative (LRA) support services - WAC 388-877A-0195
  - Services provided in a residential treatment facility - WAC 388-877A-0197
  - Peer support services - WAC 388-877A-0340
  - Medication support services - WAC 388-877A-0360

  Crisis Mental Health Services:
  - Crisis telephone support - WAC 388-877A-0230
  - Crisis outreach services - WAC 388-877A-0240
  - Crisis stabilization services - WAC 388-877A-0260
  - Crisis peer support services - WAC 388-877A-0270
  - Emergency involuntary detention services - WAC 388-877A-0280

  Recovery Support Services Requiring Program-Specific Certification:
  - Applied behavior analysis (ABA) (RULE EFFECTIVE 4/4/14) - WAC 388-877A-0370
  - Employment services - WAC 388-877A-0330
  - Peer support services - WAC 388-877A-0340
  - Wraparound facilitation services - WAC 388-877A-0350
  - Medication support services - WAC 388-877A-0360

- Chapter 388-877B WAC Chemical Dependency Services
Detoxification Services: WAC 388-877B-0100 through -0120 plus, as applicable:
  o Youth detoxification services - WAC 388-877B-0130

Residential Services: WAC 388-877B-0200 through -0240 plus, as applicable:
  o Intensive inpatient services - WAC 388-877B-0250
  o Recovery house services - WAC 388-877B-0260
  o Long-term treatment services - WAC 388-877B-0270
  o Youth residential services - WAC 388-877B-0280

Outpatient Treatment Services: WAC 388-877B-300 through -0340 plus, as applicable:
  ▪ Level II intensive outpatient services - WAC 388-877B-0350
  ▪ Level I outpatient services - WAC 388-877B-0360

Opiate Substitution Treatment Services: WAC 388-877B-0400 through 0450

Assessment Only Services - WAC 388-877B-0500 through -0540 plus, as applicable:
  o DUI assessment services - WAC 388-877B-0550

Information and Assistance Services: WAC 388-877B-0600 through -0610 plus, as applicable:
  o Alcohol/Drug information school services - WAC 388-877B-0630
  o Information and crisis services - WAC 388-877B-0640
  o Emergency service patrol services - WAC 388-877B-0650
  o Screening and brief intervention services - WAC 388-877B-0660
  o Chapter 388-877C WAC  Problem and Pathological Gambling Services

Problem and Pathological Gambling Services: WAC 388-877C-0100 through 388-877C-0130

If my agency is a currently licensed mental health agency, or a certified CD or problem and pathological gambling agency, do I need to submit a new application for licensure or certification under the new rules?

No. When your current license or certification expires, DBHR will send you an invoice for the annual licensing fee. Upon receipt of payment and other required information, DBHR will issue a license to your agency or, if applicable, branch agency, which will list the certified behavioral health services approved for each location.

Where can I find and download the new application and other forms?

Please visit: http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/CertLicensing.shtml.

What licensing and certification fees will my agency be required to pay under the new rules?

Licensing and certification fees are listed in WAC 388-877-0365. Complaint and critical incident investigation fees and other requirements are also listed in WAC 388-877-0365.

When will my agency be expected to comply with the new rules?

The rules were effective July 1, 2013. Full implementation of the rules was required beginning September 1, 2013.