

**Behavioral Health Rule Making
Stakeholder Meeting
Yakima, Washington, June 9, 2011**

Robert Hunner from Northwest Resource Associates introduced himself and the DBHR staff members who were in attendance, including Victoria Roberts, Kathy Sayre, Dennis Malmer, and Pete Marburger. A general overview of the project charter and goals and the project timeline was provided.

Victoria Roberts explained that the intention of the process is to develop a simpler set of licensing and certification rules (WACs) that can be used by Chemical Dependency, Mental Health and Problem Gambling providers. The new WACs would be particularly beneficial for providers that currently are providing services to more than one client population (mental health + chemical dependency + problem gambling).

The proposed rules would include the basic, essential elements for all providers to meet (administrative, licensing and personnel, and clinical). Specific treatment services would then be covered by additional sets of rules. The hope is that the new WACs will reduce the administrative burden on providers and improve client services.

Stakeholders were invited to ask questions, and offer comments and suggestions.

The primary concerns expressed by stakeholders in attendance were:

- New rules are not necessary. Providers who serve multiple client populations can do so without undue complications for clients and without an unnecessary administrative burden, once systems are in place.
- New rules are being developed primarily for providers who receive public funds, yet will be applicable to providers who are privately funded. This is an unfair burden.
- Problem gambling treatment providers expressed concern about being under-represented in the project and the process.

The primary supports expressed by stakeholders in attendance were:

- Under new rules, there will be less duplication (client records and facilities).
- New rules would make it easier to share information between chemical dependency, problem gambling and mental health staff members who work in the same organization.
- A single intake process and a single treatment plan for clients with co-occurring disorders could be beneficial for clients, as well as for professionals.
- If the new rules would combine site visits and audits, there would be a reduction in the administrative burden for providers.