
SENATE BILL 6733

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl, Hargrove, Long, Moyer, Franklin, Deccio, Schow, Strannigan, Owen, Thibaudeau, Smith, Sutherland and Winsley

Read first time 01/29/96. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to chemical dependency counselors; amending RCW
2 18.19.020, 18.19.030, and 18.19.070; adding a new section to chapter
3 18.19 RCW; and creating new sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Due to the high incidence of alcohol and
6 drug dependence affecting child protective services referrals and out-
7 of-home placements and the increasing cost to human service programs
8 from unrecognized or insufficiently treated alcohol and drug
9 dependence, the legislature recognizes there is a need for identifying
10 a group of professionals with a common foundation of skills and
11 knowledge unique to assessing and treating alcoholism and other drug
12 addiction. The legislature further recognizes that chemical dependency
13 counseling has developed as a unique, interdisciplinary profession
14 based on specific competencies, knowledge, and skills acquired through
15 education, work experience, and life experience. The purpose of this
16 act is to protect the public by referral to and utilization of
17 individuals in the delivery of human services who have demonstrated a
18 particular level of competency in the core functions of chemical

1 dependency counseling and have met other standards of qualification,
2 education, training, and experience in chemical dependency counseling.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.19.020 and 1991 c 3 s 19 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
6 this section apply throughout this chapter.

7 (1) "Certified marriage and family therapist" means a person
8 certified to practice marriage and family therapy pursuant to RCW
9 18.19.130.

10 (2) "Certified mental health counselor" means a person certified to
11 practice mental health counseling pursuant to RCW 18.19.120.

12 (3) "Certified social worker" means a person certified to practice
13 social work pursuant to RCW 18.19.110.

14 (4) "Client" means an individual who receives or participates in
15 counseling or group counseling.

16 (5) "Counseling" means employing any therapeutic techniques,
17 including but not limited to social work, mental health counseling,
18 marriage and family therapy, chemical dependency counseling, and
19 hypnotherapy, for a fee that offer, assist or attempt to assist an
20 individual or individuals in the amelioration or adjustment of mental,
21 emotional, ~~((or))~~ behavioral, or chemical dependency problems, and
22 includes therapeutic techniques to achieve sensitivity and awareness of
23 self and others and the development of human potential. For the
24 purposes of this chapter, nothing may be construed to imply that the
25 practice of hypnotherapy is necessarily limited to counseling.

26 (6) "Counselor" means an individual, practitioner, therapist, or
27 analyst who engages in the practice of counseling to the public for a
28 fee, including for the purposes of this chapter, hypnotherapists.

29 (7) "Department" means the department of health.

30 (8) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department or the
31 secretary's designee.

32 (9) "State-certified chemical dependency counselor" means a person
33 certified to practice chemical dependency counseling pursuant to
34 section 6 of this act.

35 (10) "Twelve core functions of chemical dependency counseling"
36 means assisting or attempting to assist a person to arrest chemical
37 dependency and maintain abstinence, including, but not limited to, the

1 application of the following strategies and skills, all specific to
2 chemical dependency:

3 (a) Screening;

4 (b) Intake;

5 (c) Orientation;

6 (d) Diagnosis and assessment;

7 (e) Treatment planning;

8 (f) Counseling;

9 (g) Case management;

10 (h) Crisis intervention;

11 (i) Client education;

12 (j) Referral;

13 (k) Reports and recordkeeping; and

14 (l) Consultation with other professionals regarding client
15 treatment and services.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.19.030 and 1991 c 3 s 20 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 No person may, for a fee or as a part of his or her position as an
19 employee of a state agency, practice counseling without being
20 registered to practice by the department under this chapter unless
21 exempt under RCW 18.19.040. No person may represent himself or herself
22 as a certified social worker, certified mental health counselor, ~~((or))~~
23 certified marriage and family therapist, or state-certified chemical
24 dependency counselor without being so certified by the department under
25 this chapter.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.19.070 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 501 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (1) The Washington state mental health and chemical dependency
29 quality assurance council is created, consisting of nine members
30 appointed by the secretary. All appointments shall be for a term of
31 four years. No person may serve as a member of the council for more
32 than two consecutive full terms.

33 Voting members of the council must include one social worker
34 certified under RCW 18.19.110, one mental health counselor certified
35 under RCW 18.19.120, one marriage and family therapist certified under
36 RCW 18.19.130, one state-certified chemical dependency counselor
37 certified under section 6 of this act, one counselor registered under

1 RCW 18.19.090, one hypnotherapist registered under RCW 18.19.090, and
2 two public members. Each member of the council must be a citizen of
3 the United States and a resident of this state. Public members of the
4 council may not be a member of any other health care licensing board or
5 commission, or have a fiduciary obligation to a facility rendering
6 health services regulated by the council, or have a material or
7 financial interest in the rendering of health services regulated by the
8 council.

9 The secretary may appoint the initial members of the council to
10 staggered terms of from one to four years. Thereafter, all members
11 shall be appointed to full four-year terms. Members of the council
12 hold office until their successors are appointed.

13 The secretary may remove any member of the council for cause as
14 specified by rule. In the case of a vacancy, the secretary shall
15 appoint a person to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

16 (2) The council shall meet at the times and places designated by
17 the secretary and shall hold meetings during the year as necessary to
18 provide advice to the secretary.

19 Each member of the council shall be reimbursed for travel expenses
20 as authorized in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. In addition, members of
21 the council shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.240 when
22 engaged in the authorized business of the council. The members of the
23 council are immune from suit in an action, civil or criminal, based on
24 their official acts performed in good faith as members of the council.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Within sixty days of the effective date of
26 this section, the secretary shall appoint a five-person chemical
27 dependency counselor certification advisory committee to propose to the
28 secretary, for his or her consideration, rules, educational
29 requirements, tests, and procedures to carry out chemical dependency
30 counselor certification. The committee shall be composed of:

31 (1) One chemical dependency counselor nominated by the Northwest
32 Indian chemical dependency certification board;

33 (2) One chemical dependency counselor nominated by the chemical
34 dependency counselor certification board of Washington state;

35 (3) One chemical dependency counselor not certified by any private
36 chemical dependency board but meeting standards of qualification under
37 the department of social and health services;

1 (4) One administrator of a chemical dependency treatment program
2 approved by the department of social and health services; and

3 (5) One past consumer of chemical dependency counseling.

4 This section shall expire October 1, 2000.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 18.19 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall issue a state-certified chemical
8 dependency counselor certificate to any applicant meeting the following
9 requirements:

10 (a) Completion of a minimum of thirty-three quarter credits or
11 twenty-two semester credits in course work pertaining to chemical
12 dependency and skills development in the twelve core functions of
13 chemical dependency counseling;

14 (b) Completion of an additional one hundred eighty clock hours of
15 training, or equivalent course work from an accredited college or
16 university, in topics relating to the twelve core functions of chemical
17 dependency counseling, which must include relapse prevention
18 counseling, screening and referral for mental illness, youth chemical
19 dependency assessment and counseling, and ethics;

20 (c) Documentation of a minimum of two thousand clock hours of
21 directly supervised counseling experience as a chemical dependency
22 counselor in a chemical dependency treatment program approved by the
23 department of social and health services;

24 (d) Successful completion of a recognized chemical dependency
25 counselor examination based on the twelve core functions of chemical
26 dependency counseling recommended by the chemical dependency counselor
27 certification advisory committee and approved by the department; and

28 (e) Submission to the department of a completed application and all
29 necessary documentation and fees.

30 (2) An applicant certified by the national association of
31 alcoholism and drug abuse counselors or the international alcohol and
32 other drug abuse certification and reciprocity consortium may be
33 certified in this state without examination. Other applicants
34 certified as chemical dependency counselors in another state may be
35 certified in this state after successful completion of the examination
36 required by the department.

1 (3) Until July 1, 1999, the department shall issue a
2 state-certified chemical dependency counselor certificate to a person
3 who provides:

4 (a) Verification of current qualified status as a chemical
5 dependency counselor recognized by the department of social and health
6 services or evidence of certification by a chemical dependency
7 counselor certification board currently recognized by the department of
8 social and health services; and

9 (b) Submission of a completed application and payment of necessary
10 fees.

11 (4) State-certified chemical dependency counseling is that aspect
12 of counseling that involves the provision of individual and group
13 therapeutic contact to patients and others who are harmfully affected
14 by the use of mood-altering chemicals or are chemically dependent, with
15 a goal of total abstinence for all chemically dependent persons.
16 Chemical dependency counseling is based on recognition that chemical
17 dependency is a chronic disease that is biophysical as well as
18 psychological, and its treatment involves a complex, holistic approach.

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