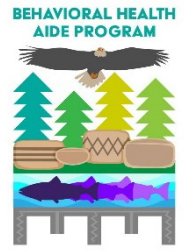


Portland Area Behavioral Health Academic Review Committee (PA BHARC)

Subcommittee of the Portland Area CHAP Certification Board (PACCB)



Meeting Summary for April 9, 2025

Committee Attendance: YakaiYastai Gorman, Tanya Firemoon, Jason Butler, and Dolores Jimerson.

Guest Attendance: Torie Heart, Kate Denny, Dr. Geniel Harrison, BobbiJo Peltier, and Jenece Howe.

Action Taken: Quorum reached. Review and approved today's agenda and previous minutes. Motioned by JB and 2nd by DJ.

Meeting Purpose

Review CHAP federal certification process and Heritage University's hybrid BHA program, discuss recruitment strategies for BHARC, and address continuing education for BHAs.

CHAP Federal Certification

- The Portland BHA team has identified one (1) BHA/P certification application. Given the limited approval authority of PACCB, this application will require endorsement by PACCB before being submitted to AK CHAPCB for further review and recommendation for certification.
- Orientation for new clinical supervisors on certification process and BHA roles is being developed.
- Calibration/case study exercises with CHAP certification board are upcoming.
- Certification board fees are higher than typical professional licenses, raising concerns about potential hardships for applicants.

Heritage University's Hybrid BHA Program

- Distance learning program combines in-person and Zoom classes, meeting Portland Area Standard and Procedures (PASP) requirements.
- HIV/STI education gap identified in Heritage curriculum; exploring options like Northwest Indian College's online course (or) Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO) to fill gap for students completing HU program.
- Continuing education equivalents being considered for graduated students without HIV/STI coursework.

BHARC Attendance and Engagement

- Committee seeking ways to increase participation and restore previous engagement levels.
- Suggestions include:

- Reaching out to Southern Plains Indian Health Board for learning sessions
- Inviting clinical supervisors of current BHA students
- Sending personal "caring notes" to previous attendees
- Reconsidering meeting times to accommodate changing schedules
- Potentially including BHA students from other regions (e.g., Montana, Oklahoma)

Continuing Education for BHAs

- Identified as a priority in the strategic plan.
- Considering specific topics based on community needs:
 - Children's mental health
 - Working with families in the child welfare system
 - Grief support for communities
- Plans to involve clinical supervisors in continuing education discussions.

Next Steps

- Tanya to send out calendar invite for next BHARC meeting on June 18th, 12-1 PM
- Dolores and Katie to work on sending "caring notes" to previous BHARC attendees
- Explore options for BHA students and clinical supervisors in future meetings
- Review and prioritize forms for the certification process
- Develop recommendations for BHA continuing education for the certification board

Action Items

- Survey BHARC members re: preferred meeting times. Prepare options for next meeting.
- Invite BHA provider types to upcoming BHARC sessions – opportunity for Q&A session.
- Compile list of all members and send out caring notes for absent members.
- Confirm if the Portland-Area application fee waiver remains active under the Area-to-Area agreement set by former Director Tso.