

Portland Area Behavioral Health Academic Review Committee (PA BHARC)

Subcommittee of the Portland Area CHAP Certification Board (PACCB)



Meeting Summary for June 18, 2025

Committee Attendance: YakaiYastai Gorman, Tanya Firemoon, Dr. Danica Brown, and Dolores Jimerson.

Guest Attendance: Torie Heart, Katie Hunsberger, Lisa Griggs, Kate Denny, and BobbiJo Peltier.

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

Opening blessing by Dolores.

Meeting Purpose: Review Portland Area Behavioral Health Academic Review Committee (PA BHARC) updates and discuss key issues related to Behavioral Health Aide (BHA) program development.

Key Takeaways

- Heritage University BHA program going on 1-year pause; need to develop plan for current students and future inquiries
- 11 BHA students graduated from Northwest Indian College; presentations highlighted cultural integration
- Continuing education workgroup needed to develop CE requirements for certified BHAs
- Challenges with clinical supervisor transitions impacting BHA certification process

Today's Topics

National CHAP Board Update

- Next meeting July 7-8 in Phoenix; closed meetings for now as board establishes itself
- Standards of Procedures draft sent out for review; tight timeline for initial feedback
- Behavioral Health, Dental, and Community Health Aide workgroups being formed

Heritage University BHA Program Pause

- 1-year pause starting August 1st due to Dr. Wynn's sabbatical and budget concerns
- Current students will be supported to graduate in early 2026
- Need to develop plan for tracking inquiries and re-engaging when program restarts

- BHARC to recommend Heritage provide detailed update to PACCB

Northwest Indian College BHA Graduations

- 11 BHA graduates this year from diverse tribal backgrounds
- Presentations integrated traditional practices, clinical therapies, and personal growth
- Students developed culturally-grounded interventions (e.g. dance therapy) for practicum
- Graduation ceremony emphasized prayer, family involvement, and cultural elements

Continuing Education Workgroup

- Need to establish CE requirements for certified BHAs
- Consider accepting state-approved CE and tribal-based practices
- Identify key training needs: early childhood mental health, substance-specific, grief
- Plan to gather input from current BHAs on desired CE topics

Clinical Supervisor Challenges

- Issues when supervisors leave mid-certification process
- Need FAQ/toolkit to orient new supervisors to BHA program requirements
- Consider requiring transition plan/narrative when supervisors depart

Next Steps

- Create supervisor toolkit/FAQ to orient clinical supervisors to BHA program
- Develop continuing education workgroup and draft initial CE requirements
- Plan in-person gathering of BHA students from both programs before end of August
- Reach out to Dr. Wynn for Heritage update to present at August PACCB meeting
- Schedule next BARC meeting for July 16th, 12-1:30pm

Action Items

- Review BHA standards & procedures draft. Provide feedback to Bobbi Jo before July 7th CHAP Board meeting
- Develop supervisor toolkit. Include FAQ for supervisors, liability/malpractice info, responsibilities. Collaborate w/ Tanya
- Create framework for continuing education work group. Collaborate w/ Katie & Danica. Include state licensing body acceptances & tribal-based practices

- Reach out to Dr. Wynn at Heritage Univ. Invite for update to PACCB. Determine suitable representatives & meeting date (Aug or Dec)
- Plan student gathering before end of Aug. Coordinate w/ Katie on travel arrangements, budget approval. Include Heritage & NWIC students

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