

Portland Area Behavioral Health Academic Review Committee (PA BHARC)

Subcommittee of the Portland Area CHAP Certification Board (PACCB)



Meeting Summary for March 19, 2025

Committee Attendance: YakaiYastai Gorman, Katie Hunsberger, Tanya Firemoon, Jason Butler, LeeAndria Witcraft, and Sarah Cook-Lalari.

Guest Attendance: Torie Heart, Kate Denny, Dr. Geniel Harrison, BobbiJo Peltier, and Lisa Griggs.

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

Meeting Purpose

Review BHARC updates and plan the next steps for BHA certification process.

Key Takeaways: Portland Area CHAP Certification Board (PACCB) was federally authorized to certify BHA providers levels I-III, PDHA I, and DHATs. BHA student recruitment ongoing; 62 recruited over past 4 years, 5-7 expected to graduate this summer. Updating BHA Knowledge and Skills checklist to be more relevant for Northwest tribes. Planning monthly BHARC meetings to support certification process and program updates.

CHAP Program Updates

- New IHS CHAP Circular 24-16 released in late 2024, superseding 20-06 version
- National CHAP Board (NCHAPB) formed, replacing CHAP TAG; finalizing charter and bylaws
- Portland Area CHAP Certification Board (PACCB) officially acknowledged by IHS
- Work ongoing to prep board members for BHA/DHA application reviews in May

Medicaid Reimbursement Progress

- State Plan Amendments approved in OR (2023) and WA (2024) for CHAP services
- TCHPP team developing CHAP billing code set for Medicaid reimbursement
- Reviewing CPT/HCPCS codes for BHA and DHA services
- Seeking input from BHARC members on final billing code review

BHA Student Updates

- 62 BHAs recruited over 4-year grant period
- 5-7 BHA students expected to graduate summer 2025
- Cohort 4 (6 students) started, recruiting for Cohort 5
- Focus on retention and supporting first-year students

BHA Certification Process

- 6-7 students preparing for certification through PACCB May 1-2
- Application deadlines: April 11
- Knowledge and Skills checklist part of application, completed by clinical supervisor
- BHARC members invited to help update checklist for Northwest relevance

Program Resources

- TCHPP website and related sites currently down for development
- CHAP Learning Collaborative and Northwest Elders ECHO still active

Next Steps

- Share updated IHS Circular 24-16 and PACCB authorization letter
- Distribute BHA Knowledge and Skills checklist for BHARC review
- Schedule monthly BHARC meetings, next meeting set for April 9th
- Continue preparing BHA students for certification process
- Work on updating BHA Knowledge and Skills checklist with BHARC input and recommendations

Action Items

- ☐ Facilitate review of CHAP billing code set w/ interested BARC members. Email participants for involvement.
- ☐ Plan BHARC session to update BHA Knowledge & Skills checklist. Email members for participation interest.
- ☐ Email BHARC members: IHS Circular 24-16, Roslyn Tso's PACCB authorization letter, BHA Knowledge & Skills checklist.
- ☐ Send calendar invite for next BHARC meeting on April 9th, 2025.