



# RULES WORKSHOP

Behavioral Health Support Specialist

# Communication Avenues

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- DOH Program Staff: [BHSS@doh.wa.gov](mailto:BHSS@doh.wa.gov)
- Sign up for [GovDelivery](#) for updates
- Check our [website](#)

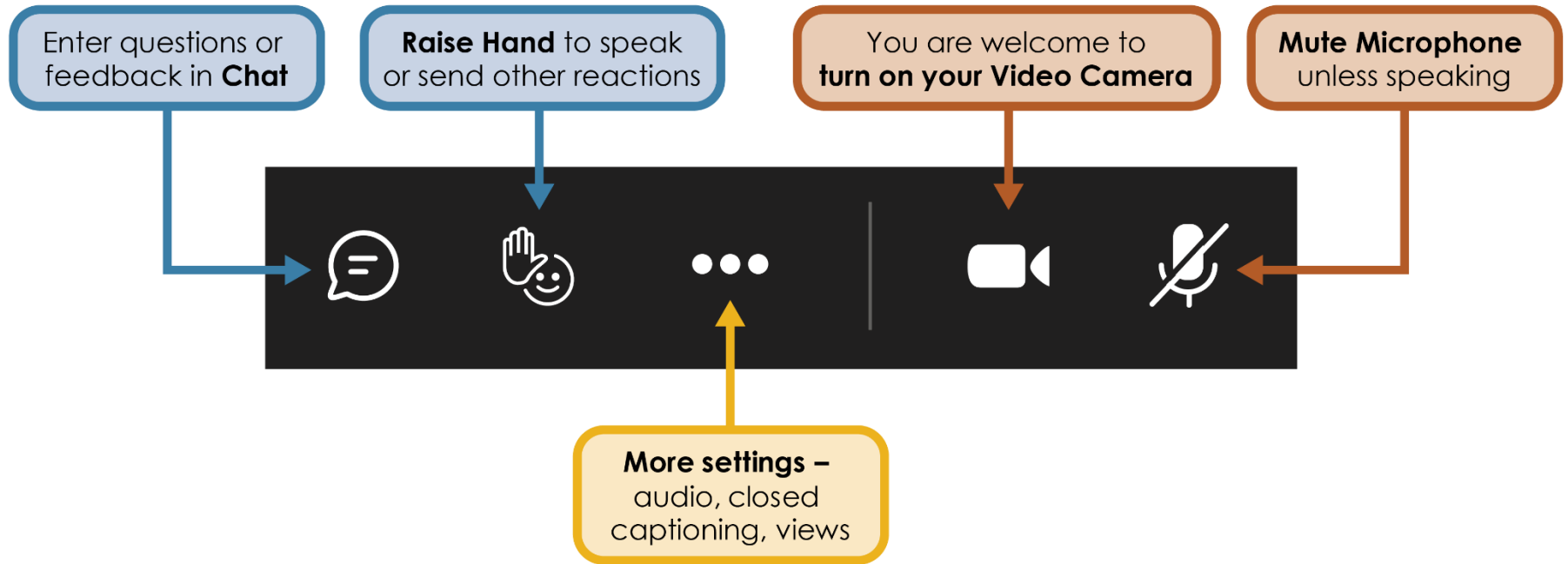
## Other

- University of Washington [website](#)



# MEETING GUIDELINES

# MS Teams Features We Will Use Today



## Tips

- Try to be present
- State your name before speaking
- Speak clearly



# OVERVIEW

# Overview

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Substitute Senate Bill 5189 (2023) established a new profession: Behavioral Health Support Specialist (BHSS)

- Per the bill a BHSS is “a person certified to deliver brief, evidence-based interventions with a scope of practice that includes behavioral health under the supervision of a Washington state credentialed provider who has the ability to assess, diagnose, and treat identifiable mental and behavioral health conditions as part of their scope. A behavioral health support specialist does not have within their scope of practice the ability to make diagnoses but does track and monitor treatment response and outcomes using measurement-based care.”

continued...

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- Must be implemented by January 1, 2025
- Establishing a profession requires:
  - Communication avenues (email, website, etc)
  - Rulemaking
  - Setting fees
  - Creating credentialing process and application packet
  - FAQs

# Approximate Timeline

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File a new CR101 – completed July 2023

Rules workshops – Fall 2023 and Spring 2024

File CR102 – Summer 2024

Public Hearing – Fall 2024

File CR103 – November 2024

New BHSS credentials available – January 1, 2025



# Dates and Topics

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- October 25, 2023 - 5:30pm - (Education)
- October 30, 2023 - 1:00pm - (Practicum/Supervisors/Supervision)
- November 1, 2023 - 12:00pm - (Practicum/Supervisors/Supervision)
- November 1, 2023 - 5:30pm - (topic TBD)
- November 6, 2023 - 12:00pm (tentative)
- November 7, 2023 - 1:00pm (tentative)



# WORKSHOP - EDUCATION

# Licensing Requirements

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## Section 8:

- Graduation from a bachelor's degree program
- Successful completion of a BHSS program that is approved to meet standards consistent with the UW BHSS clinical training program guidelines, including a supervised clinical practicum with demonstrated clinical skill in core competencies
- Successful completion of an approved jurisprudential examination

# Bill Language on Education

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## Section 3:

The department shall collaborate with the University of Washington department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and consult with other stakeholders to develop rules to implement this chapter by January 1, 2025, which shall be consistent with the University of Washington behavioral health support specialist clinical training program guidelines, and shall include appropriate standards for approval of educational programs for behavioral health support specialists, which shall include a practicum component and may be integrated into a bachelor's degree program or structured as a postbaccalaureate continuing education program or registered apprenticeship in combination with an approved bachelor's degree or postbaccalaureate certificate.

# Standards for Approval

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Standards of approval need to be based on UW's behavioral health support specialist clinical training program guidelines.

Guidelines include 8 meta-competencies:

1. Health Equity
2. Helping Relationship
3. Cultural Responsiveness
4. Team-Based Care and Collaboration
5. Screening and Assessment
6. Care Planning and Care Coordination
7. Intervention
8. Law & Ethics

# Questions

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- How long is the estimated time it takes to complete a BHSS program?
- How many courses is each competency expected to take to complete? Could one course complete a meta-competency?
- Changes to the guidelines:
  - What happens when UW releases an updated guidebook?
  - At what point should approved programs be expected to update their programs?
  - Would any of the changes be big enough that approved programs would have to make changes?
  - How often should programs be rereviewed? 5 years? 10 years?

# Questions

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- What should the standards look like?
  - Application process for applicant vs educational program.
- If we create an application for educational institutions seeking approval of their educational program, it is reasonable or feasible to ask them to match up courses to each competency to show they meet all of them?

# Pathways

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| 1  | 2   | 3  |
|--|---|--|
| Has a bachelor's degree with the BHSS program integrated to their degree | Has a Bachelor's degree in any major and takes one of the BHSS programs from an approved school | Has a Bachelor's degree in a behavioral health area and only needs a few courses and the practicum |

- Should students be required to just take an approved BHSS program?
- How long do we see these approved BHSS programs taking?
- Is the postbac program a set schedule of courses or can it be a mix and match based on student's previous education?



Questions?

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