

Lobbyist Report

Month April



Meetings/Work groups attended

April 20: Work force and Rates meeting

April 20: Compact planning meeting

April 26 Rep. Eileen Cody

April 26 Compact discussion with DOH

Legislative Summary for Mental Health Specifically

April started out slow as everyone typically takes a small break to recover from the whirlwind of the session, but lawmakers are beginning to ramp up on their campaigning. WMHCA is looking forward to participating more than we have before by participating in campaign discussions with legislators, attending fundraising events, and creating stronger relationships with lawmakers over the interim.

We have exciting news about becoming closer to joining the Counseling Compact (you can read more about it [here](#)). There will be some WMHCA led bills next year relating to the compact along with other behavioral health issues and we are eager to become strong leaders in 2023. Legislators as well as the Department of Health are taking notice of our impact and we are becoming preeminent sources of information for agencies and lawmakers.

There were pieces of legislation from the 2022 session that we plan on improving and offering back to legislators for 2023 to ensure they are up to the standards of our profession, and we hope that we can ensure their passage to improve the state of the behavioral health system in Washington.

We have become vibrant and involved in the Workforce and Rates workgroup and we will continue to participate in their meetings and work groups. We also participate in the Department of Health's advisory meetings and have created close ties with DOH that will help us as we move forward with our initiatives.

At the direction of the legislature, we have been asked to create a plan to create feasible ways to improve barriers to licensure and we are partnering with a large group of stakeholders to present tangible solutions to addressing the workforce shortage. While joining the Counseling Compact will be one piece of the puzzle, we are eager to pull together with other providers to present a workable plan that will make a difference in our field that will help those that we serve.

Meetings Requested

Rep. Ricelli

Rep. Kelly Chambers

Sen. Jeff Holy

Sara Stewart
Stewart Government Affairs
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