

MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSING STUDY

Office of Professional Regulation

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[https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/regulatory/
regulatory-review/mental-health-
licensing-study/](https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/regulatory/regulatory-review/mental-health-licensing-study/)



AGENDA

- Act 117 Review
- Kickoff Meeting Review
- Study Goals Discussion



ACT 117 of 2022

[Available here: Section 8 \(page 8\)](#)

The Office of Professional Regulation shall conduct a study on:

1. The possibility of streamlining the licensure of mental health professionals
 - Review requirements and processes for mental health licensure
2. Whether additional regulation of supervisors for professionals-in-training is necessary
3. The barriers to entry into mental health professions for marginalized groups

OPR shall submit findings and recommendations on or before December 15, 2024.

SEPT. 30TH KICKOFF MEETING NOTES

Licensing Study introductory meeting September 30th

Major Feedback –

1. OPR needs to perform more outreach beyond email invitations
 - In response OPR conducted phoned over 40 individuals/organizations
 - October 4th sub-meeting on outreach strategies and contacts
 - Additional outreach is still ongoing – we welcome more suggestions!
2. A discussion on study questions, goals, and scope must precede study design

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graph LR; A[Questions and Goals and Scope] --> B[Research, Resources, and Learning]; B --> C[Recommendations]; C --> D[Report]
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Questions and
Goals and
Scope

Research,
Resources, and
Learning

Recommendations

Report

10/16 MEETING GOAL: IDENTIFY ISSUES
TO BE ADDRESSED BY SUBCOMMITTEES



Barriers



Streamlining



Supervision

Barriers to Entry

- Exam accommodations; alt. pathways
- Qualification supplementation criteria; transitioning between professions
- Compacts; endorsements/reciprocity
- Provisional licenses
- Workforce development
- Credential requirements accessibility/FAQ
- Applications/records requests
- Website/rules accessibility; document links;

Streamlining

- CE requirements; multiple license types; equity; barriers
- MOU's
- Roster use; multiple boards; insurance; roster v. credential tiers;
- Additional disciplines: art/music therapy; school counseling;
- Collaborative board/multi profession board/VT Mental Health Board
- Clinician continuity of care/compensation (post licensure, pre paneling)
- OPR example disclosure documents
- Telehealth/compact integration; disclosure rules;
- Overlapping (multi profession) rules accessibility
- Client file recipient rules

Supervision

- Cross-profession supervision req's
 - PSYA supervised practice
- Barriers to supervision; accommodations
- Payment structures
- Contracts
- Other jurisdictions (states)
- Private practice v. agency settings
- Supervision hourly rules criteria
- Direct v. indirect service criteria

BARRIERS TO ENTRY

ACT 117 CONSIDERATIONS

Licensing barriers for individuals including:

- BIPOC
- Refugees and new Americans
- LGBTQ
- Low income
- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals with lived mental health and substance use experience

STUDY ISSUES/QUESTIONS

- E.g., what does equity mean in mental health professional licensing?

STREAMLINING

ACT 117 ISSUES

Possibility of streamlining the licensure, including:

- Feasibility of creating one mental health license

STUDY ISSUES/QUESTIONS

- Barriers to licensure

SUPERVISION

ACT 117 ISSUES

Additional supervisor regulations based on:

- Areas of specialization/experience
- Supervision fees/compensation
- Supervisee load

STUDY ISSUES/QUESTIONS

- Barriers to supervision

EMAIL OPR

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