

# MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSING STUDY

Office of Professional Regulation

[sos.opr.comments@vermont.gov](mailto:sos.opr.comments@vermont.gov)

[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

- Welcome
- New and Refined Issues and Questions Throughout
- Identifying Resources, Research, and Learning Opportunities

We're here!



Questions and  
Goals and  
Scope

Research,  
Resources, and  
Learning

Recommendations

Report

# BARRIERS TO ENTRY

- Examinations (need for accommodations and alternatives)
- Pathways to licensure (need to simplify and expand, particularly for those out-of-state)
- "Threshold" qualifications and post-degree supplementation
- Confusing qualifications (e.g., "psychotherapy" and social work; direct vs. indirect supervision)
- Lack of qualified supervisors
- Cost and payment structure for supervision
- Licensing requirements inconsistent with those of surrounding states
- Access and barriers to obtaining required education (financial, time, location, etc.)
- No license for disciplines (e.g., art therapy, music therapy, school counseling)
- The Roster, its role, timing requirements, and impact of both (e.g., public protection, ability to obtain license, counting of supervision hours, reciprocity)

- Lack of guidance on how to pursue licensure (e.g., website problems, inaccessible language and resources)
- Specificity of the current requirements (e.g., 1:30 ratio of supervision to supervised practice)
- Continuing education requirements across all professions (equity, cost, time, need, consistency, etc.)
- Multiple boards and regulatory requirements for professions with similar but different practices
- Disconnect between licensing and reimbursement (time after licensure to credentialing, roster timeline, etc.)
- Clarity of process for obtaining VT license based on license in another state
- Clarity of process for obtaining a telehealth license or a compact license
- No regulation of supervisors
- No way to confirm supervision is compliant until finished

# BARRIERS SUBGROUP QUESTIONS

- How can we be more equitable in mental health professional licensing?
  - Continuing education, access to education, cost and access to relevant supervision
  - Systemic oppression and inequality in barriers to entry
- How can the laws be improved for professionals-in-training?
  - The Roster
  - Affordability, access, non-monetary costs
  - Exams, supervision hours, coursework
  - Guidance, clarity
- How do we improve the post-degree supervised practice and supervision requirements?
  - Address equity, cost, oversight, etc.
  - Maintain availability
- How do we work with partners to ensure coordination with other practice needs (e.g., reimbursement)?
- How do we address barriers to licensure for other disciplines and out-of-state professionals?

## RESEARCH & RESOURCES

- What resources would be helpful to answer these subgroup questions?
- What stakeholder groups should be considered and how can we include their participation?
- What can Vermont learn from other states' regulatory programs?
- What other research would you like OPR to conduct?
- What other research and resources does this group have available?

## NEXT MEETING DATES

### Meetings: 2-4pm

- Supervision – Dec. 5
- Streamlining & Barriers – Dec. 12
- Whole Group Meeting – Dec. 18

[Sos.opr.comments@vermont.gov](mailto:Sos.opr.comments@vermont.gov)