

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/)



STREAMLINING SUBGROUP AGENDA

- Welcome
- Review Barriers to Entry Issues and Question
- Discussion: how to collect resources to inform/address these issues

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 are needed to answer these subgroup questions?
 - How can we get the resources and materials necessary?
 - What materials/research can OPR collect for the group?
 - What organizations can OPR contact or join for a meeting?

NEXT MEETING DATES

- Whole Group Meeting – Dec. 18
- Supervisor Regulations Subgroup – Jan. 2
- Streamlining Regulations Subgroup – Jan. 9

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