



## Chapter 2955/2965 Advisory Committee 9-17-2024 Meeting Notes

Meeting began around 10:02 a.m. central time

Page-and-line numbers correspond with the online rule draft, dated 8/6/2024.

### 1. Staff qualifications (2955.0090).

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#### 1.1 Background checks.

- This language was considered redundant because facilities are subject to background-check requirements through their license or otherwise according to law (department prisons).

**Action item:** Search the rule draft for other references to background checks or criminal convictions for staff.

#### 1.2 Administrative director.

- Do we need to have this position in rule? The following items were discussed:
  - It would be helpful to have a clinical person as an administrative director given the program they are overseeing.
  - Most clinical supervisors meet the rule criteria for an administrative director; lines 21.1 to 21.3 already allow for dual roles.
  - Administrative directors can help with the program's budget, funding, and nonclinical issues.

**Action item:** Search the rule draft to list the responsibilities of the administrative director; at a future meeting, determine whether or how to amend the rule.

#### 1.3 Training.

- What is considered training? There should be flexibility to allow for different types of training such as conferences, videos, webinars, observations, etc. But depending on the topic, we may want to specify what type of training to require. We could look to health-licensed boards for examples.



- There is no mandated training on sexual abuse or mental health. Other topics could include motivational interviewing.
- Some of the training topics require more hours than is currently provided by the department for its training on sex offenders.
- Discussed whether (or if) the amended training requirements will apply retroactively to programs.
- There shouldn't be optional training, and the optional topics are important for staff who work in the programs.
- The proposed training for direct-care staff was considered too onerous given the position; for prisons, we don't have the authority to dictate what the security staff must receive training on.

**Action item:** Continue to discuss the training topics and hours; find more information on the department's training, including the training provided at its juvenile facility in Red Wing.

#### **1.4 Therapists and counselors.**

- Discussed whether to increase degree requirements. But programs are finding it difficult to hire positions and stated that we need to have flexibility for people in graduate school. We must also follow the governor's executive order on lowering degree requirements for state jobs.
- We still should require a degree for counselors because of the clients being served.
- There are also variances that can consider case-by-case decisions for staff (for example, someone is a probation officer with 25 years of experience but no degree).
- Reminded the group of previous discussion on delineating what unlicensed staff can or cannot do in the rule (unlicensed counselors).
- Discussed whether to tie the therapist and counselor training and qualifications to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 245I, the Mental Health Uniform Service Standards Act.

**Action item:** Compare rule requirements to chapter 245I to help determine whether to align the rule with the Mental Health Uniform Service Standards Act.

## 2. ATSA.

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- Agreed to have ATSA review the rule draft and possibly attend a meeting.

**Action item:** Rulemaking manager will coordinate with ATSA.

The meeting ended around 11:27 a.m. central time

### **Attendees**

Ian Lewenstein, Robin Goldman, Lauren Bizzotto, Mindy Malm, Holly Hanson, Kristi Strang, Shanna Langston, Jesse Clark, Tim Schrupp, Janae Sullivan, Unverified (by phone)