

Subject Behavioral health provider workforce and diversity

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Overview

This bill makes several changes affecting mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers, including requiring health insurance coverage for mental health treatment provided by clinical trainees, adding alcohol and drug counselors to the health professional loan forgiveness program, requiring mental health licensing boards to increase geographical and racial or cultural diversity, and requiring additional continuing education for mental health providers to better serve clients from diverse backgrounds. The bill also expands the definition of “mental health practitioner” to include a student who is completing a practicum or internship, expands services eligible for children’s mental health grants, establishes the Culturally Informed and Culturally Responsive Mental Health Task Force, directs the commissioners of health and human services to convene working groups, and appropriates money for activities and requirements in the bill.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Mental health services.
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Adds subd. 3c to § 62A.15. Requires a group policy or subscriber contract that covers mental health treatment or services provided by a mental health professional to also cover treatment and services provided by a clinical trainee practicing in compliance with the medical assistance requirements for covering services provided by a clinical trainee.

Makes this section effective January 1, 2022, and applicable to policies and contracts offered, issued, or renewed on or after that date.

Section	Description
2	Definitions. Amends § 144.1501, subd. 1. Adds definition of alcohol and drug counselor to the section governing the health professional education loan forgiveness program.
3	Creation of account. Amends § 144.1501, subd. 2. Authorizes the commissioner of health to provide loan forgiveness for alcohol and drug counselors who agree to practice in designated rural areas.
4	Eligibility. Amends § 144.1501, subd. 3. Includes persons enrolled in a training or education program to become an alcohol or drug counselor in the list of persons eligible to participate in the health professional education loan forgiveness program.
5	Members. Amends § 148.90, subd. 2. For the Board of Psychology, requires that, at the time of their appointments, at least three members of the board reside outside of the 11-county metropolitan area, and at least three members are members of a community of color or underrepresented community.
6	Continuing education. Amends § 148.911. Requires at least six of the required continuing education hours for licensed psychologists to be on increasing knowledge, understanding, awareness, and skills that enable them to serve clients from diverse backgrounds. Lists topics for continuing education.
7	Creation. Amends § 148B.30, subd. 1. For the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy, requires that, at the time of their appointments, at least two members of the board reside outside of the 11-county metropolitan area, and at least three members are members of a community of color or underrepresented community.
8	Duties of the Board. Amends § 148B.31. Requires at least six of the required continuing education hours for licensed marriage and family therapists to be on increasing knowledge, understanding, awareness, and skills that enable them to serve clients from diverse backgrounds. Lists topics for continuing education.
9	Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy. Amends § 148B.51. For the Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy, requires that, at the time of their appointments, at least five members of the board reside outside of

Section	Description
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- the 11-county metropolitan area, and at least five members are members of a community of color or underrepresented community.
- 10 **Continuing education.**
Amends § 148B.54, subd. 2. Requires at least six of the required continuing education hours for licensed professional clinical counselors to be on increasing knowledge, understanding, awareness, and skills that enable them to serve clients from diverse backgrounds. Lists topics for continuing education.
- 11 **Total clock hours required.**
Amends § 148E.130, subd. 1. Requires at least six of the required continuing education hours for licensed social workers to be on increasing knowledge, understanding, awareness, and skills that enable them to serve clients from diverse backgrounds. Lists topics for continuing education.
- 12 **Mental health practitioner.**
Amends § 245.462, subd. 17. Expands the definition of “mental health practitioner” to include a student who is completing a practicum or internship as part of a formal undergraduate or graduate social work, psychology, or counseling program.
- 13 **Establishment and authority.**
Amends § 245.4889, subd. 1. Expands services eligible for children’s mental health grant funding to include, as part of mental health services for people from cultural and ethnic minorities, supervision of clinical trainees who are Black, indigenous, or people of color providing services in certain clinics. Also adds to list of eligible services mental health services based on traditional healing practices, provided to American Indians by tribes or urban American Indian communities.
- 14 **Culturally Informed and Culturally Responsive Mental Health Task Force.**
Proposes coding for § 245.4902.
- Subd. 1. Establishment; duties.** Establishes the Culturally Informed and Culturally Responsive Mental Health Task Force to evaluate and make recommendations on improving the provision of culturally informed and culturally responsive mental health services throughout Minnesota. Lists specific recommendations the task force must make.
- Subd. 2. Membership.** Lists the members of the task force, to be appointed by August 1, 2021; provides compensation and expense reimbursement.
- Subd. 3. Chairs; meetings.** Requires the election of two cochairs, who must convene the first task force meeting by August 15, 2021. Allows meetings at the

Section	Description
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call of the cochairs; specifies that the task force is subject to the open meeting law.

Subd. 4. Administrative support. Requires the Department of Human Services to provide administrative support and meeting space.

Subd. 5. Reports. Requires an annual report to the legislature on the task force recommendations.

Subd. 6. Expiration. Provides a January 1, 2025, expiration date for the task force.

15 **Direction to commissioners; alternative mental health professional licensing pathways work group.**

Requires the commissioners of health and human services to convene a work group with representatives from the mental health professional licensing boards, mental health providers from diverse communities, and representatives from mental health professional graduate programs to:

- identify barriers to licensure in mental health professions;
- collect data on the number of individuals graduating from educational programs but not passing licensing exams; and
- develop recommendations for creating alternative pathways for licensure in mental health professions.

Provides for reimbursement for expenses for mental health providers participating in the work group. Requires a report to the legislature on the work group's recommendations by February 1, 2023.

16 **Direction to commissioners; mental health professional licensing supervision.**

Requires the commissioners of health and human services to convene the mental health professional licensing boards to develop recommendations on:

- providing certification of individuals across multiple mental health professions to serve as supervisors;
- adopting a single, common supervision certificate for all mental health professional education programs;
- determining ways for internship hours to be counted toward licensure; and
- determining ways for practicum hours to count toward supervisory experience.

Section	Description
	Requires a report to the legislature on the recommendations by February 1, 2023.
17	Appropriation; Culturally Informed and Culturally Responsive Mental Health Task Force. Appropriates money for the task force established under section 14.
18	Appropriation; mental health cultural community continuing education. Appropriates \$500,000 in each fiscal year to the commissioner of health for a grant program to provide the necessary continuing education for mental health professionals who are members of communities of color or underrepresented communities, working for community mental health providers, to become supervisors.
19	Appropriation; health professional education loan forgiveness program. Appropriates \$3,000,000 in each fiscal year to the commissioner of health for the health professional education loan forgiveness program; specifies distribution of funding for loan forgiveness for alcohol and drug counselors and eligible mental health professionals who are Black, indigenous, people of color, or members of an underrepresented community.



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