



# RULES WORKSHOP

Behavioral Health Support Specialist

# Communication Avenues

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- DOH Program Staff: [BHSS@doh.wa.gov](mailto:BHSS@doh.wa.gov)
- Sign up for [GovDelivery](#) for updates
- Check our [website](#)

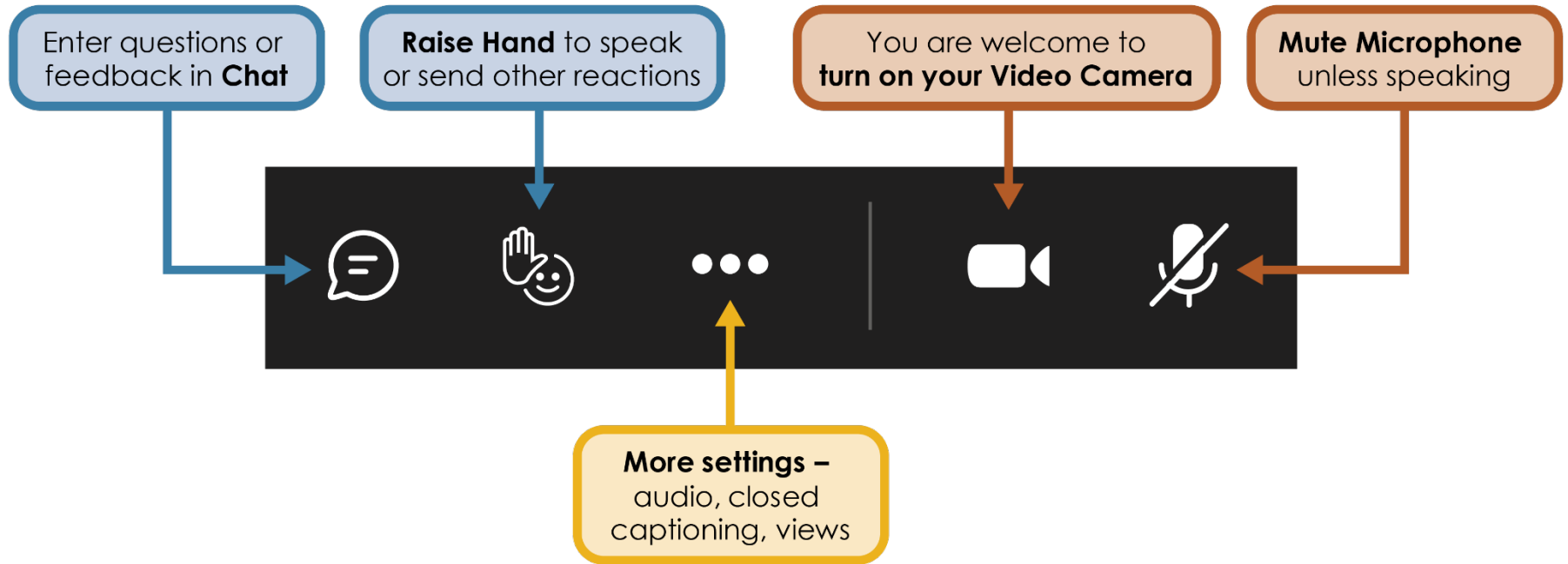
## Other

- University of Washington [website](#)



# MEETING GUIDELINES

# MS Teams Features We Will Use Today



## Tips

- Try to be present
- State your name before speaking
- Speak clearly



# OVERVIEW

# Overview

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Substitute Senate Bill 5189 (2023) established a new profession: Behavioral Health Support Specialist (BHSS)

- Per the bill a BHSS is “a person certified to deliver brief, evidence-based interventions with a scope of practice that includes behavioral health under the supervision of a Washington state credentialed provider who has the ability to assess, diagnose, and treat identifiable mental and behavioral health conditions as part of their scope. A behavioral health support specialist does not have within their scope of practice the ability to make diagnoses but does track and monitor treatment response and outcomes using measurement-based care.”

# Approximate Timeline for Rulemaking

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File a new CR101 – completed July 2023

Rules workshops – Fall 2023 and Spring 2024

File CR102 – Summer 2024

Public Hearing – Fall 2024

File CR103 – November 2024

New BHSS credentials available – January 1, 2025

# Dates and Topics

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- November 6, 2023 - 12:00pm (Apprenticeships)
- November 7, 2023 - 1:00pm (canceled)





# WORKSHOP – CONTINUING EDUCATION

# Requirements in Bill

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- 20 hours of continuing education (CE) every two years after initial certification for certification renewal

Things to determine:

- Required topics and minimum hours in each topic (ethics, suicide, equity, telehealth etc)
- Documentation
- Types of CE (self study, articles, serving on panel, preparing a CE course etc)
- Acceptable accreditation for those who offer CE courses



# WORKSHOP – SUPERVISORS

# Supervisors

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## Section 2:

Under the definition of a BHSS:

“a person certified to deliver brief, evidence-based interventions with a scope of practice that includes behavioral health under the supervision of a Washington state credentialed provider who has the ability to assess, diagnose, and treat identifiable mental and behavioral health conditions as part of their scope. A behavioral health support specialist does not have within their scope of practice the ability to make diagnoses but does track and monitor treatment response and outcomes using measurement-based care.”

# Potential Supervisors

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## Under statute:

- Physicians
- Physician Assistants
- Psychologists
- Psychiatric ARNP
- Osteopaths
- Social Workers
- Mental Health Counselors
- All associate levels of the above professions

## To be determined:

- Marriage and Family Therapists

## Not qualified:

- Substance Use Disorder Professional

# Questions

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## Supervisor once licensed

- Meeting topics?
- Treatment plans?
- Meeting time required? (example:1 hour every week?)
- Supervisor/BHSS relationship? License repercussions for supervisor?
- Training requirements for supervisor?

Questions?

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