

CBHC Policy Priority:

HB 24-1045: Allowing Licensed Clinicians with Addictions Training to Supervise Addictions Professional Candidates

HOUSE SPONSORS: Ryan Armagost (R) and Chris deGruy Kennedy (D), Mary Young (D)

SENATE SPONSORSHIP: Kyle Mullica (D) and Perry Will (R), Sonya Jaquez Lewis (D), Kevin Priola (D)

Issue Background:

An important tool for addressing the shortage of addictions treatment professionals and improving access to substance use treatment is making it easier for addictions treatment candidates to get the supervised hours required to qualify for their certification. To that end, HB 24-1045 from the [Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee](#) includes language from CBHC allowing licensed clinical social workers (LCSWs) and licensed professional counselors (LPCs) to supervise candidates for certified addiction counselor and certified addiction specialist credentials if those LCSWs and LPCs have education or experience working with addiction disorders.

Such treatment is already within the scope of practice of LCSWs and LPCs. CBHC will also seek to add licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFTs) and Licensed Psychologists (LPs) to the bill and defend against amendments from the addictions professional community that would require licensed professionals with relevant clinical experience providing such supervision to undergo extensive additional training and supervision of their own—an approach that would defeat the purpose of the proposal.

HB 24-1045

Sections 4, 5, 6, and 25 authorize licensed clinical social workers and licensed professional counselors within their scope of practice to provide clinical supervision to individuals seeking certification as addiction technicians and addiction specialists and direct the state board of addiction counselors and the state board of human services, as applicable, to adopt rules relating to clinical supervision by these professionals.

Talking Points About the Issue:

- Colorado must consider all options to grow its behavioral health workforce.
- Expanding the types of professionals that can supervise addiction technicians and specialists is one way that we can grow the pipeline of addictions professionals.
- This is an access to care issue. Providers are unable to maximize their current capacity due to workforce shortages. This policy would allow providers to “train their own” to increase access to critical services that communities are demanding.
- This type of flexibility to cross-supervise candidates for licensure currently exists for many of the other regulated behavioral health professions included in Colorado’s Mental Health Practice Act.
- Professionals must have “relevant professional experience” to qualify as a supervisor. CBHC will suggest criteria to the Board of Addiction Professionals for demonstrating relevant experience; however, we oppose criteria that essentially requires a master’s level, licensed professional to duplicate classes and supervised hours already obtained.