



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

## Recommendation to the Commission

**Party Submitting Recommendation:** Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force

**Date of Submission:** 10/30/2017

**Type of Action Requested:**

Legislation     Policy     Resolution of Support or Endorsement     Public Promotion

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance:**

Child Safety and services     Juvenile Justice and Cross-system Youth  
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse     Educational Outcomes

**Summary of Recommendation:**

Amend IC 25-23.6-8.5-3(2) to delete "and one (1) advanced internship of three hundred hours..." and replacing wording of "at least one hundred (100) hours of face to face supervision" with "at least sixty-six (66) hours of face to face supervision."

Amend IC 25-23.6-5-3.5 (a) to add a sentence "Virtual supervision by a qualified supervisor may account for up to 50% of the required supervision hours." Add the same language to IC 25-23.6-8-2.7 (b); IC 25-23.6-8-5-4 (b); and IC 25-23.6-10.5-7 (a).

**Background of Recommendation:**

What is the need or problem?

There is a shortage of qualified, licensed clinicians in Indiana to provide clinical services to children and families, particularly those served through the Department of Child Services referrals. Currently, Indiana Code requires Master's in Counseling students to have 1,000 hours of internship and 100 hours of face to face supervision before being eligible for the Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC). Many accredited Master's degree programs in Counseling provide only 700 hours of internship and fewer hours of supervision than Indiana's law requires. Graduates of these programs move to other states where the licensing requirements match their internship and supervision hours, and where they can practice without additional internship hours. Indiana is losing possible practitioners because of these

requirements. Indiana also requires students have 100 hours of face-to-face supervision, but again students are leaving the state to meet other states' requirements of fewer hours of face-to-face supervision.

Current Indiana Code and rules require that post-Master's supervision for the Licensed Clinical Social Work (LCSW), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), LMHC, and Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselor (LCAC) be face-to-face supervision. Because of the limited number of qualified supervisors in Indiana, applicants for these licenses must often seek supervision outside of their home agency or place of residence. Rural counties are particularly affected by the face-to-face supervision requirements. Virtual supervision will allow live supervision through technology that reduces this barrier of travel time and distance from supervisors.

What is the current response to the problem by the State of Indiana?

The Professional Licensing Agency administers licensing of professions according to Indiana Code. Without revisions to the IC, these barriers to attaining sufficient numbers of clinicians cannot be further addressed.

What is the recommender proposing, and how will it help solve the problem?

Recommend that the code be changed to have 700 hours of internship and 66 hours of face to face supervision. Recommend adding language to the code to permit virtual supervision for up to 50% of clinical supervision hours by a qualified supervisor.

What data, research or other information did the recommender consult to formulate this proposal?

Dr. Dale Wayman, Ph. D. teaches and practices in Indiana; and he serves as the Executive Director of the Indiana Counseling Association. He had difficulty meeting Indiana's LMHC standards and noted that students are leaving the state to practice in other states with fewer hours of internship and supervision requirements. Additionally, a survey was conducted by the Indiana Association of Resources & Child Advocacy (IARCA) with 54 agencies responding; it (1) identified the barriers to LMHC licensure and (2) identified the ability to use virtual supervision as supportive of achievement of licensure for clinicians.

**If a legislative request, cite the current relevant code and specify what change is being recommended.**

IC 25-23.6-8.5-3 (2) needs to delete "and one (1) advanced internship of three hundred (300) hours..." and replace "at least one hundred (100) hours of face to face supervision" with "at least sixty-six (66) hours of face to face supervision."

Amend IC 25-23.6-5-3.5 (a) to add a sentence "Virtual supervision by a qualified supervisor may account for up to 50% of the required supervision hours." Add the same language to IC 25-23.6-8-2.7 (b); IC 25-23.6-8-5-4 (b); and IC 25-23.6-10.5-7 (a).

**If a policy request, cite the current relevant policy and specify what change is being recommended.**

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**If the recommendation involves an endorsement or public promotion of a specific initiative or statement, attach the document of which you are seeking the Commission's support/endorsement/promotion.**