

<b>CHELAN-DOUGLAS RSN/PIHP POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL</b>		Chapter:	1.8.1
Title:	INTRODUCTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES	Page:	1 of 3
		Date Effective:	July 1, 2004
Subject:	STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS	Date Revised:	August 6, 2007
		Authorizing Signature:	

**AUTHORITY:** Guiding Principle(s): Effectively Managed  
WAC 388-865-0150, Definitions--Mental Health Professional  
WAC 388-865-0260, Mental Health Professionals and Specialists  
WAC 388-865-0265, Mental Health Professional--Exception  
WAC 388-865-0405, Competency Requirements for Staff  
RCW 71.24, Community Mental Health Services Act  
DSHS Title XIX Contract and Federal Waiver

**SCOPE:** This policy applies to Chelan-Douglas Regional Support Network/Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (CDRSN/PIHP) and its contractors (agencies/providers), and subcontractors (referred to as contractors or agencies or providers throughout this policy).

**PURPOSE:** This Policy provides standards and a mechanism for individuals to obtain status as a mental health professional under WAC 388-865-0150, upon review of a written request from Provider Network agencies to the CDRSN/PIHP.

**DEFINITIONS:** “**child mental health specialist**” is a mental health professional with the following education and experience:

- 1) A minimum of one hundred actual hours (not quarter or semester hours) of special training in child development and the treatment of children and youth with serious emotional disturbance and their families; and
- 2) The equivalent of one year of full time experience in the treatment of seriously emotionally disturbed children and youth and their families under the supervision of a child mental health specialist.

“**geriatric mental health specialist**” is defined as a mental health professional who has the following education and experience:

- 1) A minimum of one hundred actual hours (not quarter or semester hours) of specialized training devoted to the mental health problems and treatment of persons sixty years of age or older; and
- 2) The equivalent of one year of full-time experience in the treatment of persons sixty years of age or older, under the supervision of a geriatric mental health specialist.

**“ethnic minority mental health specialist”** is defined as a mental health professional who has demonstrated cultural competence attained through major commitment, ongoing training, experience and/or specialization in serving ethnic minorities, including evidence of one year of service specializing in serving the ethnic minority group under the supervision of an ethnic minority mental health specialist ; and

- 1) Evidence of support from the ethnic minority community attesting to the person’s commitment to that community ;or
- 2) A minimum of one hundred actual hours (not quarter or semester hours) of specialized training devoted to ethnic minority issues and treatment of ethnic minority consumers.

**“disability mental health specialist:** is defined as a mental health professional with expertise in working with an identified disability group. For purposes of this chapter only, **“disabled”** means an individual with a disability other than a mental illness, including a developmental disability, serious physical handicap or sensory impairment.

- 1) If a consumer is deaf, the specialist must be a mental health professional with:
  - a) knowledge about the deaf culture and psychosocial problems faced by people who are deaf; and
  - b) Ability to communicate fluently in the preferred language system of the consumer.
- 2) The specialist for consumer with developmental disabilities must be a mental health professional who:
  - c) Has at least one year’s experience working with people with developmental disabilities; or
  - d) Is a developmental disabilities professional as defined in RCW 71.05.020

**POLICY:** The Chelan-Douglas RSN/PIHP, consistent with WAC 388-865-0150, and WAC 388-865-0260 provide the means and standards for the CDRSN provider network to qualify staff persons as mental health specialists and assure sufficient numbers of trained and credentialed staff are available in the service area to meet the needs of eligible consumers.

**PROCEDURE:** A. Qualification as a Mental Health Specialist 1) The clinical director at the RSN receives a written request from a supervisor from within the RSN provider network asking that a specific staff member from that agencies staff be qualified as a mental health specialist. The correspondence shall include the following information:

- a) verification of the persons status as a mental health professional

b) verification of training, work experience or support of the specific minority community, as required by WAC

2) The clinical director reviews and authenticates information submitted.

3) The clinical director then develops a letter to the provider supervisor indicating that the staff member meets the standard and qualifies as the request mental health specialist; or specify the areas where the standard of the requested mental health professional was not met and decline to qualify the staff as a mental health specialist.

4) The CDRSN/PIHP documents efforts to acquire/ensure: a) the services of required mental health professionals and specialists; b) ensure a training program using in-service training or outside resources to assist service provider to acquire necessary skill and experience to serve the needs of the consumer population; c) If more than 500 persons in the total population in the CDRSN/PIHP geographic area report in the U.S> Census that they belong to racial/ethnic groups defined in WAC 388-865-0150, the CDRSN will contract or otherwise establish a working relationship with the required specialists to: i) provide all or part of the treatment services for these populations; or ii) Supervise or provide consultation to staff members providing treatment services to these populations.

SEE ALSO: Mental Health Professional Waiver Request form  
Mental Health Professional Waiver Request Instruction Sheet  
Glossary of Terms and Acronyms