

Webber, Jeanette

From: OPLC: Licensing 9
Sent: Tuesday, December 24, 2024 12:16 PM
To: Dr. Melissa Caldwell
Cc: Webber, Jeanette; Lamy, Erica
Subject: RE: Mental health qualification concerns in jails
Attachments: SB 369.pdf

Thank you for your concerns,
I will forward this to the board administration for board review. Please understand that the board members may or may not provide comment on said topic. I am also providing you with the latest information on SB 369 regarding public comment during board meetings.
Kind regards,
Jenna Hallee
Licensing Supervisor



State of New Hampshire
Office of Professional Licensure and Certification
7 Eagle Square • Concord, NH 03301
www.oplc.nh.gov

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From: Dr. Melissa Caldwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 10:55 AM
To: Dr. Melissa Caldwell [REDACTED]
Subject: Mental health qualification concerns in jails

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Dear Board Members,

By way of introduction, my name is Dr. Melissa S. Caldwell, CCHP-MH/A, and I am a Clinical Forensic Psychologist and the President of Behavioral Health Services for Freedom Behavioral Health, Inc. I am writing to request your support in the field of corrections.

It has come to my attention that some correctional facilities are employing individuals who either lack appropriate licensure or are inadequately supervised to provide mental health care to incarcerated individuals. This includes tasks such as conducting assessments, providing therapy, and creating treatment plans without the necessary oversight from licensed professionals. Allowing these individuals to assume such responsibilities is not only a violation of professional standards, but it also puts vulnerable populations at risk.

The correctional setting presents unique and serious mental health challenges, including higher rates of mental illness and suicide. It is critical that these individuals receive care from qualified, licensed professionals who can ensure ethical and effective treatment. Allowing under-licensed or unlicensed individuals to act as mental health providers compromises both the quality of care and the safety of the individuals receiving it.

I respectfully ask that you consider taking the following actions to ensure correctional compliance with state licensure requirements to improve the quality of care in correctional facilities:

1. Conduct audits of mental health services in correctional settings to verify the credentials of those providing care.
2. Enforce penalties for facilities employing individuals who are not licensed or appropriately supervised.
3. Provide guidance and education to correctional facilities about the legal and ethical standards for providing mental health services.

Your support in addressing this issue will not only protect the well-being of incarcerated individuals but will also strengthen the integrity of the mental health profession. I look forward to hearing from you regarding any steps the board may take to resolve these concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Melissa S. Caldwell, PhD, CCHP-MH/A
Clinical-Forensic Psychologist
President of Behavioral Health Services
Freedom Behavioral Health, Inc.


www.freedom-bh.com

2 Corinthians 1:4

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