L&I’s medical provider system currently has 1,460 mental health specialty providers (psychiatrists, psychiatric ARNPs, and psychologists). L&I does not currently cover services delivered to injured workers by master’s level therapists.

Master’s level therapists and some other stakeholders have requested L&I change its rules and policy (e.g., WAC 296-21-270).

L&I has committed to moving forward with this.
Current Status

• Stakeholder group has met four times (5/22, 6/21, 8/23, 9/28)
  • Introduction to L&I and workers’ compensation system, Healthy Worker 2020, Vocational Recovery Project, Disability Prevention And Management
  • Best practices and interventions
  • Models from other jurisdictions (e.g., reimbursement differentials)
  • Provider types (e.g., credentials, licensing)
  • Scope of practice and facility type (e.g., covered codes)
  • Conditions and timing for treatment
  • Master’s Level Therapist engagement with other providers in the system

• Next Meeting October 31st, 2018
  • Will discuss implementation approach, training needs and approaches
  • Future meeting scheduled for 12/3
Scope of Project

• Measures and outcomes
  • Looking at use of PHQ-9, GAD-7, other potential functional measures
• Coordination and effective communication (e.g., authorization, what does and doesn’t require prior-auth)
  • Discussing the current MH pathway, and how these new providers may fit into system
• Payment model
  • Looking at current landscape of payment methodology
• Access to care based on geography
  • How do we make access to necessary MH or BH care equitable?
• Implementation approach
  • Potential for pilot rulemaking
• Training (e.g., Common understanding of WAC and WC system)
  • Workers’ compensation 101
All WC claims
1,000 worker example

20% 200 workers

80% Medical only 800 workers

Only about 20% of workers need more care than brief, medical only treatment

Occupational Health Best Practice care for most is sufficient
Additional services for more assistance:
Psychosocial Determinants Influencing Recovery
Disability Prevention and Management
Progressive Goal Attainment Program
Vocational Recovery Services

Functional Recovery Questionnaire can help identify those at risk
Medication list on formulary (no auth required)
Approved for treatment of symptoms (insomnia, chronic pain, etc)

Behavioral Health ~5%
10 workers

Of that 20%, only ~5% require more care to overcome behavioral health barriers to recovery

Behavioral Health Integration
Brief behavioral intervention
Functional progress tracking

Very few workers have mental health conditions interfering with recovery

MH Needed 1%
~1 worker
Questions and Discussion?