



Y Education Enhancement Program

(Y + Sponsor University)

CONTACT

Donnie Goodman

dgoodman@seattlemca.org

Genell Hennings

ghennings@seattlemca.org

The Education Enhancement Program (EEP)

- To develop and implement a new educational program that addresses behavioral health workforce shortage issues.
- The EEP will provide the educational requirements for achieving master's degree in counseling.
- The program will be tuition-free for currently employed staff at participating non-profit agencies.
- The program's education core will be provided during regular work/business hours on a specified day each week. Participating agencies will permit their staff to attend scheduled classes; and commit to paying their salaries during class time.
- In lieu of tuition payments, the participants must commit to working four years after graduation from the program at their respective agency as a mental health counselor.

Issues addressed by the Education Enhancement Program

- The BH field lacks diversity because of the privilege required to obtain a master's degree.
 - This free program:
 - Removes this privilege by eliminating financial barriers.
 - Honors and respects the current life demands of the students.
 - Blends the studies into the workday to eliminate costly after-hours support.

Curriculum Focus:

- The curriculum is being designed to:
 - Focus on working at agency not private practice
 - Incorporate BIPOC and LGBTQ+ cultures throughout the entire education process – servicing diverse populations.
 - Focus on trauma informed care
 - Harm reduction
 - Use current evidence-based practices such as Motivational Interviewing, CTB, DBT and CBTP
 - Educate about de-escalation and crisis education
 - Teach the value of and completing individual service plans with the “golden thread”

**studies have shown that higher education curriculum is 15 – 25 years behind current trends and practices.*

Where are we at currently:

- We received our initial pre-planning grant in early 2022
 - We hired Genell Hennings as our Program Manager
 - We have continued to apply for grants for long-term financial sustainability
 - We have formed an Advisory Group (AG) consisting of volunteers from various local agencies, businesses, other entities
- After the initial planning meeting, the AG was divided into two sub-groups that meet bi-weekly.

Sub-groups:

1. Policy & Procedures sub-group

1. Creating the student handbook
2. Creating policies around the education process
3. Creating student contracts
4. Creating

2. Curriculum Sub-group

1. Designing curriculum to address the previous core subject areas
2. Designing class syllabi's to meet the WAC while blending core subject areas
3. Designing curriculum that focuses on working at agencies vs private practice

The background features a solid blue gradient. A diagonal band, composed of many thin, parallel lines in a light brown or tan color, runs from the top-left towards the bottom-right. The word "Questions?" is centered in the right half of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Questions?