

# WA Assoc. of Marriage & Family Therapists

## 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### **SHB 2728:** Representative Vandana Slatter – (48<sup>th</sup> - Redmond) **SUPPORT**

**Bill Summary:** (1) Codifies the implementation of the Psychiatry Consultation Line (PCL). (2) Modifies data and reporting requirements for the Partnership Access Line (PAL), PCL, PAL for Moms, and PAL for Kids Referral and Assistance programs. (3) Establishes a funding model for the PAL and PCL programs. (4) Creates the Telebehavioral Health Access Account. (5) Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to conduct a review of the PAL, PCL, PAL for Moms, and PAL for Kids Referral Assistance Service programs.

#### **Why WAMFT Supports the bill:**

- ADL – when a family presents to a physician with complicated mental and behavioral health need, there are times that physician needs a peer consult or referral. These telemedicine lines are utilized to ensure timely and accurate access to much needed (and sometimes difficult) to find services
- WAMFT members can and do receive calls from these lines and encourage the continued use and expansion to ensure access and referrals to those in need.

### **HB 2411:** Representative Tina Orwall - (33<sup>rd</sup>, Kent) **SUPPORT**

**Bill Summary:** (1) Requires advanced suicide prevention training for certain mental health professionals. (2) Requires optometrists, acupuncture, and Eastern medicine practitioners to complete one-time training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management. (3) Requires veterinarians and veterinary technicians to complete suicide prevention training. (4) Requires the University of Washington to develop suicide prevention training for the construction industry.

#### **Why WAMFT Supports the bill:**

- Increased awareness and training is always better and the more people who are able to help those in need the better the chances of saving more lives and keeping families intact.
- As family therapists, we see first-hand how important it is for entire families to be receiving care when someone is suicidal.
- This is a continued effort of WAMFT to support industries who have the need for additional training for awareness and prevention. We look forward to being available to the UW to assist on the training as we were with other industries.

### **HB 2338:** Representative Nicole Macri - (43<sup>rd</sup> - Capitol Hill, Seattle) **SUPPORT**

**Bill Summary:** (1) Expands health coverage mental health parity requirements for coverage issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2021, the following exemptions from the definition of "mental health treatment" are eliminated: "life transition problems," substance use disorders, skilled nursing facility services, home health care, residential treatment, custodial care, and court-ordered treatment. (2) Student-only health plans offered to students in institutions of higher education are made subject to the mental health parity requirements applicable to disability contractors.

#### **Why WAMFT Supports the bill:**

- The bill would put Washington into greater alignment with the stronger federal protections for all residents – including students.
- Protects transgender individual's right to health care coverage.
- Continues the efforts to keep health coverage free from discrimination in Washington.