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SB 105 Sectional Analysis

Marital and Family Therapy License and Services

Sections 1 & 2 of the bill impact AS 08.63 “Marital & Family Therapy” and the subsections 08.63.100 “Qualifications for license to practice” and 08.63.120 “Authorized Supervisors.”

Section 1: “Qualifications for license to practice” - AS 08.63.100

PAGE 2, LINES 17-25: adds a supervision requirement for martial & family therapists and clarifies that the required 1,500 hours of clinical contact must include 100 hours of individual supervision and 100 hours of group supervision and that may be conducted by one or more supervisors. **The intent is to allow doctor A to supervise and if Doctor A becomes unavailable, doctor B can continue the supervision a Martial & Family Therapist associate.**

Section 1 continues on:

PAGE 2, LINES 29-31: It requires not less than \$30,000 in professional liability coverage for the applicant’s regulatory investigation fees in the state.

Section 2: impacts “Authorized Supervisors”

PAGE 3, LINES 2-18: expands the group supervision to include professional counselors, marital & family therapists, physicians who are licensed as a psychiatrist, an advanced practice registered nurse who is authorized by the Board of Nursing to practice as an adult or family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, a psychologist, and a social worker.

Sections 3, 4, & 5 impact AS 47.07 “Medical Assistance for Needy Persons” and the subsection AS 47.07.030 “Medical Services to be Provided.”

Section 3: impacts *“Medical Services to be Provided”*

PAGE 3, LINE 31: adds marital and family therapy services to the list of optional services available through the Dept. of Health & Social Services under this subsection.

Section 4: impacts *“Medical Services to be Provided”*

PAGE 4, LINES 8-16: adds a new paragraph (g) to AS 47.70.030 to clarify that the term “direct supervision” may be performed by **one or more** psychiatrists, as long as that supervision takes place on the premises of the clinic 30 % of the time that the clinic is open.

The so-called 30% Rule is found in regulation 7AAC 135.030 “Provider enrollment and organization.”

Section 5: impacts *“Medical Services to be Provided”*

PAGE 4, LINES 17-31 & PAGE 5, LINE 1: adds a new subsection (h) to AS 47.70.030 that allows the department to reimburse a mental health physician clinic for services provided by a psychiatrist, or an individual who works under a psychiatrist and is licensed to practice as a professional counselor, a marital & family therapist, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse who is authorized by the Board of Nursing to practice as an adult or family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, a psychologist, a psychologist associate, and a clinical social worker.

Section 6:

PAGE 5, LINES 2-7: amends the uncodified law to authorize the Department of Health and Social Services and the Board of Marital and Family Therapy to adopt regulations to implement the changes of this act.

Section 7:

PAGE 5, LINE 8: contains the immediate effective date for Section 6 which refers to the regulation development.

Section 7:

PAGE 5, LINE 9: provides for a January 1, 2019 effective date for all sections other than Section 6.