

PRESS RELEASE

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DSPS Communications

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State Working with Professionals to Improve Workforce Data

Wisconsin Safety and Professional Services Engaging Behavioral Health Workers

Madison – The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) is reaching out to some of its license holders for help in shaping the future of healthcare in Wisconsin.

The department is including a workforce survey as part of the renewal process for behavioral health professions, including social workers, professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists.

“This is a great opportunity for these professionals to be part of the solution,” said DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth. “We’re engaging them because their answers can help identify areas of potential need, which in turn can help shape policy and shape decisions on the allocation of state resources. In short, they can help strengthen the future of their profession.”

This survey marks the first time DSPS has used the [Cross-Profession Minimum Data Set \(CPMDS\)](#), a set of core questions for collecting data elements considered to be the minimum necessary for health workforce planning. Sec. Hereth says the survey is brief and easy but could have a big impact.

“We’ve seen how some states are using this survey to gather the data necessary for workforce planning,” he said. “This data can help identify workforce shortage areas, forecast future employment demand, justify funding requests, and eventually show the impact of policy decisions.”

Using the same core questions in the CPMDS across multiple surveys will make for easier comparison across professions and allow for state-to-state comparisons. DSPS is looking at including the core set of questions in future workforce surveys.

“The Healthcare Regulatory Research Institute (HRRI) applauds Wisconsin’s efforts in using the Cross-Profession Minimum Data Set as part of the behavioral health renewal process,” said Michele Thorman, HRRI Board of Directors. “Policy makers need quality information to inform decision-making and state regulatory boards are strategically positioned to capture workforce information as part of the renewal process. The CPMDS is a framework for regulators and states to use that contains questions that are considered the minimum necessary to support policy and planning across healthcare professions.”

Behavioral health professionals will see the survey when they renew their professional credential in [LicensE](#), the state's online, self-service licensing platform. Their renewal window opened January 10 and runs through the end of February.

About DSPS

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, and maintains the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With two offices and roughly 250 employees, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.

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