



Dear Fellow Psychologists:

My name is David Shearer and I am a clinical and prescribing psychologist. I am writing you as the Washington State Psychological Association (WSPA) Chair of the RxP Taskforce (RxP is often used as shorthand for “prescribing psychology”).

In Spring 2019, WSPA sent an email to over 2,500 psychologists registered in the State of Washington to educate them about RxP and request input regarding interest in or support of pursuing legislation in our State. The proposed legislation would allow a scope of practice change that would permit specially trained psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medication. Similar legislation has been passed in five states (New Mexico, Louisiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho). The results of our survey suggested strong support for RxP, with up to 86% of respondents supporting or strongly supporting the pursuit of RxP legislation (6% were neutral; 7% were opposed). Given those unambiguous results, the WSPA Board of Trustees decided to formally adopt a policy to pursue RxP in the State. You might be aware that the official policy of the American Psychological Association (APA) is one of pursuing and supporting efforts to pass legislation permitting specially trained psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medication. Recently, APA approved psychopharmacology as a new Specialty Area of professional psychology.

We now have a draft bill, a bill sponsor in the House, and have submitted our Sunrise Application to the Department of Health (DOH). The role of the DOH and the Sunrise Application is to determine if our application meets the criteria for a change in scope of practice; they collect pro and con statements, hear testimony (written at this time due to COVID-19), and ask for rebuttals after the comment phase closes. If they approve the Application, they will recommend that the Health Care and Wellness Committee consider proceeding with a Bill. The public comment phase ends on June 17. You can

view the Sunrise Application and materials at:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/ProgramsandServices/HealthSystemsQualityAssurance/SunriseReviews/SunriseReviewinProgress>

The DOH is soliciting public comments until June 17, 2020. You can submit those comments by email to sunrise@doh.wa.gov. We STRONGLY encourage you to take time to submit your comments to the DOH.

We recognize the specialty of prescribing psychology is relatively new to our field and you may have many questions. Such legislation would only apply to those psychologists interested in pursuing this specialty and would NOT REQUIRE ANY CHANGE IN PRACTICE for those psychologists not interesting in pursuing RxP. Prescribing psychology would occupy a niche much like that of other specialties in psychology, such as neuropsychology or child psychology.

WSPA would like to provide you with information and an opportunity to ask questions about this legislation and how it would impact our State and profession. Therefore, we CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND A WEBINAR ON RXP. The webinars will last no longer than 90 minutes and a panel of experts will be able to answer your questions about RxP. While the webinars are designed to specifically address psychologists, we welcome other community members' participation as well.

Two webinars covering the same content have been scheduled to accommodate your busy professional lives. We sincerely hope you will be able to attend one of these important opportunities to learn about RxP and ask questions.

Please register for the webinar using the link below. The Zoom link will be sent out at 9 AM day of the webinar.

[RxP Webinar 1:](#) **Wednesday 3 June 2020 **4pm****

[RxP Webinar 2:](#) **Saturday 6 June 2020 **11am****

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at davidshearer.rxp@yahoo.com

Thank you for your time and I hope to see you at one of the webinars.

Respectfully,

David Shearer, PhD, MSCP
Licensed Clinical and Prescribing Psychologist
Chair, WSPA RxP Taskforce

Make a donation to RxP and UP-PAC

RxP and UP-PAC are funded by two different sources so you will need to make separate donations if you plan to donate to both.

Donate to RxP

Donate to UP-PAC

Please note that your donations are not tax deductible.

To make a donation to our RxP efforts by check, please make checks payable to WSPA. To make a donation to our Political Action Committee (PAC), please make checks payable to UP-PAC. Checks can be sent to:

WSPA, 9 S. Washington St. STE 201, Spokane WA 99201

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