



**STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY
AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES
MARCH 2024
STATEMENT OF NEED
BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

*BIG BEND COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND
WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE*

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Program Information

Institution Names: Big Bend Community College and Wenatchee Valley College

Degree Name: Bachelor of Applied Science in Behavioral Health CIP Code: 51.1502

Name(s) of existing technical associate degree(s) that will serve as the foundation:

Degree: BBCC Criminal Justice

CIP Code: 43.0107

Year Began: 2016

Degree: WVC Criminal Justice

CIP Code: 43.0107

Year Began: 2008

Degree: BBCC Early Childhood Education

CIP Code: 13.1210

Year Began: 2004

Degree: WVC Early Childhood Education

CIP Code: 13.1210

Year Began: 1990

Degree: WVC Chemical Dependency

CIP Code: 51.1501

Year Began: 1996

Proposed Start Implementation Date (i.e. Fall 2014): Fall 2025

Projected Enrollment (FTE) in Year One: 20 Projected Enrollment (FTE) by 2028: 40

Funding Source: Self-Support

Mode of Delivery

Campus Delivery: Wenatchee Valley College, 1300 Fifth Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Wenatchee Valley College, 116 W Apple Ave, Omak, WA 98841

Big Bend Community College, 7662 Chanute Street NE, Moses Lake, WA 98837

Distance Learning: Classes will be hybrid and/or online using Zoom or similar technology

Statement of Need

*Please see criteria and standard sheet. **Page Limit: 20 pages***

[Contact Information \(Academic Department Representative\)](#)

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[Chief Academic Officer signature](#)

The Statement of Need must be signed. To sign, double click on the signature line below.

Wenatchee Valley College

Tod Treat, Vice President for Instruction



2/1/2024

Big Bend Community College

X

Chief Academic Officer

2/1/2024

Criteria 1

Relationship to institutional role, mission, and program priorities.

Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) and Big Bend Community College (BBCC) are proposing to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) Degree in Behavioral Health (BAS-BH). The degree would be offered in collaboration between the two colleges resulting in both institutions being authorized to confer the credential.

WVC and BBCC are both regionally and nationally accredited colleges with accomplished and committed faculty and staff. WVC enrolls a student body of approximately 5,000, while BBCC serves around 4,000 students annually. Both colleges offer a diverse range of educational programs including transfer degrees, workforce training certificates and degrees, basic education for adults, bachelor of applied science degrees, as well as community education classes. Expanding the number of BAS degree offerings is consistent with both college's institutional missions and strategic priorities. A local BAS-BH degree not only expands baccalaureate degree options within the service districts, but mitigates the critical regional challenge by addressing the behavioral health workforce shortage.

The mission of WVC is to *enrich North Central Washington by serving the educational and cultural needs of communities and residents throughout the service area*. WVC's strategic plan identifies 4 Core Themes to achieve its mission: 1. educational attainment, 2. support for learning, 3. responsiveness to local needs, and 4. diversity and cultural enrichment.

BBCC's mission statement is to *Serve as a Bridge, Stand as a Leader, Support for Success*. The college's 2021-26 Strategic Plan guides the college in implementing its mission and measuring its progress in fulfilling its mission. The Strategic Plan contains four strategic priorities: 1. to improve student success, 2. to be an employer of choice, 3. to provide forward-looking infrastructure and 4. to experience enrollment growth and diversification.

The BAS-BH program is integral to fulfilling WVC and BBCC's missions and meeting their strategic priorities.

- The BAS-BH program helps WVC meet its mission to *Serve the educational needs in its service district* and core theme *Responsiveness to local needs* and BBCC's mission element to *Serve as a Bridge* while also achieving the strategic priority of *Enrollment Growth and Diversification* by expanding baccalaureate options for local, place-bound students seeking a baccalaureate education within their community, while also addressing local employer workforce needs. The BAS-BH program will bolster enrollment of online, place-bound, Hispanic-identifying, and adult students through innovative student support services and program outreach.
- BBCC is putting into action the mission element of *Stand as a Leader* and WVC's core theme *Educational Attainment* by developing and implementing the BAS-BH program with the purpose of reducing equity gaps in baccalaureate degree completion. Pervasively, adults in the BBCC and WVC service districts are less educated, with only 17% and 22.4% respectively of local adults earning a bachelor degree or higher, compared to 37% in Washington State, and 34% in the United States.¹ A persistent equity gap exists in baccalaureate degree attainment at both colleges stemming from the lower transfer rate between systemically marginalized (African American, Black, Hispanic, Native American, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander) students and Asian/White students. Offering the BAS-BH degree will expand educational offerings available to communities for local learners seeking a higher

post-secondary credential and place-bound students with targeted outreach, recruitment, and support services in place to bolster enrollment and retention for systemically underserved students.

- BBCC and WVC are designing the BAS-BH program in a very intentional way to support students' persistence and completion of the program, thereby fulfilling both colleges' mission and strategic priorities to *Support for Success*. The BAS-BH program will utilize a consistent hybrid, online course design to support a cohesive student and faculty experience across BAS-BH courses and a success coach model to provide just-in-time academic support for students and guide students in their post-graduation journey of securing meaningful employment and/or entering graduate school. Fortunately, WVC is host to the Central Washington Area Health Education Center (AHEC). AHEC serves both BBCC and WVC districts by supporting training, retention, mentoring, and diversification of healthcare workers and improving health care delivery to rural and underserved populations. Its scholar's program will serve BAS-BH students enrolled in all campuses.

In collaboration with regional behavioral health stakeholders and in alignment with the University of Washington Behavioral Health Support Specialist competency framework, WVC and BBCC have developed the following draft program outcomes for the BAS in Behavioral Health:

Table 1: BAS in Behavioral Health Program Outcomes

Bachelor of Applied Science in Behavioral Health Program Outcomes	
1	Demonstrate knowledge of the structures, functions, and organizations within the healthcare system, with a specific focus on Behavioral Health (BH) organizations
2	Communicate proficiently with clients, families, and members of the care team, utilizing suitable channels to enhance personal care and contribute to positive health outcomes
3	Exhibit integrity by consistently practicing ethical behavior, maintaining confidentiality, and approaching work with sensitivity when dealing with diverse populations
4	Demonstrate ability to effectively function as a member of an interprofessional care team in coordinating services and resources
5	Identify and address barriers that hinder access and equity within the BH system, delivering culturally relevant services to clients and their families
6	Conduct screenings and assessments, utilizing the gathered information to develop and implement client-centered care plans

The proposed BAS-BH degree aligns and supports WVC and BBCCs' mission and strategic priorities. This program will extend higher education pathway options for students across numerous certificate and associate degree options and lead to a high demand behavioral health career, grounded with a family-sustaining wage and opportunities to expand across industries and graduate studies.

Criteria 2

Support of the statewide strategic plans.

Through offering the BAS-BH degree, WVC and BBCC are fulfilling elements of statewide strategic plans as delineated in the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) Mission Study and outlined in the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) 2024 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education² by specifically addressing the following elements: *Equity, Affordability, Enrollment, Student Support and Completion*.

Affordability is the most-cited barrier to enrolling and continuing in education beyond high school...focuses on addressing Washingtonians' concerns about the costs associated with postsecondary education via tuition and fees, as well as a consideration of the lifetime earnings, debt, and employability that contributes to the overall value of a postsecondary credential. (WSAC 2024 Strategic Action Plan, pg. 5)

Students consistently identify paying for college as a challenge. In response, WVC and BBCC staff will mitigate this barrier by supporting students in securing resources to pay for BAS-BH tuition and fees and maintaining low-cost course materials. College staff will address program affordability and ways to pay for college from early recruitment and on-boarding through degree completion by coaching on the following components: completing on-time and accurate FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) applications, submitting high-quality scholarship applications, coordinating resources from the tribe for Native American students, aiding in Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) appeals, connecting students with program partners like Workforce Educational Services (WES), employee tuition reimbursement, and emergency funding. WVC and BBCC encourage instructional faculty to utilize low-cost and open educational resources (OER) to maintain affordability in course materials. Lastly, the BAS-BH curriculum includes work-based learning components which will be coordinated with local behavioral health providers. These partnerships aim to provide a paid on-site, clinical experience and develop a local network that connects students with future employers.

***Enrollment:** All Washington residents should have a clear and accessible path to enroll in postsecondary education. Washington must increase postsecondary enrollment for both traditional K-12 students and working-age adults. Washington's effort to increase enrollment should encompass all forms of postsecondary programs, including traditional degrees, career technical education certificates, apprenticeships, and more. (WSAC 2024 Strategic Action Plan, pg. 9)*

Implementing the BAS-BH degree expands postsecondary enrollment opportunities for students pursuing career technical certificate and associate degree programs, namely: Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, and Chemical Dependency. With program curriculum delivered through flexible modalities, the BAS-BH program will encourage enrollment growth for local, place-bound, Hispanic-identifying, and adult students within the WVC and BBCC service districts.

"I think it is VERY needed in our community. It's extremely difficult for some to travel to colleges around the state or accomplish success with online only. We need to be able to provide this BH education not only for the youth coming out of high school, but; for the individuals that want to advance in their current careers. Employers are asking for BA, not even experience, is good enough anymore. WE need this!!" Angie Karlsson, Molina Healthcare, Care Coordinator

The colleges will deliver an expansive recruitment and outreach campaign encompassing dual-enrolled high school students, traditional-aged, and adult working students ensuring a clear and accessible path for all residents. The BAS-BH program will be introduced to new college students outlining that the BAS-BH is a 2+2 program which builds on workforce education associate degrees and identify entry requirements that can be built into their associate-degree completion plan, along with campus resources. Within BAS-BH program onboarding, college staff will work with students to identify prior learning credit possibilities, ensuring students' experience within and outside of their formal higher education is recognized and valued.

***Student Supports:** Students face many different types of costs beyond tuition and fees. Earnings loss due to class and study time comes on top of the costs of basic needs such as housing, food, healthcare, childcare, and other needs. (WSAC 2024 Strategic Action Plan, pg. 11)*

Delivering a holistic student services model is integral in ensuring access, retention, degree completion, and job placement support for students in the BAS-BH program. BBCC and WVC will work collaboratively to deliver an onboarding and advising model to ensure students have early and targeted support throughout the BAS-BH program. College staff and faculty will work together ensuring high-quality wrap around support for BAS-BH students. The colleges also partner with campus resources that address foundational needs beyond academics including: childcare, food pantry, mental health counseling, transportation, library and technology support, financial aid and scholarships, emergency funding support, public benefits, and access to fundamental needs.

Completion: Higher education should guide and support student academic and career pathways through postsecondary education into the workforce. (WSAC 2024 Strategic Action Plan, pg. 15)

BBCC and WVC will work collaboratively to deliver academic advising and support that ensures students persist and complete the BAS-BH degree program. BAS-BH staff and faculty provide academic advising for current and potential students, utilizing a multitude of advising tools including: ctcLink (the Washington SBCTC student and employee record system), degree audit reports and advising maps that outline associate degree pathways and student progress, and customized program plans outlining quarterly course requirements and milestones. Advising will be offered in flexible modalities, with students often connecting in “drop-in” hours offered over lunch breaks and in the evening. As BAS-BH students approach graduation, support services increasingly shift to supporting student job placement and developing professional leadership skills. BAS-BH staff and faculty will work collaboratively with colleges’ career centers, program advisory board, local hiring agents, and employers to ensure graduates are prepared to enter and succeed in the local workforce.

Equity: Centering equity calls the Council to consider and seek to understand the critical resources needed to reach and support all students. While guided through the lens of race, understanding students’ intersectional and layered identities and assessing their experiences (e.g., adult learners, geographic proximity to institutions, English language learners, immigration) ensures that learners in Washington can access, pursue, and complete credentials.(WSAC 2024 Strategic Action Plan, pg. 4)

Proudly identifying as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), both BBCC and WVC are committed to serving the diverse student body and surrounding communities. Implementation of BAS-BH degree not only unlocks a critical opportunity for providing a bachelor degree opportunity to diverse, local community, but also prepares local professionals to serve in roles that enhance health equity in behavioral health services across our service districts. The colleges will collaborate in delivering innovative recruitment and student support strategies along with culturally responsive curriculum and instructional design to build participation, retention, and degree completion for systemically underserved students, with the intent that cohorts will mirror demographics in the diverse service district communities and close equity gaps in educational attainment.

Criteria 3

Employer/community demand for graduates with baccalaureate level of education proposed in the program.

Industry and Trade Data

According to the National Institutes of Health, more than one in five adults live with a diagnosable mental health condition or addiction, with more than 1.2 million being

Washingtonians. Yet, the state of Washington is ranked 32nd in access to mental health care for adults (38th for youth) due to long waits for care, insufficient and outdated facilities, and serious workforce shortages. Consequently, in 2016 Washington state's Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) and Health Workforce Council initiated a review of workforce needs across behavioral healthcare disciplines.

Their data indicated a critical shortage in the number of trained behavioral health professionals. Responsively, the state established the Behavioral Health Workforce Advisory Committee (BHWAC), bringing together stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive review and develop strategies and policy recommendations for interrupting the alarming trajectory for behavioral health services. In partnership with the Ballmer Group and University of Washington, SSB 5189 was born, establishing the Behavioral Health Support Specialist credential (BHSS). A BHSS delivers evidence-based interventions for common behavioral health conditions (i.e. depression, anxiety) as part of an integrated care team, with costs of the services reimbursable through state Medicaid and third-party insurance providers. In May 2023, Washington House and Senate unanimously passed SSB 5189 to establish a behavioral health support specialist and Governor Jay Inslee signed into law.

Locally, the BBCC and WVC communities are experiencing urgent deficiencies in behavioral health services, rooted in an acute shortage of behavioral health professionals and increasing patient needs. The proposed BAS-BH degree will help address the behavioral health workforce crisis in the region. Dr. Julie Rickard, CEO and Consultant with Moment by Moment Suicide Prevention explained, *"Primary Care Providers manage the bulk of mental health in our region. About 75-86% of visits have a psychological issue that is driving their visit. We have an access to care issue that means that someone who needs help today will have to wait up to 3 - 7 months for care... The bachelors BH specialist can fill in at the lower level to provide services. They can do everything except for diagnose. They can provide evidence-based treatments for those waiting to get seen by a higher level of care, which ultimately keeps them from escalating."*

The BAS-BH program is strategically designed to train professionals across industries that have expressed a need for more behavioral health professionals. The primary focus is on the clinical system, law enforcement and corrections, and education. Encouraged by the Washington State Healthcare Authority's strong endorsement of integration, individuals with a BAS-BH degree can seamlessly integrate into primary care settings, providing care for patients with lower acuity behavioral health issues. They can also find employment in behavioral health agencies, serving as case managers, crisis responders, or mental health professionals. Furthermore, we aim to enhance the presence of behavioral health specialists in law enforcement and corrections ultimately increasing their numbers embedded in law enforcement or employed by the corrections system.

Local Employer Survey

In Fall 2022, BBCC and WVC each conducted a local needs assessment surveying behavior health employers across industries including education, government, healthcare, and nonprofit organizations. In BBCC's survey, 8/21 (38%) indicated that a *bachelor's* degree was the type of credential required for anticipated behavioral health positions 10/21 (48%) responded *agency affiliated/state or national certification or N/A*, and 3/21 (14%) responded *master's degree or higher*. Organizations preferring the bachelor's degree credential, anticipated up to 31 jobs opening by 2025. The full survey data is included in Appendix A.

Similarly, in WVC's survey, 14/21 (67%) confirmed their organization has behavioral health jobs available that an applicant with a BAS can obtain. When asked if an adequately trained, supervised, and supported baccalaureate level behavioral healthcare workers would be able to fill gaps in

services, 18/21 (86%) strongly agreed or agreed. Organizations preferring a bachelor's degree credential anticipated up to 53 employment openings in the next 5 years. The full survey data is included in Appendix B. Keep in mind, this was prior to SSB 5189 passing, legislatively allowing the BHSS credential and clearing the path for services to be reimbursed by Medicaid and third-party insurance providers. Employers anticipate this demand to rise as organizations pivot to include bachelor prepared behavioral health providers.

Regional Labor Market Data

There is a well-documented shortage of behavioral healthcare providers across the BBCC and WVC service districts, most acutely impacting rural areas. There are several challenges, among them recruiting qualified people to practice in rural areas and then retaining staff as they often find positions in their field for higher wages than rural areas can pay. Because employers are having such a difficult time recruiting and retaining employees, they are often adding large signing bonuses and increasing wages to be competitive with larger job markets. This puts additional stress on smaller, local agencies as they cannot match those incentives. Increasing the employee pool is one way the BAS-BH program can help the agencies struggling to fill their positions. For example, Columbia Valley Community Health in Wenatchee recently posted an Addiction Counselor position offering a \$20,000 signing bonus plus an additional \$5,000 if the successful candidate is bilingual!

Searching Indeed.com on January 16, 2024 there were 18 open behavioral health positions, requiring a bachelor's degree, within the BBCC and WVC service districts. Based on local employer surveys and posted positions, there are many job titles for bachelor-prepared behavioral health professions: *Behavior Analyst Coordinator, Intervention Specialist, Social Services Specialist, Community Health Worker, Substance Use Disorder Professional, Residential Associate, Care Coordinator, Outpatient Case Manager, Mobile Crisis Intervention Case Manager, Youth Mobile Crisis Case Manager, Diversion Outreach Specialist, Program Manager, Outreach Care Specialist, Service Coordinator, Community Engagement Coordinator, Behavioral Health Case Manager, Crisis Intervention Specialist*

With the passing of SBB 5189, the BHSS is a recent addition to the Washington State workforce. With the infancy of the BHSS credential, regional labor market data does not precisely align with occupational groups yet or reflect the anticipated swell of employment demand as reimbursement policies are implemented. Currently, these are the occupational groups that the BAS-BH degree directly aligns with in CORI and ESD North Central Washington dashboards: *Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselor, Community and Social Service Specialist, Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialist, Health Educator*. The following tables outline each position's average wage, job openings, credential production, credential gap, and projected growth in North Central Washington. The supply/gap rubric delivers additional information and is attached to this report.

Table 2: Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselor

Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselor, 21-1011 is an in “demand” occupation paying family sustaining wages in North Central Washington: Counsel and advise individuals with alcohol, tobacco, drug, or other problems, such as gambling and eating disorders. May counsel individuals, families, or groups or engage in prevention programs.	
Average annual wage	\$51,270
Job openings	80
Credential Production	24
Credential Gap	-69
Projected growth (2022-2032)	Faster than average (5-8%)

Table 3: Community and Social Service Specialist

Community and Social Service Specialist, 21-1099 is an in “demand” occupation paying family sustaining wages in North Central Washington: Serves those in need find government and private assistance programs, coordinate activities like community outreach and social service programs, work with people with psychological or addiction problems.	
Average annual wage	\$50,177
Job openings	40
Credential Production	2
Credential Gap	-38
Expected annual growth rate	2.9%
Projected Growth (2022-2032)	Faster than average (5-8%)

Table 4 Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialist

Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialist, 21-1092 is an in “demand” occupation paying family sustaining wages in North Central Washington: Provide social services to assist in rehabilitation of law offenders in custody or on probation or parole. Make recommendations including conditional release and education and employment stipulations.	
Average annual wage	\$63,540
Job openings	88
Credential Production	24
Credential Gap	-70
Projected Growth (2022-2032)	Faster than average (2-4%)

Table 5 Health Educator

Health Educator, 21-1091 is an in “demand” occupation paying family sustaining wages in North Central Washington.	
Average annual wage	\$62,870
Job openings	37
Credential Production	7
Credential Gap	-30
Projected Growth (2020-2030)	Faster than average (5-8%)

Employer Focus Group and Interview Data

In February 2023, the colleges held a focus group meeting attended by 23 employers representing clinical, education, first responders and community-based organizations providing behavioral health services. Unequivocally, they expressed concerns about the difficulty of finding qualified applicants, especially ones who already live in the community. One participant expressed *“training in evidence-based practice, similar to the UW curriculum (BHSS curriculum) is helpful. That curriculum easily translates to other settings such as schools, hospitals, primary care, working as co-responders with the police”* and another *“it fits the needs of the communities [with] “home-grown” people who grow up in the area are more apt to stay because they are vested in the community.”*

In August 2023, BBCC conducted an additional survey of local employers of behavioral healthcare professionals, to ascertain any changes in anticipated employment needs after the passing of SSB 5189. Fourteen regional behavioral health employers responded indicating a strong preference for baccalaureate prepared job candidates, with 4 employers indicating they anticipate 10-15 position openings each for a BHSS bachelor credentialed candidate in the next 3 three years alone (total of 40-60 positions). Survey respondents also indicated a willingness to assist with curriculum development, serving on the program’s advisory committee, and even teaching in the program. Full survey results are included in Appendix C.

With the passing of SSB 5189, BHSS is a new position for clinical systems. The Washington State Health Care Authority is directed to take necessary steps to ensure that services provided by a BHSS professional are covered under the state Medicaid program and are currently negotiating reimbursement policies. Historically, health systems refrained from employing bachelor-prepared behavioral health workforce for clinical care due to non-reimbursement. However, with SSB 5189 legislatively allowing reimbursement, employers not only anticipate significant growth in hiring BHSS care providers, but also expect salary levels to reflect this need. Industries outside of clinical systems have long expressed interest in hiring bachelor-prepared professionals in behavioral health. Notably, in an employer focus group session, it was expressed that candidates holding behavioral health (BH) credentials would be more competitive, even in fields such as law enforcement and education. This wide-ranging experience is expected to greatly enhance the employment prospects of candidates for many roles.

The BAS-BH program is strategically crafted to meet the growing demand for behavioral health professionals across a spectrum of local industries. The BAS-BH program has the potential for making significant impacts in the delivery of behavioral healthcare in these communities, while diversifying local bachelor degree options for place-bound students. This multifaceted approach ensures that BAS-BH graduates play a vital role in addressing the diverse needs of individuals across different settings within the behavioral health landscape.

Criteria 4

Baccalaureate program builds from existing professional and technical degree program offered by the institution.

The proposed BAS in Behavioral Health degree will build upon both colleges’ existing Criminal Justice and Early Childhood Education Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees, and WVC’s Chemical Dependency program. Each program is supported by an accomplished and committed team of faculty and staff, eager to develop a baccalaureate pathway to bolster career and wage opportunities for their students and are already delivering instruction in hybrid and online modalities. Faculty in WVC’s Chemical Dependency program and BBCC’s Criminal Justice and Sociology departments have

been identified to lead BAS-BH program and course development. Each have robust professional and academic backgrounds in behavioral health making them well positioned to lead curricular development and cement strong community partnerships.

The BAS-BH credential prepares students for careers in behavioral health across a variety of industries and will provide customized upper-level courses designed to meet the needs of students from workforce programs as well as regional employers. The program will be designed to address skills sought by employers of the local economy. The following describes each foundational professional and technical degree program with headcount enrollment numbers for 2022-23:

Big Bend Community College:

Table 6 BBCC Criminal Justice Associate in Applied Science

Criminal Justice Associate in Applied Science: is designed to develop the proficiencies and skills necessary to obtain entry-level employment in Criminal Justice related career paths.	
Annual Enrollment: 11	Year Established: 2016

Table 7 BBCC Early Childhood Education Associate in Applied Science

Early Childhood Education Associate in Applied Science: prepares students to work with children ages birth to eight as childcare providers, preschool teachers, assistant teachers, para educators or child care administrators in professional settings.	
Annual Enrollment: 101	Year Established: 2004

Wenatchee Valley College:

Table 8 WVC Chemical Dependency Associate in Applied Science

Chemical Dependency Associate in Applied Science: The CDS program is designed for those already working with substance use disorders, those aspiring to become Chemical Dependency Professionals, and those who desire this education to enhance other areas of human services such as educators, social workers, school counselors and mental health workers.	
Annual Enrollment: 23	Year Established: 1996

Table 9 WVC Criminal Justice Associate in Applied Science

Criminal Justice Associate in Applied Science: Emphasizes key components of the adult and juvenile criminal justice processes, its agencies, personnel and historical foundations, criminal justice system, police, corrections, juvenile justice and judicial systems.	
Annual Enrollment: 28	Year Established: 2008

Table 10 WVC Early Childhood Education Associate in Applied Science

Early Childhood Education Associate in Applied Science: focus on young children from birth to five years and their families. This program provides an understanding of a child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. It emphasizes practices that are developmentally appropriate and embrace both family and community.	
Annual Enrollment: 162	Year Established: 1990

Criteria 5

Student demand for program within the region.

BBCC and WVC conducted surveys of students currently enrolled in BAS-BH feeder programs, and results indicate overwhelming support and interest in a baccalaureate pathway. In February 2023, WVC surveyed current students in proposed BAS-BH feeder programs: Criminal Justice, Chemical Dependency, and Early Childhood Education along with students enrolled in a Psychology course that quarter. The results are summarized below and full survey results are available in Appendix D:

Table 11 WVC BAS-BH Student Survey

If there were a BAS in Behavioral health at WVC how likely would you be to enroll?		
Total responses: 76 students		
Response:	# of responses	% of responses
Very likely	31	41%
Somewhat likely	17	22%
Unsure	17	22%
Somewhat unlikely	3	4%
Very unlikely	5	7%

When asked *Why would you be interested in a BAS in Behavioral Healthcare at WVC?* 37% (28/76) prefer to stay at WVC to earn their bachelor's degree and 41% (31/76) say it *aligns with the student's career goals*. When asked about their preference in course modality, 77% (59/76) responded that ONLINE courses would be *best for me or good for me*.

In January 2024, BBCC conducted a survey of students actively pursuing Criminal Justice or Early Childhood Education professional technical degrees, 85 of the 101 students responded to the survey. The results are summarized below and full survey results are available in Appendix E.

Table 12 BBCC BAS-BH Student Survey

How likely would you be to enroll in a new bachelor's degree program in Behavioral Healthcare at BBCC?		
Total Responses: 85		
Response:	# of responses	% of responses
Very likely	25	29%
Somewhat likely	23	27%
Neither likely nor unlikely	21	25%
Somewhat unlikely	6	7%
Very unlikely	10	12%

Perhaps most impactful is students' qualitative feedback supporting a local behavioral health degree option aligned with serving in the community:

- *As a community member, I'd be interested in this program so that trained and qualified graduates can enter the workforce and help my communities*
- *Access to education is such a barrier and WVC has shown to me their commitment to helping students reach their goals. If more mental health workers were able to access*

education without having to travel or pay exorbitant amounts for school, they could then stay in our community where they are desperately needed.

- I am so glad WVC is considering this program, as this is what I have been looking into doing after completing my AA degree this summer.
- I graduate this quarter with my AAS and am exploring options in sociology, public health, and emergency management. I have always been passionate about mental health after my own diagnosis. I would consider this as a part of my career path.

Based on professional technical feeder program FTE, employer feedback, and student survey data the part-time and full-time enrollment projections are as follows:

Table 13 BAS-BH Enrollment Projections

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
FTE	20	30	35	40	40

Criteria 6

Efforts to maximize state resources to serve place-bound students.

Serving place-bound, working adult students

Integral to BBCC strategic priority for *enrollment growth and diversification* and WVC's core themes driving *educational attainment* and *responsiveness to local needs* is delivering in-demand baccalaureate degree options for place-bound, adult working students. This is critical, as both colleges serve geographically vast, rural service districts with minimal higher education options. Delivering a BAS-BH degree is imperative for upskilling local students who are place-bound. The program will be designed to offer most courses online or in a hybrid format, incorporating face-to-face and virtual class times scheduled in the evenings to maintain flexibility and convenience.

By prioritizing flexible modalities, the BAS-BH program will cater to the needs of working adults and place-bound students. One student shared, "I think that offering this program might encourage more to follow this path. Having to go outside of the valley and the bigger expense of a university deters many" and another "I want to support anything that builds our community and the resources we have available to provide care to those in need. I think the valley is in short supply of well-trained behavioral health providers, and increasing the number of bachelor's programs at WVC will create more pull to attend WVC and help the college continue to grow."

The second year of the BAS-BH program will include work-based learning in a clinical setting. BBCC and WVC are securing those opportunities within their local communities to ensure local, adult students gain hands-on, critical skill development and build professional relationships amongst local behavioral health employers. This bolsters local connections and supports job placement for graduates within the colleges' service districts.

Similar programs by public or independent institutions in the North Central Washington region:

Other public or independent institutions in the North Central region that offer a bachelor's degree program similar to the BAS-BH include:

Table 14 North Central Washington Related Programs

College	Program	Location
Heritage University	Bachelor of Social Work	Yakima, WA
Central Washington University	BS in Public Health	Ellensburg, WA
Columbia Basin College	BAS Community Health	Pasco, WA

Beyond North Central Washington region, Eastern Washington University and Spokane Falls Community College both offer bachelor's degrees in related programs. WVC Chemical Dependency Director and Faculty, Beverly Warman, serves as the secretary for the statewide Addiction Educators Consortium and informed the group of the colleges' intent to launch the BAS-BH degree in their November 2023 meeting. Eastern Washington University, Spokane Fall Community College, Yakima Valley Community College, and Lower Columbia Community College were in attendance and no concerns were raised.

Collaboration with similar community and technical colleges (CTC) baccalaureate programs and related community and technical colleges Centers of Excellence:

On January 27, 2023, WVC faculty in the Chemical Dependency program participated in the BAS Behavioral Health and Human Services Conference at Lake Washington Technical College. Twelve colleges in the CTC system were in attendance. The colleges were at various stages of BAS-BH degree exploration, program proposal, or already delivering instruction. The gathering served as an opportunity to connect and share ideas with colleagues in similar programs within the CTC system. The itinerary included sharing ideas and best practices in designing curriculum, outreach and recruitment strategies, aligning feeder associate degree programs, admission and onboarding, retention and student services, field placement, and career connections. Strategies from this conference will be utilized in the BAS-BH Program Proposal. BBCC and WVC intend to continue participating and nurturing relationships with program partners across the CTC system.

Recently, Columbia Basin College expressed an interest in collaborating with BBCC and WVC on the BAS-BH degree. Columbia Basic College staff and faculty are considering the feasibility and next steps of that partnership, and how it could potentially build on its recently developed Substance Use Disorder Professional curriculum. If Columbia Basic College moves forward, BBCC and WVC are open to including them in the consortium.

Differentiation

BBCC and WVC's proposed BAS-BH degree varies significantly from the programs listed above at public or independent institutions in North Central Washington. Namely, the learning objectives and curriculum specifically align with meta-competencies for the Behavioral Health Support Specialist Clinical Training Program developed by University of Washington. A BHSS must have a bachelors degree in a related field and be certified through the Washington State Department of Health. We believe that the program curriculum and local, work-based learning clinical component sets the BAS-BH degree apart from any similar program in North Central Washington and is critical in providing another rung on the career ladder for those who wish to work in the behavioral health field.

There are similar programs offered by popular online institutions like Western Governors University and Grand Canyon University. These programs do not specifically align with BHSS meta-competencies and do not provide local work-based learning, or the hands-on experience embedded in the BAS-BH degree. Also, other universities often will not accept previous credits from AAS professional technical degrees, requiring students to have another year of classes before they qualify

for admission in the bachelor's program. The BAS-BH program mitigates that issue by directly aligning pathways to BBCC and WVC workforce education programs.

University, Community, and Business Collaboration

BBCC and WVC have long standing partnerships with school districts, community based organizations, and industry partners who employ behavioral health professionals. During the BAS-BH exploration process, college staff and faculty have engaged in comprehensive, in-depth discussions outlining local collaborations and partnerships. Leveraging these relationships, BBCC and WVC are committed to crafting a program that seamlessly integrates classroom instruction with a clinical component, emphasizing work-based learning. The program in the second year will be structured to include placement in clinical settings with potential employers. This ensures that students are getting the work-based learning that is critical for skill development and industry alignment. Upon graduation, BAS-BH alumni will emerge as strong contenders for employment opportunities within their own communities.

BBCC and WVC have partnered with Wendy Brzezny, Director of Clinical Integration with Thriving Together North Central Washington to recruit and implement work-based learning in clinical settings. Brzezny's Request for Proposal (RFP) for Career Connect Washington- Program Builder Funding was recently approved (full application materials are linked in the Reference section). The colleges are partnering with Brzezny to outline a timeline, resources, and funding support for the development of the BAS-BH degree. Outlined in the application is the aim for solidifying at least eight employers in the targeted industries across BBCC and WVC's five-county region to participate in hosting internships for BAS-BH students.

The RFP is coupled with a letter of endorsement from behavioral healthcare providers outlining how the proposed BAS-BH degree will address critical needs including:

Alleviating workforce shortages- "In our rural area, where recruiting and retaining qualified healthcare professionals has proven to be particularly challenging, the need for trained behavioral health specialists is even more pronounced. The collaboration between these community colleges to offer a degree in Behavioral Health is a timely and strategic response to this growing issue."

Minimize Workforce Burnout- "The current workforce, often stretched thin and experiencing burnout due to the heavy workload, will benefit from the addition of well-trained and passionate individuals entering the field. This influx of new talent can lead to improved patient care, increased access to services, and a more sustainable and resilient healthcare system."

Positive Impact of Preventative Care- "The program's emphasis on training individuals to provide services at a lower level aligns with a preventative approach to mental health. This approach has the potential to mitigate the long-term impact of mental health issues, reduce the need for more intensive interventions down the road, and contribute to a healthier, more resilient community."

In the process of exploring the possibility of launching a BAS in Behavioral Health program, college staff also initiated discussions with faculty in master's in social work (MSW) graduate degree programs to ensure a pathway to continued education. There are two MSW programs in Central and Eastern Washington: Eastern Washington University and Heritage University. Directors from both programs indicated interest in working with BAS-BH faculty to ensure a pathway for graduates.

Criteria 7

Promoting equitable opportunities for students, including historically marginalized students.

Both Big Bend Community College (BBCC) and Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) proudly identify as Hispanic Serving Institutions, moreover WVC has a meaningful Native American presence at its campus in Omak, Washington. Both colleges are situated in North Central Washington—a vastly rural region, expanding larger than Maryland and Rhode Island combined! BBCC and WVC service districts are marked by the lowest median income and educational attainment in the state compared to the other eight regional network areas. Additionally, the region faces challenges characterized by low density of services and a scarcity of large employers. Considering these challenges, the colleges acknowledge the far-reaching effects of earning a bachelors degree and its impact on interrupting the cycle of generational poverty by connecting students to careers that offer family-sustaining wages.

Mirroring its communities, BBCC and WVC serve an ethnically diverse student body with 52% and 54% identifying as Hispanic, respectively. Federal and State financial aid grant funds support 51% of BBCC students and 58% of WVC students. Notably, State Need Grant is a source of funding for undocumented students who graduated from Washington state high schools. It is not surprising that more than 75% of the BBCC and 38% of the WVC student population in the region are first generation given that only 17% and 22% of the community populations hold a bachelors degree or higher, respectively. Encouragingly, Hispanic and students with high financial need are thriving in BBCC's BAS in Management program with 87% of its first cohort graduating within 2 years and maintaining ~80% fall-to-fall retention across three cohorts . Likewise, WVC's BAS programs in Engineering Technology and Teaching demonstrate positive outcomes for retention of students of color, first generation, and students with economic need. The BAS in Engineering Technology saw a 100% graduation rate with 40% of students of color thriving in the program. Similarly, the BAS in Teaching has a high population of students from historically underserved populations and 87% of which demonstrated high financial were retained at 88% fall to fall retention. BBCC and WVC are steadfast on expanding instructional and student support initiatives in implementing the BAS-BH program.

Grounded in institutional diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic priorities, we are resolute in a commitment to actively cultivate academic environments that champion addressing inequities and racism, identify barriers, and actively support the development of inclusive policies and practices. We are mindful that certain communities, particularly those already marginalized, may face distinct challenges and barriers. To address this, the implementation plan to recruit and support students of color and low-income students into the BAS-BH degree program encompasses targeted initiatives to identify and prioritize the needs of underserved populations.

BBCC and WVC will integrate culturally responsive, accessible pedagogies and curriculum. Leveraging remote learning, this program aims to extend access to residents in more rural areas and adult, working students by providing technology and resources for coursework remotely. Given the range of the district and the very rural areas (especially in Okanogan county) many students are place and time bound. Towns such as Winthrop, Twisp, Oroville, Tonasket, and Nespelem are well over an hour away from the Omak campus in good weather. In some cases, travel to Omak is impossible from these locations in the winter. As such, the BAS-BH program's commitment to provide online opportunities and technology accessibility is critical for these students to access higher education. Support and instruction will be thoughtfully delivered through remote means while

maintaining holistic student support, reinforcing the dedication to promoting inclusivity and accessibility.

BBCC and WVC will utilize strategies that have garnered success for recruiting diverse student participation in existing BAS programs. This includes an outreach campaign centering on student testimonial, career-ready job skills, program flexibility, and affordability. The colleges will undertake substantial efforts in recruiting systemically marginalized and low-income students through social media messaging extending the college's reach into rural areas of its service district, using targeted text message nudging, hosting virtual information sessions, engaging early and often for students in feeder programs, and outlining clear steps for admission and securing financial funding (i.e. financial aid, scholarships, employer tuition reimbursement).

BBCC and WVC are well-equipped to provide high-quality, holistic academic and student support services. BBCC employs a dedicated BAS Coordinator who partners with WVC faculty and staff to provide seamless onboarding, advising, referrals to campus resources, and career readiness coaching. BAS-BH program staff and faculty will continuously monitor disaggregated data to determine systemic barriers to access, retention, and degree completion for systemically underserved student groups. Together, BBCC and WVC will design and implement additional interventions aimed at closing equity gaps.

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Attachment A: Applied Baccalaureate Degree Supply/Demand Gap Rubric for Colleges

The goal of this rubric is to help you build a program that will meet the needs of your community. We have given you options about the information you can use to support the need for your new program. Also, the guidelines for estimating the supply/demand gap are similar to the ones we use for other program applications. We hope this makes the rubric more familiar to you. If not, contact the Director of Transfer Education at SBCTC for further information.

The application needs to show the information below for program approval:

- employers demand* the level of technical training proposed within the program, making it cost-effective for students to seek the degree;
- lead to high wage-earning jobs; and
- the proposed program fills a gap in options available for students because it is not offered by a public four-year institution of higher education in the college's geographic area.

College Name: Big Bend Community College and Wenatchee Valley College	
Program Name: Bachelor of Applied Science in Behavioral Health	
Select one: Existing Occupation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or Emerging Occupation <input type="checkbox"/>	
If local demand/supply information is available for the specified degree program and target occupation(s),**	
For demand: Provide local/regional demand data for the targeted occupation job title(s) from traditional labor market data, industry data, trade association data, or other transactional data. (Provide absolute numbers, not just percentages)	Washington State Data from Jan. 2023-Nov. 2023: Occupation Grouping- 211: <i>Counselors, Social Workers, and other Community and Social Service Specialists</i> Total Job Postings: 38,534 Unemployed Supply: 6,082 Gap: 32,452 North Central Washington Data from Jan. 2023-Nov. 2023

	<p>Occupation Grouping- 211: <i>Counselors, Social Workers, and other Community and Social Service Specialists</i></p> <p>Total Job Postings: 453</p> <p>Unemployed Supply 229</p> <p>Gap 224¹</p> <p>North Central Washington Regional Demand for Specific Job Titles:²</p> <p>Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Worker</p> <p>Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselor</p> <p>Community and Social Service Specialist</p> <p>Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialist</p> <p>Health Educator</p> <p>Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Worker, 21-1023</p> <p>State-wide Projected growth (2022-2032)³: 17%</p> <p>Regional Average annual growth rate: 1.91%</p> <p>Regional Average Regional Wage*: \$56,243</p> <p>Regional Job openings 80</p> <p>Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselor, 21-1011⁴</p> <p>State-wide Projected growth (2022-2032): 23%</p> <p>Grant County average annual wage*⁵: \$51,270</p> <p>Wenatchee, WA average annual wage: \$57,560</p> <p>Job openings: not included on CORI for North Central/ 4,100 Washington State</p>
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¹ Data retrieved on 1/22/24 at: <https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/supply-demand-report>

² Data retrieved on 1/22/2024 from: <https://washingtonstem.org/labor-market/>

³ State-wide projected growth retrieved from: <https://projectionscentral.org/>

⁴ Wage data retrieved on 1/22/24 at: <https://www.onetonline.org/link/localwages/21-1011.00>

⁵ O-Net categorizes Grant County in Eastern Washington non-metropolitan area

	<p>Community and Social Service Specialist, 21-1099</p> <p>State-wide Projected growth (2022-2032): 18% Regional Expected annual growth rate 2.9% Regional Average annual wage \$50,177 Regional Job openings 40</p> <p>Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialist, 21-1092</p> <p>State-wide Projected growth (2022-2032): 4% Regional Expected annual growth rate 1.24% Regional Average annual wage \$63,540 Regional Job openings 88</p> <p>Health Educator, 21-1091</p> <p>State-wide Projected growth (2022-2032): 11.7% Regional Expected annual growth rate 2.21% Regional Average annual wage \$54,746 Regional Job openings 37</p>
<p>For supply gap: Provide data on the number of programs and the number of annual program graduates for all four-year colleges that supply your region. Is the number of current annual graduates insufficient to meet current and projected demand? (The result of demand minus supply).</p>	<p>North Central Washington Regional Supply for Specific Job Titles:⁶</p> <p>Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Worker, 21-1023</p> <p>Job openings 80 Credential Production 24 Credential Gap -69</p>

⁶ Job Openings, Credential Production, and Gap retrieved on 1/22/24 at: <https://washingtonstem.org/cori/>

	<p>Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselor, 21-1011⁷</p> <p>Job openings not included on CORI Credential Production not included on CORI Credential Gap not included on CORI</p> <p>Community and Social Service Specialist, 21-1099</p> <p>Job openings 40 Credential Production 2 Credential Gap -38</p> <p>Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialist, 21-1092</p> <p>Job openings 88 Credential Production 24 Credential Gap -70</p> <p>Health Educator, 21-1091</p> <p>Job openings 37 Credential Production 7 Credential Gap -30</p> <p>Credential Production in North Central Region:</p> <p>Currently, there are no bachelor degree programs in Behavioral Health or a related human services major in North Central Washington (Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan counties).</p>
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⁷ Wage data retrieved on 1/22/24 at: <https://www.onetonline.org/link/localwages/21-1011.00>

Related Credential Production in Central and Eastern Washington:

College	Program	Location	# Completions
Central Washington University	BS in Public Health	Ellensburg, WA	7
Columbia Basin College	BAS Community Health	Pasco, WA	Data unavailable
Eastern Washington University	BA Social Work	Cheney, WA	84
Eastern Washington University	BA Substance Abuse/Addiction Counseling	Cheney, WA	4
Heritage University	Bachelor of Social Work	Yakima, WA	Data unavailable

Related Bachelor Degrees at Four-Year Colleges*- none of these programs are offered within the BBCC or WVC Service District⁸

⁸ Retrieved on 1/22/2024 from CORI at: <https://washingtonstem.org/cori/>

Appendix A: Big Bend Community College Behavioral Health Employer Survey Data

Fall 2022

What is the name of your organization?	Type	What is the current number of positions similar titles in your organization?	What does your agency title the positions?	What kind of credentials are needed in these positions working at your organization?	Over the next three years, what is the number of anticipated openings for individuals trained for the positions above or similar titles?	What is the number of current openings for individuals trained for the positions above or similar titles?	Which town/city in Grant or Adams County is your company located in?	How many of your current employees would likely to participate in a behavioral sciences bachelor's degree program offered at BBCC?	Would someone at your organization be willing to serve on an advisory board?
CBTECH	Educator	0	na	N/A	1	0	Moses Lake	0	No
Ephrata School District	Educator	0		N/A	At least 1	At least 1	Ephrata		Yes
North Central Educational Service District	Educator	18	Behavior health na	Bachelor-level degree	10	2	Moses Lake, Ephrata	3	Yes
Together 105	Educator, H	10	We have BCBAs, Cc	Bachelor-level degree	1	1	Mattawa, Royal City	2	Yes
Renew, Grant Behavioral Health & Wellness	Government	20+	Case Managers, Ca	Bachelor-level degree	7-10	0	Moses Lake Ephrata,	15	Yes
Columbia Basin Job Corps	Government	0	n/a	N/A	N/A		Moses Lake	0	No
Adams County Integrated Health Care Service	Government	13	Mental Health Clini	Bachelor-level degree	past 30 years for Adams County	support Specialist	Othello, Ritzville	I only have one posit	No
DSHS-ALISA Adult Protective Services	Government	7	Social Services Spec	Bachelor-level degree	unknown	0	Moses Lake	none	No
DSHS	Government	7	Social Service Spec	Bachelor-level degree	2	2	Moses Lake	Not sure	No
Moses Lake Fire Department	Government	we are currently pu	CARES Coordinator	N/A	2	1	Moses Lake	1	Yes
CBHA	Healthcare	9	BH Consultant, BH	(Bachelor-level degree	3-4	0	Mattawa, Othello	unknown, but likely a	Yes
Mattawa Community Medical Clinic	Healthcare	0		N/A	2-3	1-2	Mattawa	2	Yes
Samaritan Healthcare	Healthcare	11	Behavioral Health	Bachelor-level degree	1-3	1	Moses Lake	Unknown	No
Confluence Health	Healthcare	40	Psychotherapist, Ps	Masters, State or Nat	5	5	Moses Lake		1 Yes
Moses Lake Community Health Center	Healthcare	5	BH Counsultant	Masters, State or Nat	2	1	Moses Lake	3	
Summer Wood Alzheimer's Special Care Cent	Healthcare	0	NA	N/A	N/A		Moses Lake	Several	Yes
Odessa Memorial Healthcare Center	Healthcare	1	Behavioral Health F	Masters, State or Nat	1	0	Odessa	3	Yes
SkillSource	Not-For-Pro	14	(Youth) Training Co	N/A	1	3	Moses Lake, Othello	1	Yes
SkillSource	Not-For-Pro	0 - behavioral heal	Training Coordinatc	N/A	Unsure	ly is not required	Moses Lake, Othello	2-3	Yes
Action Health Partners	Not-For-Pro	10	Care Coordinator	Bachelor-level degree	3-5	0		0	Yes
OIC of Washington - National Farmworker Jo	Not-For-Pro	5	Program Specialist	N/A	unknown	none at this time	Moses Lake, Othello	unknown	Yes

Appendix A: Big Bend Community College Behavioral Health Employer Survey Data

Comments

- The need for this position in public schools is going to increase not decrease
- There is desperate need of a Substance Use Disorder program in that area, I have staff attending online programs out of California, or traveling 2 hours one way to Yakima to access schooling for SUD services.
- Thank you for supporting our field of practice in this way!
- We have very specific needs that this comes close to - but would not qualify a person for employment with our agency. We need staff with Social Work and practicums. Our dorm advisors could really use training in behavioral health - however a degree is not required for that position. We also have a hard time finding LPNs.
- It will be beneficial for BBCC to offer a bachelors degree program, with not knowing what the future will be in needs and state requirements for positions.
- We (The Fire Department) would be interested in having students working with us in growing our CARES program much like Spokane Fire has done.
- Would be a good addition to current programs available at a greater distance.
- We currently have three students in programs for a Bachelor's
- We would love to see BBCC offer a BA in Behavioral Sciences and would love to be involved, as it pertains to Dementia related behaviors. We need to get more people to not just understand the Mental Health aspects but the Medical side of diseases too.
- While we do not require a degree in Behavioral Sciences, it is one of several programs that would meet our minimum requirements for our Training Coordinator position.
- I answered survey to the best of my ability. We are primarily a third party administrator of Community Based Care Coordination (CBCC) services in 11 counties across Eastern Washington (including Grant Co.) and our home office is located in East Wenatchee. While our direct needs for this type of program is limited, our network of 8+ contracted agencies currently employ 60+ community based workforce (CBW) that hold job titles of Care Coordinator and some of the program funders require a Bachelors Level education at a

minimum to hold the position. Currently nearly 50% of the clients served by the workforce have at least one serious mental illness (SMI) diagnosis according to Health Care Authority/Department of Health and Human Services. The potential of having this much needed program will benefit all of NCW and beyond. I am more than happy to schedule a meeting to talk through this further. CBCC programs will be the focus of Medicaid Transformation for the next 5+ years, therefore I consider the development of a Bachelor's Degree program in Behavioral Sciences as a critical component in the collaborative work.

Appendix B: Wenatchee Valley College Behavioral Health Employer Survey Data

Fall 2022

Organization name	County	Does your agency have behavioral health related jobs that a person with an Bachelors of Applied Science can obtain?	Does your agency/employer place value (formally or informally) on attracting local talent for open positions? Please explain.	Are there positions at your organization that are difficult to fill? Please explain.	If you had to say, what degree(s) will a person who wants to have a career in behavioral healthcare need in the first 5 years of their career?	Adequately trained, supervised, and supported workers would fill gaps in currently available. baccalaureate level BH workers would fill gaps in a timely manner.	Additional behavioral healthcare workers are needed to meet patient needs for mental healthcare in a timely manner.	Our agency would hire people with a BAS in behavioral healthcare.	How many people with a BAS in behavioral healthcare would you be likely to hire in the next five years?
Columbia Counseling 607	Chelan Cour	Yes, if the degree is specific	Yes, our agency l	Not at the momer	At least an associates;	Strongly disagree	Strongly agree	We would be unlikely to	0
Family Health Centers	Okanogan C	Yes	yes, there is a larg	any licensed positi	At least a baccalaureate;At leas	Agree	Strongly agree	We would definitely hire	1-3
WVC & Private Practice Self-Employed	Chelan Cour	As a therapist in private pra	This is not applica	This is not applica	This all depends on what the job	Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	0
The Center for Alcohol & Drug Treatment	Chelan Cour	Yes	Absolutely, specif	Yes, it is difficult to	At least a baccalaureate;	Agree	Agree	We would definitely hire	2
Family Health Centers Twisp	Okanogan C	Yes	yes, we seek local people for our sta	At least a baccalaureate;	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Unsure	Not sure
Family Health Centers	Okanogan C	Yes, if the degree is specific	Yes, we often hir	I don't believe the	At least a baccalaureate;	Agree	Agree	Unsure	Not aware of financial resources availa
Family Health Centers	Okanogan C	No	Yes, Family Health	Behavioral Health	At least a masters;	Agree	Agree	Unsure	Unknown
Family Health Centers	Okanogan C	I don't know	Yes. There is ofte	I imagine so. The	Depends on what they want to	Strongly disagree	Strongly agree	Unsure	I'm not sure. That's why I got my maste
Confluence Health	Chelan Cour	Yes in general, but for beh	Yes, many of our	Behavioral Health	At least a masters;Medicaid/ca	Disagree	Strongly agree	We would not hire peop	10+ depending on openings/internships
American Behavioral Health Systems (ABHS)	Chelan Cour	No, a Baccalaureate degree	Yes, we have Nur	Substance Use Dis	At least a baccalaureate;	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	We would definitely hire	10 plus hires
The Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment	Chelan Cour	Yes	Yes. Informally.	Substance Use Dis	At least a baccalaureate;	Agree	Strongly agree	We would definitely hire	unknown
The Center	Chelan Cour	Yes	Yes, because we	Our detox is curre	It depends on the capacity they	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	We would not hire peop	That is not my area of expertise, that w
Chelan County District Court	Chelan Cour	No	Yes, I would pref	Yes, we have seve	At least a baccalaureate;	Agree	Strongly agree	We would definitely hire	2-3
The Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment	Chelan Cour	Yes, if the degree is specific	Yes. We are part	Associate staff (no	At least an associates;	Agree	Unsure	We would definitely hire	As many as our organization could affo
Colville Tribes	Okanogan C	Yes, if the degree is specific	Yes. We offer full	Yes clinical mental	At least a masters;	Agree	Strongly agree	We would definitely hire	10
The Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment	Douglas Cou	Yes	No	Yes, Our Youth de	At least an associates;	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Unsure	10
Okanogan Behavioral Health Care	Okanogan C	Maybe	yes, always seeki	Mental Health pro	At least a masters;	Agree	Strongly agree	Unsure	unknown
Family Health Center	Okanogan C	Yes, if the degree is specific	Yes	Yes, positions with	At least a masters;Hours requir	Agree	Strongly agree	Unsure	This depends on the agency's policy, st
The center for alcohol and drug treatment	Chelan Cour	Yes		Yes, we have a ne	At least a baccalaureate;	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	We would definitely hire	Unknown
Centro Latino: NW Family Services Institute	Chelan Cour	Yes, if the degree is specific	Prefer local biling	Yes, due to langua	At least a baccalaureate;	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	We would definitely hire	4 to 5

Appendix B: Wenatchee Valley College Behavioral Health Employer Survey Data

Comments

- Unfortunately in our agency, we are unable to pay hire wages for someone with a BA. A BA degree is not needed for our SUD field. I am seeing people with BA's who are unable to get jobs because the agencies cannot afford to pay their higher wages. I do see a need for more Mental Health providers in our community, although a Masters Degree is needed.
- Like 21, I cannot answer the questions since I am a solo therapist. and do not have employees.
- I am personally limited by my lack of BS to move up in my field. I would very much like to pursue this program if it were offered as a stepping stone to getting my masters. Behavioral Health work is my calling but I need more training and being able to do it locally would be life changing. I'm a single mother who has been trying to go back to school for years but having to move or be all remote learning is a barrier.
- We lack personnel to complete psychiatric consults for medications recommendations to provider support to medical providers.
- It would be great to have more counselors and BH services. More SUD services in the area would also be wonderful.
- I think the idea for a behavioral health BAS and we certainly need people in this area that are excited and interested in managing mental health disorders. Many of my students express excitement about psychology and I think we are seeing more and more need.
- My understanding at Confluence at the very least someone will need a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) to be hired for therapy (HR and other fields that incorporate psychology I'm less clear on). Are there other licenses a BA level provider might obtain? A barrier for students wanting to enter the field quickly to provide therapy at the bachelor level will be whether they can bill for services at the completion of their degree.

- I am an SUD provider and this survey is definitely mental health biased. For instance, question # 11 is unanswerable by me as we are not a licensed MH agency...yet I have to answer if I want to finish the survey. I can try to answer as a referent, but it is still an unhelpful guess on my part. :(
- my agency has placed a priority on hiring masters level therapists. Leadership has a need for those who can bill for services immediately. However they may be open to training and supporting lower degrees
- Okanogan County is an enormous county geographically which creates many barriers for patients. If you look at the demographics for the county in terms of socioeconomic challenges this also limits access to care. Services to minority clients is getting better but we have a long way to go. We are in desperate need of more mental health services. Yes, individuals with BAS could augment services but it will not replace the need for therapists. How agencies and programs within agencies are organized and function begins with the vision and pragmatic planning of those serving on the board of directors and administrators. It then falls to key individuals to hiring competent supervisors. Funding sources often limit how grants can be used which limits the effectiveness of new program implementation. My final thought is to include those in the trenches doing direct service when planning and developing programs. There is such a wealth of knowledge and wisdom that is overlooked more often than not.
- Thank you for working towards bettering our behavioral health services
- None

Appendix C: Big Bend Community College Behavioral Health Employer Survey Data

August 2023

ID	Name2	Organization	What educational credential are you seeking for your behavioral health employees? Mark all that apply:	What is the current number of positions for individuals trained to do the positions listed above or similar titles in your organization?	For BBCC to apply for new program approval, the college must demonstrate job demand and projected employment growth in the field within our service district. Over the next three years, what is t...	Which towns/cities/counties do you provide behavioral health services in?	What is the estimated annual base salary for a full-time entry level, new graduate entering these positions?	Employer tuition reimbursemen?	Does your organization have any specific higher educational needs related to behavioral health? For example, would an associate's degree serve your employment needs better than a bachelor's degree...
1	Julie Rickard	Moment by Moment Suicide Preventio	Associate's Degree in a field	5-9	10-15	Moses Lake; Ephrata; f	\$46,000-48,999	Yes	Having the people trained in evidence based practice similar to the UW curriculum is helpful. That curriculum easily translates to other settings such as schools, hospitals, primary care, working as co-responders with the police
2	Shawn DeLancy	Catholic Charities Serving Central Was	Associate's Degree in a field	10-15	10-15	Outside of Grant/Ada	\$46,000-48,999	Yes	We can have Associates + 2 years experience, Bachelors is preferred in a behavioral health related field.
3	colleen hazel	MLCHC	Master's Degree++;	5-9	1-4	Moses Lake; Quincy;	Above \$55,000	Yes	
4	Carrie Barr	Samaritan Healthcare	Bachelor's Degree in a field	1-4		Moses Lake;	\$43,000-45,999	No	
5	Leah Becknell	Carelon Behavioral Health	Bachelor's Degree in a field	21-25	1-4	Moses Lake; Outside c	\$49,000-51,999	Maybe	Are positions are mostly non-clinical so a relevant background and experience in BH is most important
6	Angie Karlsson	Molina Healthcare	Bachelor's Degree in a field	1-4	5-9	Moses Lake; Ephrata; c	\$52,000-54,999	Yes	anyone working as a case manager in any field with Molina Healthcare, need to have a BA or more. those in the BH field, have to have a BA or MSW
7	Juan Padilla	Renew	Master's Degree++;	Over 25	10-15	Moses Lake; Ephrata; f	\$49,000-51,999	Yes	BA would benefit us most
8	Phillip Coats	Grant County Sheriff's Office	Bachelor's Degree in a field	not sure	1-4	Rural areas of Grant and/or Adams Counties; S		No	None
9	Ana Johnson	Behavioral Health Unit- Chelan County	Bachelor's Degree in a field	1-4	1-4	Outside of Grant/Ada	\$52,000-54,999	No	We require a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree. There are additional certifications that are obtained through employment.
10	Victoria Rivera	Catholic Charities Central Washington	Associate's Degree in a field	n/a	1-4	Outside of Grant/Ada	\$46,000-48,999	Yes	Depending on the position they are applying for. Most of our organization requires at least an AA or a Peer Certification
11	Shara Beyer	Catholic Charities Serving Central Was	Master's Degree++;	1-4	10-15	Outside of Grant/Ada	Above \$55,000	No	
12	Dell Anderson	Renew, Behavioral Health & Wellness	Bachelor's Degree in a field	Over 25	10-15	Moses Lake; Ephrata; f	\$40,000-42,999	Maybe	for Substance Use Treatment the provider has to have at least an Associates, then we have a tier for wage based on degree. Case Managers and Care Coordinator are required to have a Bachelor's and Therapists are required to have a Masters.
13	Marcy Treat	CVCH New Path	Associate's Degree in a field	1-4	1-4	Moses Lake; Quincy; S	\$52,000-54,999	Yes	Chemical dependency studies certificate or BA in addiction studies
14	Laurie Ahmann	Summer Wood Alzheimer's Special Car High School or equivalent;		10-15	16-20	Moses Lake; Rural are	\$46,000-48,999	No	Associates Degree would serve our employment needs just fine. We are looking for specific certifications in Behavior Management, including, approach, redirection, medication management, documenting behaviors, looking at trends and alot more.

Appendix C: Big Bend Community College Behavioral Health Employer Survey Data- *Comments*

August 2023

- I am happy to help be on an advisory board for this program.
- At CC we are working towards continuing education. Working with our Bachelors Level staff to become Master's Level, so that we can continue to bring in Bachelors Level staff.
- The new BH position id not reimbursable under HCA at present. If that were to change we would potentially look at this position in our clinic. We are currently working on this in a group with U of WA and BBCC.
- In addition to clinical/direct care positions, we also need individuals versed in administrative functions (e.g. billing, contract management, etc.) in behavioral health care as well as individuals who are skilled in group facilitation.
- I think it is VERY needed in our community. It's extremely difficult for some to travel to colleges around the state or accomplish success with online only. Not everyone prefers online classes. We need to be able to provide this BH education not only for the youth coming out of high school, but; for the individuals that want to advance in their current careers. Employers are asking for BA, not even experience, is good enough anymore. WE need this!!
- If you could somehow connect with EWU social work program to reach BSW degree through BBCC would be amazing.
- This program is much needed for Grant County. I believe this will assist in educating the public in the needs of our community and in the correctional setting.
- This is an amazing opportunity especially in a time when demand for services is much greater than the current workforce can support.
- Chemical dependency studies and addiction studies
- We are very interested in being involved with the exploration of this being offered at BBCC and what it will include, so we can encourage the staff we have to apply and explore. We have already spoken to our staff about this opportunity and they are waiting to hear more also.

Appendix D: Wenatchee Valley College Behavioral Health Student Survey Data

February 2023

ID	Name	Current goal at WVC?	How much education do you plan to attain?	If WVC were to offer a BAS-BH degree, would you consider applying to the program?	If there were a BAS in Behavioral health at WVC (Wenatchee Valley College) how likely would you be to enroll?	Why would you be interested in a BAS in Behavioral Healthcare at WVC?	Online
1	Makayla Sanchez	Associates of Arts a	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Somewhat likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
2	Tiffany Bryant	both Associates of	Ph.D., Psy.D., MD, or JD	Yes	Somewhat likely	All of the above	Best for me
3	Catherine Graybill	Associates of Arts a	Associates degree	Yes	Very likely	Location of campus	Best for me
4	Melissa Carlson	Associates of Arts a	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Unsure	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
5	Libbie Poirier	4-year degree	Ph.D., Psy.D., MD, or JD	Maybe	Unsure	I would prefer to stay at W	Best for me
6	Molly Salter	Associates of Arts a	MA or MS	Maybe	Unsure	Aligns with my career goal	Neutral
7	Shalame	Associates of Arts a	Associates degree	Yes	Somewhat likely	Aligns with my career goals	
8	Mariela Hernandez	Associates of Arts a	Bachelor's degree	No	Unsure	Aligns with my career goal	Neutral
9	Jesse Rae	Other 2-year (Assoc	Bachelor's degree	Maybe	Somewhat likely	I would prefer to stay at W	Best for me
10	Sonia casillas	BSN nursing	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
11	Belinda Mercado	4-year degree	MA or MS	Yes	Very likely	I would prefer to stay at W	Good for me
12	Travis Hodosko	Associates of Chem	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	Affordability	Best for me
13	Chloeanna Weller	Associates of Chem	Associates degree	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with career goals an	Best for me
14	Claudia Verduzco	4-year degree	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
15	Lucia	Other 2-year (Assoc	Bachelor's degree	No	Unsure	it's beneficial to our comm	Neutral
16	Liz	Other 2-year (Assoc	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
17	Elizabeth Gzyl	Associates of Chem	MA or MS	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
18	Mykala Berntsen	Associates of Chem	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	Location of campus	Best for me
19	Teyler	BSN	MA or MS	Yes	Very likely	Affordability	Best for me
20	Karina Jeronimo	Associates of Arts a	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	I would prefer to stay at W	Best for me
21	Alyssa Vazquez	Nursing	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Somewhat likely	Affordability	Best for me
22	Alondra Rodriguez	Other 2-year (Assoc	Associates degree	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
23	Laura Villanueva	Associates of Arts a	MA or MS	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Good for me
24	Jill Allen		Bachelor's degree	Yes	Somewhat likely	Online	Best for me
25	Kelsey Browning	Bachelor Science in	Bachelor's degree	Maybe	Unsure	Affordability	Best for me
26	Carrie Murphy	BSN	Bachelor's degree	Maybe	Unsure	Currently work in Behavior	Best for me
27	Erika Aguilar	A certificate	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
28	Alicia Miller	Associates of Arts a	Bachelor's degree	Maybe	Unsure	I would prefer to stay at W	Best for me

29	Deore Plews	Associates of Arts a	MA or MS	Maybe	Somewhat likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
30	Jeff Kunkel	Associate Degree o	MA or MS	Yes	Somewhat likely	All of the above. WVC is at	Neutral
31	Vanessa Garcia	4-year degree	Ph.D., Psy.D., MD, or JD	Yes	Somewhat likely	I would prefer to stay at W	Best for me
32	Edwin A Garcia	A certificate	Ph.D., Psy.D., MD, or JD	No	Unsure	Knowledge	Good for me
33	Lizbeth Ramirez	Associates of Arts a	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Neutral
34	Yennifer Gonzalez	Associates of Arts a	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	Affordability	Good for me
35	Sonna Schuttner	4-year degree	MA or MS	No	Very unlikely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
36	jocelyn Medina	bachelor in early ch	Bachelor's degree	No	Unsure	I would prefer to stay at W	Best for me
37	maria gomez	Other 2-year (Assoc	Associates degree	Maybe	Somewhat unlikely	I would prefer to stay at W	Neutral
38	Diana Mercado	4-year degree	MA or MS	No	Unsure	N/A	Best for me
39	Karina Naranjo	Other 2-year (Assoc	Ph.D., Psy.D., MD, or JD	Yes	Somewhat likely	I would prefer to stay at W	Good for me
40	Elizabeth Koomler	Associates of Arts a	Bachelor's degree	Maybe	Unsure	I would prefer to stay at W	Best for me
41	tyler cuff	4-year degree	MA or MS	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
42	whitney woodward	Associates of Arts a	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Somewhat likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
43	Lisa liu	Other 2-year (Assoc	Bachelor's degree	Maybe	Unsure	I would prefer to stay at W	Neutral
44	Francisca Cuin Angel	Other 2-year (Assoc	Bachelor's degree	Maybe	Unsure	I would prefer to stay at W	Best for me
45	Alexi Granados	Associates of Arts a	DMD or DDS	Maybe	Very unlikely	Location of campus	
46	Cynthia Sanchez	Associates of Arts a	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	I would prefer to stay at W	Best for me
47	Susy Lemus	A certificate	College certificate	Yes	Very likely	I would prefer to stay at W	Best for me
48	Andrea Sanchez	Other 2-year (Assoc	Bachelor's degree	Maybe	Unsure	Affordability	Good for me
49	Jaiden stentz	Associates of Arts a	MA or MS	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
						As a community member, I'd be interested in this program so that trained and qualified graduates can enter the workforce and help my communities.	
50	Anna MacCamy	Complete prerequisite	Nurse Practioner	No	Somewhat unlikely		
51	Crystal	Associates of Arts a	MA or MS	Yes	Somewhat likely	Location of campus	Good for me
52	Areana Flores	4-year degree	Bachelor's degree	Maybe	Unsure	Aligns with my career goals	
53	Jurixia Cervantes	Other 2-year (Assoc	Bachelor's degree	Maybe	Unsure	I would prefer to stay at W	Best for me
54	Sonna Schuttner	4-year degree	MA or MS	No	Very unlikely	I have other goals but if I v	Best for me
55	Hannah Olsen	4-year degree	MA or MS	Yes	Very likely	Location of campus	Best for me
56	Nancy Diaz Lopez	Nursing	Associates degree	Maybe	Somewhat likely	Location of campus	Neutral
57	Melissa Carlson	Associates of Chem	Bachelor's degree	Maybe	Somewhat likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
58	Bart Palasty	Associates of Chem	Ph.D., Psy.D., MD, or JD	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
59	Tiffany Bryant	both associates of	Ph.D., Psy.D., MD, or JD	Maybe	Unsure	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
60	Tonya Rasmussen	Associates of Chem	Associates degree	Maybe	Somewhat likely	I would prefer to stay at W	Good for me
61	Heather Smith	Associates of Chem	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	I would prefer to stay at W	Best for me

62	Paige	Associates of Chem	Associates degree	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
63	Christine Anderson	Other 2-year (Assoc	Bachelor's degree	No	Very unlikely		
64	Ryan Dauphinee	Associates of Arts a	Associates degree	No	Somewhat unlikely	Aligns with my career goal	Neutral
65	megan bryant	Associates of Chem	MA or MS	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
						I'm not interested because, unless I want to be caseworker, the mental health counseling positions require a master's degree.	
66	Marggie Bass	Associates of Chem	Maybe a Ph. D in Addiction C	No	Very unlikely		
67	Samael Vazquez	4-year degree	Ph.D., Psy.D., MD, or JD	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Neutral
68	Amaya Fields	Other 2-year (Assoc	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
69	Ronda Smeltzer	Associates of Chem	Associates degree	Yes	Somewhat likely	Aligns with my career goal	Good for me
70	Carol	Other 2-year (Assoc	MA or MS	Yes	Somewhat likely	Huge need for this type of	Best for me
71	Elizabeth Gzyl	Other 2-year (Assoc	MA or MS	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
72	TASHA	BAS	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Somewhat likely	Location of campus	Best for me
73	Jason Holland	Associates of Chem	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	I would prefer to stay at W	Best for me
74	Bart W. Palasty	Associates of Chem	Ph.D., Psy.D., MD, or JD	Yes	Very likely	All the above	Best for me
75	Paige Baker	Associates of Chem	Associates degree	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me
76	Ruby	Associates of Arts a	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Very likely	Aligns with my career goal	Best for me

Appendix D: Wenatchee Valley College Behavioral Health Student Survey Data- Comments

February 2023

- I would love to see more options available to WVC students.
- You have my vote I think its a great option for students who want to take on this field.
- I'm currently doing engineering here. But that's because at the time that was one of the options. More options always makes for more. Thanks
- I believe we certainly need more behavioral health providers in Wenatchee Valley and this program would help us meet the needs of our community. Although this is an area of interest for me, I have a different career goal. I do know of people that would enter this program and it would be great because it is in their hometown as well.
- I am getting ready to do a transfer degree and change soon more than likely so this is very interesting to me to say the least.
- I just want to say my end goal is something masters or bachelor's in mental health, I like having the chemical dependency side to things but I would be more open to this program working with all ages, when it comes to chemical dependency I would only like to work with teens children and younger adults that have a chance.
- It's an excellent idea to bring this degree into campus. I would be excited to take it since Psychology is what I am going forth for a degree. Mental health is part of our society now, we need people to respond to those in need. I am thrilled this was brought forth to consider. I hope this degree becomes available to keep attending WVC after I graduate on winter quarter of 2023.
- I think that with the lack of staff in our behavioral health centers in the valley, this degree would be extremely helpful and beneficial to our community. I think behavioral health professionals are something we need very urgently.
- This is a fantastic idea!!
- This would be the answer to my prayers!
- I am so glad WVC is considering this program, as this is what I have been looking into doing after completing my AA degree this summer. I know Spokane Falls I community college offers it.
- I am happy to see this being a possibility, however, my field is Nursing and I do not see myself changing careers. I hope this option is formatted and meets state criteria for accreditation as I feel there are more people interested in the field now. I hope it takes off, we need more behavioral health specialists.

- I want to support anything that builds our community and the resources we have available to provide care to those in need. I think this valley is in short supply of well-trained behavioral health providers, and increasing the number of Bachelors programs at WVC will create more pull to attend WVC and help the college continue to grow.
- No comments. Indeed, is something that will help many people. I'm currently taking counseling in Confluence after 6 months of waiting and only because there was a cancellation.
- This degree would be nice for people that can't afford going to a university but still want to full fill their dream career.
- As an employee at the Public Health Center in Methow Valley, as a person seeking a degree in medicine, and as a working mom of 3, I feel that this could be an invaluable program for our community. Access to education is such a barrier and WVC has shown to me their commitment to helping students reach their goals. If more mental health workers were able to access education without having to travel or pay exorbitant amounts for school, they could then stay in our community where they are desperately needed.
- I graduate this quarter with my AAS and am exploring options in sociology, public health, and emergency management. I have always been passionate about mental health after my own ptsd diagnosis. I would consider this as a part of my career path.
- I'm excited to see the program details.
- I may have done this twice, but I accidentally closed the screen and I'm not sure if it was submitted!
- My previous note that I may have erased was basically stating that even though this would not align with my current career goals, I feel that if there is interest, this could be an invaluable gift to our community. I am choosing to attend WVC with the intension of obtaining a bsn in nursing because I am a working mom who wants to continue to work in public health. While the job isn't one I feel I am suited for, Mental Health Workers are sorely needed in Okanogan County and WVC provides a quality education, at an affordable price, in a locally accessible way. Simply put, I really hope this works out. Thanks for exploring the potential.
- The prospect of a BAS program at WVC is very exciting! Please remember to include the needs of Omak Campus students in your plans for implementing this program.
- This is a great idea. I hope it works out.
- I live in Omak and i feel that more mental health providers are necessary in this community.
- I am an active member in the chemical dependency, recovery, and prevention fields in this area. I am dedicated to spending the rest of my career fighting the disease of addiction in our valley. I believe we desperately need more resources for addiction and mental health treatment. My plan is to transfer in the fall 2024 to a 4 year university for this same area of study and this seems like something I may be able to stay local for.
- I think it is a great idea to offer this program. I am already set on getting into nursing school to be an RN-BSN, but this would be a great opportunity for someone.
- I think this program is greatly needed. Thank you.

Thank You!

I think that offering this program might encourage more to follow this path. Having to go outside of the valley and the bigger expense of a university deters many.

I think this is a fantastic idea, and a great opportunity for the community, students, and Wenatchee Valley College.

Appendix E: Big Bend Community College Behavioral Health Student Survey Data

January 2024

85 responses

1.

How likely would you be to enroll in a new bachelor's degree program in Behavioral Healthcare at Big Bend Community College?

[More Details](#)

Very likely	25
Somewhat likely	23
Neither likely nor unlikely	21
Somewhat unlikely	6
Very unlikely	10



2. Which workforce program are you currently enrolled?

[More Details](#)

Criminal Justice	15
Education/Early Childhood Educ...	65
Other	5

