



## Professional Licensing and Certification Guidance Letter

<b>Number:</b> GL 20-5003
<b>Title:</b> Required Training on Human Trafficking for Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors (HB 2059-86R)
<b>Provider Types:</b> Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors
<b>Date Issued:</b> January 6, 2021

### 1.0 Subject and Purpose

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) provides guidance to licensed professionals on legislation passed during the most recent Texas legislative session. House Bill (HB) 2059, concerning required human trafficking prevention training for certain health care practitioners, took effect September 1, 2019.

This letter provides instruction to licensed chemical dependency counselors (LCDCs) on the passage of HB 2059 and outlines licensee responsibilities and expectations.

### 2.0 Policy Details & Provider Responsibilities

HB 2059 amended the Texas Occupations Code (TOC) by adding Chapter 116, Training Course on Human Trafficking Prevention.<sup>1</sup> Under this chapter, health care practitioners, including LCDCs, are required to successfully complete a training course approved by HHSC on identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking. This training course must be completed as a condition for renewal of a license issued to the health care practitioner.

HB 2059 also requires HHSC to:

- approve training courses on human trafficking prevention, including at least one course that is available without charge;

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<sup>1</sup> TOC [Chapter 116](#).

- post a list of the approved training courses on HHSC's website; and
- update the list of approved training courses described as necessary and consider for approval training courses conducted by health care facilities.

## **2.1 HHSC Health Care Practitioner Human Trafficking Training**

LCDCs and other health care practitioners can visit the HHSC Health Care Practitioner Human Trafficking Training web page to view more information on:

- approved human trafficking training courses;
- the list of health care practitioners required to take this training for licensure renewal; and
- the standards, review process, and application guidelines for external entities to be considered as approved human trafficking courses for health care practitioners.

[Click here to view the HHSC Health Care Practitioner Human Trafficking Training web page.](#)

## **3.0 Background/History**

HB 2059 amended the Occupations Code to require certain health care practitioners who provide direct patient care to complete a training course on identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking as a condition of registration permit or license renewal. The purpose of this bill was to equip health care practitioners, who are often the first professionals to have contact with victims of human trafficking, with the training needed to detect potential victims of human trafficking, provide them with adequate care, and refer them to additional support services.

## **4.0 Resources**

View Texas Occupations Code Chapter 116 at:

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/OC/htm/OC.116.htm>.

View HB 2059 at:

<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/86R/billtext/pdf/HB02059F.pdf>.

View Health Care Practitioner Human Trafficking Training provided by HHSC at: <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/texas-human-trafficking-resource-center/health-care-practitioner-human-trafficking-training>.

To receive future updates, sign up for GovDelivery at:  
<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHSC/subscriber/new>.

### **5.0 Contact Information**

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Policy, Rules, and Training unit by email at: [HCR\\_PRT@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:HCR_PRT@hhs.texas.gov).

For specific questions on Health Care Practitioner Human Trafficking Training, please email: [human\\_trafficking@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:human_trafficking@hhs.texas.gov).