

Discussion and Adoption of Proposed Revised Accreditation Handbook

October 2022

Overview

This agenda item is the culmination of work that began in February 2022 to consider revisions to the *Accreditation Handbook*. At each Committee on Accreditation meeting since that time, staff has brought to the COA for discussion and further consideration one or more chapters of the *Accreditation Handbook* with proposed draft revisions. This agenda item brings forward for consideration and potential adoption revisions for all fifteen chapters of the *Accreditation Handbook*.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the proposed revised *Accreditation Handbook*. Further, staff recommend that the action of COA include the ability for staff to make appropriate non substantive changes (e.g. grammar, punctuation, sentence clarity) should the need arise in the future.

Overview

This agenda item contains final proposed revisions for all 15 chapters of the *Accreditation Handbook (Handbook)*. Last adopted in 2016, the *Handbook* must be brought up to date and aspects must be clarified or expanded upon based on current policies and procedures. To ensure that sufficient time and attention to detail is facilitated, staff has been bringing forward changes throughout 2022 at each COA meeting. All chapters have been discussed at these meetings with the exception of Chapter 13 related to national accreditation and Chapter 8 related to accreditation decisions, which was discussed using the current version and not a tracked change version of the chapter.

Staff incorporated the comments and suggestions from the COA into various chapters. A subgroup of staff then reviewed each chapter for clarity, consistency in language, conciseness, ensuring the links work and references were appropriate and accurate, and that the policies and procedures contained in the chapters were accurately reflected. Additional edits were then made and are included in the versions that are contained in this agenda item.

Next Steps

If the COA adopts the proposed revised *Accreditation Handbook*, it will be posted immediately and notice will be provided in the PSD Enews to alert programs to the new *Accreditation Handbook*. Further, regulatory language will be promulgated for some aspects of the *Accreditation Handbook*.