

# You are an MHP but are you a Q?

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## What does it mean to be a Qualified Mental Health Professional?

This question came up at a past event training. The conversation that followed prompted a discussion around QMHP's, who they are and what it all means.

**Q: With regard to the Waiver paperwork: Who signs the Family Assurance Document on the line "Approved Center Staff"...**

A: A QMHP.

**Q: "Who is a QMHP?"**

A: *Approved Center Staff* and *Approved Mental Health Provider* are oftentimes used interchangeably for **Qualified Mental Health Professional**...however, Per KSA 59-2946 and Appendix B of the Federal Waiver Application:

"Qualified mental health professional means a physician or psychologist who is employed by a participating mental health center who is providing services as a physician or psychologist under a contract with participating mental health center, a licensed masters level psychologist, a licensed marriage and family therapist, a licensed professional counselor, a licensed specialist social worker or licensed master social worker or a registered nurse who has a specialty in psychiatric nursing, who is employed by a participating mental health center and who is acting under the direction of a physician or psychologist who is employed by, or under contract with a participating mental health center."

So, what does all this mean? You are a Mental Health Professional if you work at a CMHC as a community based provider, but you may not be a **Qualified** Mental Health Professional as defined by the Federal Waiver Application. Check with your center's supervisor if you have questions.