



# Advisory Board on Genetic Counseling

Virginia Board of Medicine

June 4, 2018

1:00 p.m.

## Advisory Board on Genetic Counseling

Board of Medicine

Monday, June 4, 2018; 1:00 p.m.

9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201

Richmond, Virginia

Call to Order – John Quillin, PhD, MPH, MS

Emergency Egress Procedures – Alan Heaberlin

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Roll Call - Denise Mason

Approval of Meeting Minutes dated January 29, 2018

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Adoption of the Agenda

New Business

1. A Bill to Amend the Code of Virginia by amending § 54.1-2957.19  
Elaine Yeatts

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2. Form B Employment Verification for Visa Applicants  
John Quillin, PhD, MPH, MS

Next Meeting Date: October 1, 2018 @ 1:00 p.m.

Announcements:

Adjournment:

**PERIMETER CENTER CONFERENCE CENTER**  
**EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF BOARD AND TRAINING ROOMS**  
(Script to be read at the beginning of each meeting.)

**Training Room 2**

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. **(Point)** Upon exiting the doors, turn **LEFT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

DRAFT UNAPPROVED

**ADVISORY BOARD ON GENETIC COUNSELING  
MINUTES**

**January 29, 2018**

The Advisory Board on Genetic Counseling met on Monday, January 29, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Quillin, PhD, MPH, MS, Chair  
Matthew Thomas, ScM, CGC  
Heather Creswick, MS, CGC  
Marilyn Foust, MD

**MEMBER ABSENT:** Lori Swain, Vice-Chair

**STAFF PRESENT:** William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director,  
Elaine Yeatts, DHP Senior Policy Analyst  
Alan Heaberlin, Deputy Executive Director  
Colanthia Morton Opher, Operations Manager  
Denise Mason, Licensing Specialist

**GUESTS PRESENT:** None

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Quillin called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

**EMERGENCY EGRESS PROCEDURES**

Alan Heaberlin announced the Emergency Egress Instructions.

**ROLL CALL**

Denise Mason called roll, and a quorum was declared.

DRAFT UNAPPROVED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2017**

Ms. Creswick moved to approve the minutes of October 2, 2017. The motion was seconded and carried.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Dr. Foust moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Legislative Update**

Ms. Yeatts reviewed legislation that had been introduced in the 2018 General Assembly that might be of interest to the Advisory Board. No action was required.

**2. Proposal to Reintroduce Legislation to Amend Section 54.1-2957.19(C) of the Code of Virginia**

Ms. Yeatts suggested that the Advisory Board consider asking the full Board to reintroduce the Bill to Amend the Code of Virginia by Amending Section 54.1-2957.19. This bill would allow genetic counselors that graduated from programs accredited by predecessor organizations of the American Board of Genetic Counseling to be licensed. Ms. Creswick moved to request the bill be reintroduced. The motion was seconded and carried.

**3. Discussion of Possible Regulatory Action**

The Advisory Board discussed revising Section 18VAC85-170-60 of the Regulations Governing Genetic Counseling due to a concern that the language regarding the “expiration of active candidate status” could be confusing. Mr. Thomas moved to strike the language “expiration of active candidate status” and replace it with “failure of the ABGC Board Certification Examination.” The regulation would read, “An applicant for a temporary license shall provide documentation of having been granted active candidate status by the ABGC. Such license shall expire 12 months from issuance or upon ~~expiration of active candidate status~~, failure of the ABGC Board Certification Examination, whichever comes first.” The motion was seconded and carried.

DRAFT UNAPPROVED

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alan Heaberlin informed the Advisory Board that there are currently 92 Genetic Counselors holding licenses with the Virginia Board of Medicine. During FY2018, 89 licenses have been issued.

Ms. Opher told the Advisory Board members that they would now be receiving a \$50.00 per diem payment if not employed by the Commonwealth.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

June 4, 2018 at 10:00a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

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John Quillin, PhD, MPH, MS Chair  
Director

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William L. Harp, M.D., Executive

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Denise Mason, Licensing Specialist

2019 Session of the General Assembly

Department of Health Professions

A BILL to amend the *Code of Virginia* by amending § 54.1-2957.19, relating to the accreditation of educational programs in genetic counseling.

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**That § 54.1-2957.19 of the *Code of Virginia* is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 54.1-2957.19. Genetic counseling; regulation of the practice; license required; licensure; temporary license.**

- A. The Board shall adopt regulations governing the practice of genetic counseling, upon consultation with the Advisory Board on Genetic Counseling. The regulations shall (i) set forth the requirements for licensure to practice genetic counseling, (ii) provide for appropriate application and renewal fees, (iii) include requirements for licensure renewal and continuing education, (iv) be consistent with the American Board of Genetic Counseling's current job description for the profession and the standards of practice of the National Society of Genetic Counselors, and (v) allow for independent practice.
- B. It shall be unlawful for a person to practice or hold himself out as practicing genetic counseling in the Commonwealth without a valid, unrevoked license issued by the Board. No unlicensed person may use in connection with his name or place of business the title "genetic counselor," "licensed genetic counselor," "gene counselor," "genetic consultant," or "genetic associate" or any words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying a person holds a genetic counseling license.
- C. An applicant for licensure as a genetic counselor shall submit evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant (i) has earned a master's degree from a genetic counseling training program that is accredited by the Accreditation Council of Genetic Counseling, or its predecessor organizations, and (ii) holds a current, valid certificate issued by the American Board of Genetic Counseling or American Board of Medical Genetics to practice genetic counseling.
- D. The Board shall waive the requirements of a master's degree and American Board of Genetic Counseling or American Board of Medical Genetics certification for license applicants who (i) apply for licensure before December 31, 2018, or within 90 days of the effective date of the regulations promulgated by the Board pursuant to subsection A, whichever is later; (ii) comply with the Board's regulations relating to the National Society of Genetic Counselors Code of Ethics; (iii) have at least 20 years of documented work experience practicing genetic counseling; (iv) submit two letters of recommendation, one from a genetic counselor and another from a physician; and (v) have completed, within the last five years, 25 hours of continuing education approved by the National Society of Genetic Counselors or the American Board of Genetic Counseling.

E. The Board may grant a temporary license to an applicant who has been granted Active Candidate Status by the American Board of Genetic Counseling and has paid the temporary license fee. Temporary licenses shall be valid for a period of up to one year. ~~An applicant shall not be eligible for temporary license renewal upon expiration of Active Candidate Status as defined by the American Board of Genetic Counseling.~~ A temporary license shall expire twelve months from issuance or upon failure of the American Board of Genetic Counseling examination, whichever comes first. A person practicing genetic counseling under a temporary license shall be supervised by a licensed genetic counselor or physician.

DRAFT