

**FINAL APPROVED**

**ADVISORY BOARD ON GENETIC COUNSELING  
MINUTES**

June 4, 2018

The Advisory Board on Genetic Counseling met on Monday, June 4, 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  
Lori Swain, Vice-Chair, Citizen Member

**MEMBER ABSENT:** Marilyn Foust, MD

**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:** Kristine Sidhu, MS-INOVA Fairfax Hospital

**CALL TO ORDER**

John Quillin called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**EMERGENCY EGRESS PROCEDURES**

Alan Heaberlin announced the Emergency Egress Instructions.

**ROLL CALL**

Denise Mason called roll, and a quorum was declared.

**FINAL APPROVED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 29, 2018**

Heather Creswick moved to approve the minutes of January 29, 2018. The motion was seconded and carried.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Matt Thomas moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Public Comment. The motion was seconded and carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kristine Sidhu, Perinatal Genetic Counselor, asked the Advisory Board to issue a temporary license until she takes the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) examination in August 2018. She provided her CV to the Advisory Board to indicate her qualifications as an experienced genetic counselor. She said that she had allowed her ABGC certification to lapse in 2015 and has recently been unable to obtain Active Candidate Status from ABGC. Active Candidate Status is a requirement in Virginia law for the Board of Medicine to issue a temporary license that would allow her to continue to practice until the examination date. She is concerned about access to genetic counseling services at her facility, saying that she has handled 250 cases since the beginning of this year. The Advisory Board suggested that Ms. Sidhu share with the ABGC all the documents and points that were discussed with the Advisory Board. As current law does not authorize the Board of Medicine to issue a temporary license, her appeal to the ABGC for reconsideration of Active Candidate Status may be more fruitful.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

Elaine Yeatts discussed amending Section §54.1-2957.19 of the Code of Virginia. The amendments would allow the Board of Medicine to accept the education certified by predecessor organizations of the Accreditation Council of Genetic Counseling, and to clarify that a temporary license is good for 12 months unless the licensee fails the ABGC examination. Matt Thomas moved to request that the Board of Medicine approve the proposed language. His motion was seconded and carried.

**2. Form B Employment Verification for Visa Applicants**

John Quillin suggested that, in the case of an applicant on a Visa, it might be acceptable for a FORM B Employment Verification to be completed by a colleague, and not necessarily by the applicant's supervisor. After discussion, the members of the Advisory Board agreed.

**FINAL APPROVED**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alan Heaberlin informed the Advisory Board that there are currently 147 Genetic Counselors holding licenses with the Virginia Board of Medicine; 69 of 147 the licensed Genetic Counselors are out of state.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

October 1, 2018 at 1:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

---

John Quillin, PhD, MPH, MS Chair  
Director

---

William L. Harp, M.D., Executive

---

Denise Mason, Licensing Specialist