

**THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
WORKFORCE SUMMIT MEETING MINUTES
Friday, April 25, 2014**

The Virginia Board of Social Work ("Board") meeting convened at 9:09 a.m. on Friday, April 25, 2014 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia. Bernadette Winters, Ad Hoc Committee Chair called the meeting to order.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Blosser
Yvonne Haynes
Susan Horne-Quatannens, Chair
Arthur Mayer
John Salay
Nettie Simon-Owens
Joseph Walsh
Bernadette Winters

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kristi Wooten

DHP STAFF PRESENT: Dr. David Brown, Director, Department of Health Professions
Elizabeth Carter, Director – Healthcare Workforce Data Center
Catherine Chappell, Executive Director
Justin Crow, Deputy Director – Healthcare Workforce Data Center
Sarah Georgen, Licensing Manager
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Melissa Abell, Virginia Commonwealth University

Molly Cheek, Dominion Youth Services
Rebecca China, Department of Social Services
Kim DiJoseph, Virginia Commonwealth University
Dr. Humberto Fabelo, Virginia Commonwealth University
Francis Goddard, Virginia Society of Clinical Social Workers
Rick Goodling, Virginia Society of Clinical Social Workers
Jennifer Henkel, Association of Social Work Boards
Dr. James Hinterlong, Virginia Commonwealth University
Dwight Hymans, Association of Social Work Boards
Debra Riggs, National Association of Social Workers
Dr. Dennis Ritchie, George Mason University
Dr. Martha Sawyer, Norfolk State University
Lauren Schmitt, National Association of Social Workers
Dr. Rowena Wilson, Norfolk State University
Dr. Michael Wolf-Branigin, George Mason University

WELCOME

Dr. Winters welcomed the participants of the meeting.

EMERGENCY EGRESS

Dr. Winters provided meeting attendees with the evacuation routes should the need arise.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Goodling provided public comment and inquired as to how the Board can support the increased demand for social workers in Virginia in the future and suggested the creation of Guidance Documents to help clarify requirements.

OVERVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS, MISSION OF THE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK, AND ROLE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Chappell provided an overview of the Board of Social Work's mission, as well as, that of the Department of Health Professions. She noted that the Board was specifically charged with promulgating and enforcing Regulations Governing the Practice of Social Work in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She provided information on the board's staff, stakeholders and logistics of the board.

LEGISLATION AND REGULATORY PROCESS

Ms. Yeatts explained the regulatory process in Virginia, which included the Administrative Process Act and executive orders. She stated that the regulatory process can take approximately 18 months to two (2) years to complete. She suggested that the public familiarize themselves with the regulatory Townhall website which provides information regarding the regulatory process, allows for comment on petitions for rule making, and provides information on upcoming meetings.

WORKFORCE DATA RESOURCES

Dr. Carter and Mr. Crow presented the Healthcare Workforce Data Center report which was developed from responses to the 2013 online renewal survey. The report provided baseline information on the working population of Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) in Virginia.

ASWB PRESENTATION ON SOCIAL WORK TRENDS AND ISSUES

Mr. Hymans stated that the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) develops and maintains the social work licensing examinations, and is a central resource for information on the legal regulation of social work.

Mr. Hymans provided the Board with information related to the national number of social workers. He said that the ASWB is making efforts to study social workers in the United States to identify trends and issues.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Dr. Winters opened the floor for discussion.

The participants of the meeting discussed the significance of exempt versus non-exempt settings in Virginia. Many participants commented and noted that supervisees in social work may have difficulty finding clinical positions in exempt settings that will prepare them for licensure.

Ms. China commented that policy restrictions can prevent funding for positions in exempt agencies which causes workforce concerns. Comment was made that salaries in exempt settings often attributes to workforce concerns, as many supervisees will work in exempt settings during their supervised experience, and will then move to a non-exempt setting once they obtain clinical licensure. Participants discussed the possibility and availability of federal funding and debt forgiveness to attract workers to Virginia.

Ms. Horne-Quatannens suggested mid-level licensure as a possible solution to meet future workforce needs. Dr. Hinterlong made comment regarding the definition of clinical social worker and asked the Board to explore changes in the definition to align with schools' and professional organizations' descriptions.

SUMMIT CONCLUSION

On behalf of the Board, Dr. Winters thanked the educators and associations for their attendance and interest in the Board's responsibilities. She added that the forum had served as a valuable opportunity for open dialogue.

It was suggested that another workforce meeting be scheduled to focus on regulations, licensure levels and diversity in recruitment and practices.

Suggestion was made to invite a member of the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), as well as, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to participate in the next workforce summit meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Bernadette Winters, Ad Hoc Committee Chair

Catherine Chappell, Executive Director