THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 25, 2012

The Regulatory Committee of the Virginia Board of Social Work ("Board") convened at 10:10 a.m. on Monday, June 25, 2012, at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia. Yvonne Haynes, Chair called the meeting to order.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Yvonne Haynes, Chair
Jennifer Blosser
Willie T. Greene, Sr.
Susan Horne-Quatannens
Patricia Smith-Solan

STAFF PRESENT: Catherine Chappell, Executive Director
Sarah Georgen, Administrative Assistant
Charlotte Lenart, Administrative Assistant
Dianne Reynolds-Cane, DHP Director
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst

ORDERING OF AGENDA

Ms. Haynes opened the floor to any changes in the order of the Agenda. The agenda was accepted as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 24, 2012 Regulatory Committee Meeting

Ms. Smith-Solan moved that the minutes of the February 24, 2012 meeting be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Horne-Quatannens and passed.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED STATUTORY CHANGE – Elaine Yeatts, Sr. Policy Analyst

Ms. Yeatts presented proposed statutory language in contemplation of a "Resident" license. Those who qualified for the "Resident" license would be eligible to engage in supervision, and such license would be time limited in accordance with the regulations of the Virginia Board of Social Work. Ms. Yeatts stated that this license would signify that an individual had met the education and examination requirements, and such license may be advantageous to agencies whose employees need to satisfy the Medicaid requirement as "license eligible." Ms. Yeatts stated that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services ("DBHDS") and the Department of Medical Assistance Services ("DMAS") have shown considerable interest in the development of this license.

Ms. Chappell noted that this new license would be portable for applicants who change jobs while under supervision, and would allow the Board to have sufficient jurisdiction over that resident's activities.

Ms. Smith-Solan moved that the Committee recommend that the Board propose implementation of a "Resident" license. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greene and carried unanimously.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of adding a master's level license (LMSW), as discussed at the April Board Meeting. However, Ms. Yeatts noted that DBHDS and DMAS do not believe that level of license will meet the "license eligible" criteria at this time. Ms. Horne-Quatannens suggested contacting the ASWB to obtain information from other jurisdictions that may offer this type of licensure. She also contemplated the public necessity of offering such license. Ms. Yeatts referenced the Title Protection Act which will take effect on July 1, 2013, and stated that this type of licensure may not be necessary. Ms. Haynes recommended that this issue be further discussed at the next meeting, once additional information is available.

DISCUSSION OF DISTANCE THERAPY

Ms. Horne-Quatannens reported that she had attended the ASWB educational conference in April, which focused on distance therapy. The training emphasized jurisdictional issues (that is, the physical location of the client, rather than the location of the person providing therapy), and stressed the need to be cognizant of confidentiality concerns.

Ms. Chappell suggested that the Regulatory Committee consider drafting a guidance document, similar to what the Board of Counseling had previously developed, regarding distance therapy and/or supervision. Ms. Horne-Quatannens asked staff to provide additional information at the next meeting as to which jurisdictions have developed "social media policies."

Ms. Chappell recommended that the Committee seek input from Board counsel and organize an ad hoc committee meeting with the three behavioral science boards. The committee would be tasked with reviewing security and ethical concerns with respect to distance therapy and social media policy which would impact the three boards. Ms. Horne-Quatannens volunteered to represent the Board of Social Work at that meeting.

DISCUSSION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Committee reviewed the current continuing education regulatory requirements and contemplated whether requiring face-to-face contact hours would be necessary. Suggestion was made to evaluate Regulation 18VAC140-20-105 at the next periodic review of the Regulations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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Yvonne Haynes, Chair

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Catherine Chappell, Executive Director