

**DRAFT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**  
**REGULATORY RESEARCH COMMITTEE**  
**Public Hearing-Genetic Counselors**  
**January 13, 2011**

**TIME AND PLACE:** The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. on Thursday, January 13, 2011, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Board Room 2, Henrico, VA, 23233.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Damien Howell, P.T., D.P.T., O.C.S, Chair

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Damien Howell, P.T., D.P.T., O.C.S

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Fernando Martinez  
Vilma Seymour

**STAFF PRESENT:** Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Director for the Board  
Justin Crow, Research Assistant  
Laura Chapman, Operations Manager  
Diane Powers, Director of Communications

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tahnee Causey, VCU Medical Center  
Heather Creswick, VCU Massey Cancer Center  
Christine Seward Allred, Myriad  
Farnsworth & Taylor Court Reporter

**QUORUM:** A quorum was not required.

**AGENDA:** There was no other business than the public hearing.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Tahnee Causey, Genetic Counselor with VCU Medical Center is in agreement with licensure of Genetic Counselors. Ms. Causey is the individual that requested the sunrise review. Harm can be caused to patients who receive counseling from unqualified individuals. If Genetic Counselors do not receive their own board, they would accept being an advisory committee on another Board.

Heather Creswick, Genetic Counselor, VCU Massey Cancer Center. Ms. Creswick supports licensure of Genetic Counselors. Ms. Creswick stated that since other states license Genetic Counselors and Virginia does not, it makes it difficult to increase Virginia's workforce as licensed Genetic Counselors do not want to move to a state where they can not be licensed.

Christine Seward, Certified Genetic Counselor, Myriad. Ms. Seward is in favor of licensure of Genetic Counselors. Ms.

Seward stated that Genetic Counselors are part of a health care team and serve as patient advocates. She stated that title protection would not be enough to protect patients as they would not be given an avenue for voicing their concerns and complaints.

Ms. Seward will be providing the Board of Health Professions with national data on complaints received from states that license Genetic Counselors.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC  
COMMENT:  
ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no additional public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

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Damien Howell, P.T., D.P.T., O.C.S  
Chair

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Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D.  
Executive Director for the Board

