

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
Friday, May 19, 2017**

- TIME AND PLACE:** The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. on Friday, May 19, 2017, by Dr. Doyle in Board Room 3 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Johnston Brendel, Ed.D., LPC, LMFT  
Kevin Doyle, Ed.D., LPC, LSATP  
Charles Gressard, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT, LSATP  
Jane Engelken, LPC, LSATP  
Danielle Hunt, LPC  
Bev-Freda L. Jackson, Ph.D., MA, Citizen Member  
Sandra Malawer, LPC, LMFT  
Phyllis Pugh, LPC, LMFT, CSAC  
Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Citizen Member  
Terry R. Tinsley, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT, CSOTP, NCC  
Holly Tracy, LPC, LMFT
- STAFF PRESENT:** Tracey Arrington-Edmonds, Licensing Specialist  
Christy Evans, Discipline Case Specialist  
Jaime Hoyle, JD, Executive Director  
Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director  
Charlotte Lenart, Licensing Manager  
James Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General  
Elaine Yeatts, DHP Senior Policy Analyst
- PURPOSE OF HEARING:** To hear public comment on the Board's proposed regulations, in response to a petition for rulemaking, to add a requirement for all counseling programs leading to a license as a professional counselor to be clinically-focused and accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) or an approved affiliate, such as the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). This would be a phased-in requirement, allowing seven years from the effective date for students to complete their education in a non-CACREP program and for programs to achieve accreditation standards.
- PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:** Gerard Lawson, Shannon Talley, Leila Saadeh (Art Therapist, Virginia Art Therapy Association (VATA)), Becky Bowers-Lanier, Chris Nufer, Linda Leitch-Alford, and Elaine Johnson.
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** Gerard Lawson, American Counseling Association (ACA) President spoke, not as a representative for ACA, but as a resident of Virginia and a LPC with 17 years of experience. Dr. Lawson supports the proposed regulatory change because it protects the public and ensures client welfare by standardizing the training required to become an LPC in Virginia.

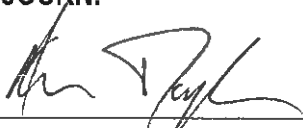
Leila Saadeh (Art Therapist, VATA) opposes the proposed regulatory change because the CACREP requirement would prevent an applicant with an art therapist degree from becoming a licensed LPC in Virginia.

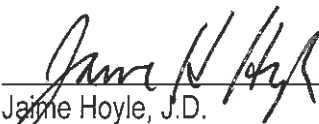
Linda Leitch-Alford stated that from her own personal experience she supports the proposed regulatory change. The change not only protects the public but protects the students by ensuring that the degree and coursework that were taken will be approved for licensure.

Elaine Johnson, Ph.D., Clinical Associate Professor, Counseling Psychology program, University of Baltimore, Advocacy Chair, Council for Master' in Counseling Training Program and President, Alliance for Professional Counselors opposes the proposed regulatory change because her school program cannot currently meet the CACREP requirements due to their offering a degree program in Counseling Psychology.

**ADJOURN:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

  
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Kevin Doyle, Ed.D., LPC, LSATP  
Chairperson

  
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Jaime Hoyle, J.D.  
Executive Director