

**Board of Social Work
Regulatory Committee**
Thursday, February 1, 2018, 3:00 p.m.
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 200, Board Room 1
Henrico, VA 23233

- 3:00 p.m. Call to Order – Joseph Walsh, L.C.S.W., Committee Chair
- Roll Call
- Emergency Egress Instructions Page 2
- Adoption of Agenda
- Public Comment on Agenda Items
- Approval of Minutes of October 26, 2017* Page 3
- Unfinished Business Pages 6, 25
- Examination Requirements (18VAC140-20-70)*
 - Guidance Document 140-2: Impact of Criminal Convictions Impairment, and Past History on Social Work licensure in Virginia”
- New Business
- Consideration of Bylaws Page 29
- Next Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Adjournment

*Denotes a board vote is needed

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EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF BOARD AND TRAINING ROOMS
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Board Room 1

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**THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 26, 2017**

TIME AND PLACE: A meeting of the Regulatory Committee of the Virginia Board of Social Work (Board) convened on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 1, Richmond, Virginia.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Joseph Walsh, LCSW, Ph.D., Regulatory Committee Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gloria Manns, LCSW
Dolores Paulson, LCSW, Ph.D.
John Salay, LCSW

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Maria Eugenia del Villar, LCSW

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Georgen, Licensing Manager
Jaime Hoyle, Executive Director
Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director
Elaine Yeatts, DHP Senior Policy Analyst

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Walsh called the meeting to order.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: Ms. Georgen announced that with four members of the Committee present, a quorum was established.

EMERGENCY EGRESS: Dr. Walsh announced the Emergency Egress Procedures.

MISSION STATEMENT: Dr. Walsh read the DHP mission statement, which was also the mission statement of the Board.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Upon a motion by Ms. Manns, which was properly seconded, the agenda was accepted as written. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon a motion by Mr. Salay, which was properly seconded, the meeting minutes from February 2, 2017 were approved as written.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS: *United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) Topics of Discussion:*

Dr. Walsh reviewed the UMFS issues for Committee discussion. Upon a motion by Dr. Paulson, which was properly seconded, the Committee recommended to the

Board to allow a person qualified in accordance with 18VAC140-20-49(B) to provide clinical supervision for students in a field placement/practicum even if they themselves are under supervision for licensure. The motion passed.

Staff Recommendations/Questions:*

**Full description of issues discussed can be found within the meeting agenda packet.*

Endorsement Requirements (18VAC140-20-45): Upon discussion of this recommendation, the Committee tabled the issue to the next Regulatory Committee meeting and requested that Board staff keep track of the trend of endorsement applications seeking licensure with supervision obtained in Virginia without registered board approval.

Experience requirements for a licensed clinical social worker (18VAC140-20-50): Upon discussion of this question from Board staff, Mr. Salay made a motion, which was properly seconded, that staff interpret the Regulations to mean that the supervised experience needs to occur within four-years from the date of board approval. The Committee directed staff to develop a Guidance Document to this effect that will be voted on at the next Board meeting in February 2018.

Examination Requirements (18VAC140-20-70): Upon discussion of this question from Board staff, the Committee tabled the issue to the next Regulatory Committee meeting and requested that Ms. Hoyle discuss the issue further with Board Counsel and report back to the Committee for further discussion.

Update Continuing Education Requirements (18VAC140-20-105): Upon discussion of this recommendation, Dr. Paulson made a motion, which was properly seconded, that licensed clinical social workers shall be required to have completed a minimum of 15 contact hours of continuing education and licensed social workers shall be required to have completed a minimum of 7.5 contact hours of continuing education prior to licensure renewal each year. A minimum of three of those hours must pertain to ethics or the standards of practice for the behavioral health professions or to laws governing the practice of social work in Virginia. A minimum of 10 hours for licensed clinical social workers or 5 hours for licensed social workers shall be documented in Category I and a maximum of 5 of the required 15 hours for licensed clinical social workers or a maximum of 3 of the required 7.5 hours for licensed social workers may be earned in Category II. The motion passed with Mr. Salay in opposition. This issue would be recommended to the full board following the next scheduled Regulatory Committee meeting.

Affirmative Criminal Convictions: Upon discussion of this recommendation, Ms. Manns made a motion, which was properly seconded, to request an amendment to guidance document 140-2: "Impact of Criminal Convictions, Impairment, and Past History on Social Work licensure in Virginia" to include that Virginia State Police Report should be requested from an applicant with a criminal conviction, in addition to the already requested documentation. The motion passed. Dr. Walsh requested

that staff prepare a revised guidance document for review at the next Regulatory Committee meeting.

Guidance Documents

Guidance Document 140-9: Upon discussion of the Committee, Mr. Salay made a motion, which was properly seconded, to reaffirm guidance document 140-9. The motion passed. This issue is scheduled to be discussed at the next full Board meeting for a vote.

Guidance Document 140-10: Upon discussion of the Committee, Mr. Salay made a motion, which was properly seconded, to reaffirm guidance document 140-10. The motion passed. This issue is scheduled to be discussed at the next full Board meeting for a vote.

Draft Joint Guidance Document on Assessment Titles and Signatures: Upon discussion of the Committee, the Committee denied the proposed guidance document. Dr. Walsh stated that he will draft a letter in response to the proposed guidance document based on Committee member feedback to recommend to the full board at the February 2, 2018 meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Dr. Walsh scheduled the next Regulatory Committee meeting for February 1, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Endorsement Requirements (18VAC140-20-45) follow-up
- Examination Requirements (18VAC140-20-70) follow-up
- Affirmative Criminal Convictions Guidance Document review
- Draft Response on Joint Guidance Document on Assessment Titles and Signatures

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Joseph Walsh, Chair

Jaime Hoyle, Executive Director

Commonwealth of Virginia



REGULATIONS
GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL
WORK

VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

Title of Regulations: 18 VAC 140-20-10 et seq.

**Statutory Authority: §§ 54.1-2400 and Chapter 37 of Title 54.1
of the *Code of Virginia***

Revised Date: June 28, 2017

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Part I. General Provisions.

18VAC140-20-10. Definitions.

A. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to them in § 54.1-3700 of the Code of Virginia:

Board

Casework

Casework management and supportive services

Clinical social worker

Practice of social work

Social worker

B. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Accredited school of social work" means a school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

"Active practice" means post-licensure practice at the level of licensure for which an applicant is seeking licensure in Virginia and shall include at least 360 hours of practice in a 12-month period.

"Ancillary services" means activities such as case management, recordkeeping, referral, and coordination of services.

"Clinical course of study" means graduate course work that includes specialized advanced courses in human behavior and the social environment, social justice and policy, psychopathology and diversity issues; research; clinical practice with individuals, families, and groups; and a clinical practicum that focuses on diagnostic, prevention and treatment services.

"Clinical social work services" include the application of social work principles and methods in performing assessments and diagnoses based on a recognized manual of mental and emotional disorders or recognized system of problem definition, preventive and early intervention services and treatment services, including but not limited to psychotherapy and counseling for mental disorders, substance abuse, marriage and family dysfunction, and problems caused by social and psychological stress or health impairment.

"Exempt practice" is that which meets the conditions of exemption from the requirements of licensure as defined in § 54.1-3701 of the Code of Virginia.

"Face-to-face supervision" means the physical presence of the individuals involved in the supervisory relationship during either individual or group supervision or the use of technology that provides real-time, visual contact among the individuals involved.

"Nonexempt practice" is that which does not meet the conditions of exemption from the requirements of licensure as defined in § 54.1-3701 of the Code of Virginia.

"Supervisee" means an individual who has submitted a supervisory contract and has received board approval to provide clinical services in social work under supervision.

"Supervision" means a professional relationship between a supervisor and supervisee in which the supervisor directs, monitors and evaluates the supervisee's social work practice while promoting development of the supervisee's knowledge, skills and abilities to provide social work services in an ethical and competent manner.

18VAC140-20-20. [Repealed]

18VAC140-20-30. Fees.

A. The board has established fees for the following:

1. Registration of supervision	\$50
2. Addition to or change in registration of supervision	\$25
3. Application processing	
a. Licensed clinical social worker	\$165
b. Licensed social worker	\$115
4. Annual license renewal	
a. Registered social worker	\$25
b. Associate social worker	\$25
c. Licensed social worker	\$65
d. Licensed clinical social worker	\$90
5. Penalty for late renewal	
a. Registered social worker	\$10
b. Associate social worker	\$10
c. Licensed social worker	\$20
d. Licensed clinical social worker	\$30
6. Verification of license to another jurisdiction	\$25
7. Additional or replacement licenses	\$15
8. Additional or replacement wall certificates	\$25
9. Returned check	\$35
10. Reinstatement following disciplinary action	\$500

B. Fees shall be paid by check or money order made payable to the Treasurer of Virginia and forwarded to the board. All fees are nonrefundable.

C. Examination fees shall be paid directly to the examination service according to its requirements.

18VAC140-20-35. Sex offender treatment provider certification.

Anyone licensed by the board who is seeking certification as a sex offender treatment provider shall obtain certification under the Board of Psychology and adhere to the board's Regulations Governing the Certification of Sex Offender Treatment Providers, 18VAC125-30-10 et seq.

18VAC140-20-37. Licensure; general.

Licensed social workers may practice in exempt practice settings under appropriate supervision. Only licensed clinical social workers may practice at the autonomous level.

Part II. Requirements for Licensure.

18VAC140-20-40. Requirements for licensure by examination as a clinical social worker.

Every applicant for examination for licensure as a licensed clinical social worker shall:

1. Meet the education requirements prescribed in 18VAC140-20-49 and experience requirements prescribed in 18VAC140-20-50.
2. Submit a completed application to the board office within two years of completion of supervised experience to include:
 - a. Documentation, on the appropriate forms, of the successful completion of the supervised experience requirements of 18VAC140-20-50 along with documentation of the supervisor's out-of-state license where applicable. Applicants whose former supervisor is deceased, or whose whereabouts is unknown, shall submit to the board a notarized affidavit from the present chief executive officer of the agency, corporation or partnership in which the applicant was supervised. The affidavit shall specify dates of employment, job responsibilities, supervisor's name and last known address, and the total number of hours spent by the applicant with the supervisor in face-to-face supervision;
 - b. The application fee prescribed in 18VAC140-20-30;
 - c. Official transcript or documentation submitted from the appropriate institutions of higher education that verifies successful completion of educational requirements set forth in 18VAC140-20-49;
 - d. Documentation of any other health or mental health licensure or certification, if applicable; and
 - e. A current report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

3. Provide evidence of passage of the examination prescribed in 18VAC140-20-70.

18VAC140-20-45. Requirements for licensure by endorsement.

A. Every applicant for licensure by endorsement shall submit in one package:

1. A completed application and the application fee prescribed in 18VAC140-20-30.

2. Documentation of active social work licensure in good standing obtained by standards required for licensure in another jurisdiction as verified by the out-of-state licensing agency. Licensure in the other jurisdiction shall be of a comparable type as the licensure that the applicant is seeking in Virginia.

3. Verification of a passing score on a board-approved national exam at the level for which the applicant is seeking licensure in Virginia.

4. Documentation of any other health or mental health licensure or certification, if applicable.

5. A current report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

6. Verification of:

a. Active practice at the level for which the applicant is seeking licensure in another United States jurisdiction for 24 out of the past 60 months;

b. Active practice in an exempt setting at the level for which the applicant is seeking licensure for 24 out of the past 60 months; or

c. Evidence of supervised experience requirements substantially equivalent to those outlined in 18VAC140-20-50 A 2 and A 3 and 18VAC140-20-60 C 2 and C 3.

7. Certification that the applicant is not the respondent in any pending or unresolved board action in another jurisdiction or in a malpractice claim.

B. If an applicant for licensure by endorsement has not passed a board-approved national examination at the level for which the applicant is seeking licensure in Virginia, the board may approve the applicant to sit for such examination.

18VAC140-20-49. Educational requirements for a licensed clinical social worker.

A. The applicant for licensure as a clinical social worker shall document successful completion of one of the following: (i) a master's degree in social work with a clinical course of study from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, (ii) a master's degree in social work with a nonclinical concentration from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education together with successful completion of the educational requirements for a clinical course of study through a graduate program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or (iii) a program

of education and training in social work at an educational institution outside the United States recognized by the Council on Social Work Education.

B. The requirement for a clinical practicum in a clinical course of study shall be a minimum of 600 hours, which shall be integrated with clinical course of study coursework and supervised by a person who is a licensed clinical social worker or who holds a master's or doctor's degree in social work and has a minimum of three years of experience in clinical social work services after earning the graduate degree. An applicant who has otherwise met the requirements for a clinical course of study but who did not have a minimum of 600 hours in a supervised field placement/practicum in clinical social work services may meet the requirement by obtaining an equivalent number of hours of supervised practice in clinical social work services in addition to the experience required in 18VAC140-20-50.

18VAC140-20-50. Experience requirements for a licensed clinical social worker.

A. Supervised experience. Supervised post-master's degree experience without prior written board approval will not be accepted toward licensure, except supervision obtained in another United States jurisdiction may be accepted if it met the requirements of that jurisdiction.

1. Registration. An individual who proposes to obtain supervised post-master's degree experience in Virginia shall, prior to the onset of such supervision, or whenever there is an addition or change of supervised practice, supervisor, clinical social work services or location:

a. Register on a form provided by the board and completed by the supervisor and the supervised individual; and

b. Pay the registration of supervision fee set forth in 18VAC140-20-30.

2. Hours. The applicant shall have completed a minimum of 3,000 hours of supervised post-master's degree experience in the delivery of clinical social work services and in ancillary services that support such delivery. A minimum of one hour and a maximum of four hours of face-to-face supervision shall be provided per 40 hours of work experience for a total of at least 100 hours. No more than 50 of the 100 hours may be obtained in group supervision, nor shall there be more than six persons being supervised in a group unless approved in advance by the board. The board may consider alternatives to face-to-face supervision if the applicant can demonstrate an undue burden due to hardship, disability or geography.

a. Supervised experience shall be acquired in no less than two nor more than four consecutive years.

b. Supervisees shall obtain throughout their hours of supervision a minimum of 1,380 hours of supervised experience in face-to-face client contact in the delivery of clinical social work services. The remaining hours may be spent in ancillary services supporting the delivery of clinical social work services.

3. An individual who does not complete the supervision requirement after four consecutive years of supervised experience may request an extension of up to 12 months. The request for an extension shall include evidence that demonstrates extenuating circumstances that prevented completion of the supervised experience within four consecutive years.

B. Requirements for supervisors.

1. The supervisor shall hold an active, unrestricted license as a licensed clinical social worker in the jurisdiction in which the clinical services are being rendered with at least two years of post-licensure clinical social work experience. The board may consider supervisors with commensurate qualifications if the applicant can demonstrate an undue burden due to geography or disability or if supervision was obtained in another United States jurisdiction.

2. The supervisor shall have received professional training in supervision, consisting of a three credit-hour graduate course in supervision or at least 14 hours of continuing education offered by a provider approved under 18VAC140-20-105. The graduate course or hours of continuing education in supervision shall be obtained by a supervisor within five years immediately preceding registration of supervision.

3. The supervisor shall not provide supervision for a family member or provide supervision for anyone with whom he has a dual relationship.

4. The board may consider supervisors from jurisdictions outside of Virginia who provided clinical social work supervision if they have commensurate qualifications but were either (i) not licensed because their jurisdiction did not require licensure or (ii) were not designated as clinical social workers because the jurisdiction did not require such designation.

C. Responsibilities of supervisors. The supervisor shall:

1. Be responsible for the social work activities of the supervisee as set forth in this subsection once the supervisory arrangement is accepted;

2. Review and approve the diagnostic assessment and treatment plan of a representative sample of the clients assigned to the applicant during the course of supervision. The sample should be representative of the variables of gender, age, diagnosis, length of treatment and treatment method within the client population seen by the applicant. It is the applicant's responsibility to assure the representativeness of the sample that is presented to the supervisor;

3. Provide supervision only for those social work activities for which the supervisor has determined the applicant is competent to provide to clients;

4. Provide supervision only for those activities for which the supervisor is qualified by education, training and experience;

5. Evaluate the supervisee's knowledge and document minimal competencies in the areas of an identified theory base, application of a differential diagnosis, establishing and monitoring a treatment plan, development and appropriate use of the professional relationship, assessing the client for risk of imminent danger, understanding the requirements of law for reporting any harm or risk of harm to self or others, and implementing a professional and ethical relationship with clients;

6. Be available to the applicant on a regularly scheduled basis for supervision;

7. Maintain documentation, for five years post-supervision, of which clients were the subject of supervision; and

8. Ensure that the board is notified of any change in supervision or if supervision has ended or been terminated by the supervisor.

D. Responsibilities of supervisees.

1. Supervisees may not directly bill for services rendered or in any way represent themselves as independent, autonomous practitioners, or licensed clinical social workers.

2. During the supervised experience, supervisees shall use their names and the initials of their degree, and the title "Supervisee in Social Work" in all written communications.

3. Clients shall be informed in writing of the supervisee's status and the supervisor's name, professional address, and phone number.

4. Supervisees shall not supervise the provision of clinical social work services provided by another person.

18VAC140-20-51. Requirements for licensure by examination as a licensed social worker.

A. In order to be approved to sit for the board-approved examination for a licensed social worker, an applicant shall:

1. Meet the education requirements prescribed in 18VAC140-20-60 A.

2. Submit a completed application to the board office to include:

a. The application fee prescribed in 18VAC140-20-30; and

b. Official transcript or transcripts submitted from the appropriate institutions of higher education.

B. In order to be licensed by examination as a licensed social worker, an applicant shall:

1. Meet the education and experience requirements prescribed in 18VAC140-20-60; and

2. Submit, in addition to the application requirements of subsection A of this section, the following:

a. Documentation, on the appropriate forms, of the successful completion of the supervised experience requirements of 18VAC140-20-60 along with documentation of the supervisor's out-of-state license where applicable. An applicant whose former supervisor is deceased, or whose whereabouts is unknown, shall submit to the board a notarized affidavit from the present chief executive officer of the agency, corporation or partnership in which the applicant was supervised. The affidavit shall specify dates of employment, job responsibilities, supervisor's name and last known address, and the total number of hours spent by the applicant with the supervisor in face-to-face supervision;

b. Verification of a passing score on the board-approved national examination;

c. Documentation of any other health or mental health licensure or certification, if applicable; and

d. A current report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

3. Provide evidence of passage of the examination prescribed in 18VAC140-20-70.

18VAC140-20-60. Education and experience requirements for a licensed social worker.

A. Education. The applicant shall hold a bachelor's or a master's degree from an accredited school of social work. Graduates of foreign institutions must establish the equivalency of their education to this requirement through the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on Social Work Education.

B. Master's degree applicant. An applicant who holds a master's degree may apply for licensure as a licensed social worker without documentation of supervised experience.

C. Supervised experience requirement. Supervised experience without prior written board approval will not be accepted toward licensure, except supervision obtained in another United States jurisdiction may be accepted if it met the requirements of that jurisdiction.

1. Registration. Prior to the onset of supervision, an individual who proposes to obtain supervised experience in Virginia shall:

a. Register on a form provided by the board and completed by the supervisor and the supervised individual; and

b. Pay the registration of supervision fee set forth in 18VAC140-20-30.

2. Hours. Bachelor's degree applicants shall have completed a minimum of 3,000 hours of supervised post-bachelor's degree experience in casework management and supportive services under supervision satisfactory to the board. A minimum of one hour and a maximum of four hours of face-to-face supervision shall be provided per 40 hours of work experience for a total of at least 100 hours.

3. Supervised experience shall be acquired in no less than two nor more than four consecutive years from the beginning of the supervised experience. An individual who does not complete the supervision requirement after four consecutive years of supervised experience may request an extension of up to 12 months. The request for an extension shall include evidence that demonstrates extenuating circumstances that prevented completion of the supervised experience within four consecutive years.

D. Requirements for supervisors.

1. The supervisor providing supervision shall hold an active, unrestricted license as a licensed social worker with a master's degree, or a licensed social worker with a bachelor's degree and at least three years of post-licensure social work experience or a licensed clinical social worker in the jurisdiction in which the social work services are being rendered. If this requirement places an undue burden on the applicant due to geography or disability, the board may consider individuals with comparable qualifications.

2. The supervisor shall:

a. Be responsible for the social work practice of the prospective applicant once the supervisory arrangement is accepted by the board;

b. Review and approve the assessment and service plan of a representative sample of cases assigned to the applicant during the course of supervision. The sample should be representative of the variables of gender, age, assessment, length of service and casework method within the client population seen by the applicant. It is the applicant's responsibility to assure the representativeness of the sample that is presented to the supervisor. The supervisor shall be available to the applicant on a regularly scheduled basis for supervision. The supervisor will maintain documentation, for five years post supervision, of which clients were the subject of supervision;

c. Provide supervision only for those casework management and support services activities for which the supervisor has determined the applicant is competent to provide to clients;

d. Provide supervision only for those activities for which the supervisor is qualified;

e. Evaluate the supervisee in the areas of professional ethics and professional competency; and

f. Ensure that the board is notified of any change in supervision or if the supervision has ended or has been terminated by the supervisor.

3. The supervisor shall not provide supervision for a family member or provide supervision for anyone with whom the supervisor has a dual relationship.

Part III Examinations

18VAC140-20-70. Examination requirement.

A. An applicant for licensure by the board as a social worker or clinical social worker shall pass a written examination prescribed by the board.

1. The examination prescribed for licensure as a clinical social worker shall be the licensing examination of the Association of Social Work Boards at the clinical level.

2. The examination prescribed for licensure as a social worker shall minimally be the licensing examination of the Association of Social Work Boards at the bachelor's level.

B. A candidate approved by the board to sit for an examination shall take that examination within two years of the date of the initial board approval. If the candidate has not passed the examination by the end of the two-year period here prescribed, the applicant shall reapply according to the requirements of the regulations in effect at that time. After an applicant has failed the examination twice, he shall be required to register for supervision and complete one additional year as a supervisee before approval to re-take the examination is granted.

18VAC140-20-80 to 18VAC140-20-90. [Repealed]

Part IV. Licensure Renewal; Reinstatement.

18VAC140-20-100. Licensure renewal.

A. Beginning with the 2017 renewal, licensees shall renew their licenses on or before June 30 of each year and pay the renewal fee prescribed by the board.

B. Licensees who wish to maintain an active license shall pay the appropriate fee and document on the renewal form compliance with the continued competency requirements prescribed in 18VAC140-20-105. Newly licensed individuals are not required to document continuing education on the first renewal date following initial licensure.

C. A licensee who wishes to place his license in inactive status may do so upon payment of a fee equal to one-half of the annual license renewal fee as indicated on the renewal form. No person shall practice social work or clinical social work in Virginia unless he holds a current active license. A licensee who has placed himself in inactive status may become active by fulfilling the reactivation requirements set forth in 18VAC140-20-110.

D. Each licensee shall furnish the board his current address of record. All notices required by law or by this chapter to be mailed by the board to any such licensee shall be validly given when mailed to the latest address of record given by the licensee. Any change in the address of record or the public address, if different from the address of record, shall be furnished to the board within 30 days of such change.

18VAC140-20-105. Continued competency requirements for renewal of an active license.

A. Licensed clinical social workers shall be required to have completed a minimum of 30 contact hours of continuing education and licensed social workers shall be required to have completed a minimum of 15 contact hours of continuing education prior to licensure renewal in even years.

Courses or activities shall be directly related to the practice of social work or another behavioral health field. A minimum of two of those hours must pertain to ethics or the standards of practice for the behavioral health professions or to laws governing the practice of social work in Virginia. Up to two continuing education hours required for renewal may be satisfied through delivery of social work services, without compensation, to low-income individuals receiving health services through a local health department or a free clinic organized in whole or primarily for the delivery of those services, as verified by the department or clinic. Three hours of volunteer service is required for one hour of continuing education credit.

1. The board may grant an extension for good cause of up to one year for the completion of continuing education requirements upon written request from the licensee prior to the renewal date. Such extension shall not relieve the licensee of the continuing education requirement.

2. The board may grant an exemption for all or part of the continuing education requirements due to circumstances beyond the control of the licensee such as temporary disability, mandatory military service, or officially declared disasters upon written request from the licensee prior to the renewal date.

B. Hours may be obtained from a combination of board-approved activities in the following two categories:

1. Category I. Formally Organized Learning Activities. A minimum of 20 hours for licensed clinical social workers or 10 hours for licensed social workers shall be documented in this category, which shall include one or more of the following:

a. Regionally accredited university or college academic courses in a behavioral health discipline. A maximum of 15 hours will be accepted for each academic course.

b. Continuing education programs offered by universities or colleges accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

c. Workshops, seminars, conferences, or courses in the behavioral health field offered by federal, state or local social service agencies, public school systems or licensed health facilities and licensed hospitals.

d. Workshops, seminars, conferences or courses in the behavioral health field offered by an individual or organization that has been certified or approved by one of the following:

(1) The Child Welfare League of America and its state and local affiliates.

(2) The National Association of Social Workers and its state and local affiliates.

(3) The Association of Black Social Workers and its state and local affiliates.

(4) The Family Service Association of America and its state and local affiliates.

(5) The Clinical Social Work Association and its state and local affiliates.

(6) The Association of Social Work Boards.

(7) Any state social work board.

2. Category II. Individual Professional Activities. A maximum of 10 of the required 30 hours for licensed clinical social workers or a maximum of five of the required 15 hours for licensed social workers may be earned in this category, which shall include one or more of the following:

- a. Participation in an Association of Social Work Boards item writing workshop. (Activity will count for a maximum of two hours.)
- b. Publication of a professional social work-related book or initial preparation/presentation of a social work-related course. (Activity will count for a maximum of 10 hours.)
- c. Publication of a professional social work-related article or chapter of a book, or initial preparation/presentation of a social work-related in-service training, seminar or workshop. (Activity will count for a maximum of five hours.)
- d. Provision of a continuing education program sponsored or approved by an organization listed under Category I. (Activity will count for a maximum of two hours and will only be accepted one time for any specific program.)
- e. Field instruction of graduate students in a Council on Social Work Education-accredited school. (Activity will count for a maximum of two hours.)
- f. Serving as an officer or committee member of one of the national professional social work associations listed under subdivision B 1 d of this section or as a member of a state social work licensing board. (Activity will count for a maximum of two hours.)
- g. Attendance at formal staffings at federal, state or local social service agencies, public school systems or licensed health facilities and licensed hospitals. (Activity will count for a maximum of five hours.)
- h. Individual or group study including listening to audio tapes, viewing video tapes, reading, professional books or articles. (Activity will count for a maximum of five hours.)

18VAC140-20-106. Documenting compliance with continuing education requirements.

A. All licensees in active status are required to maintain original documentation for a period of three years following renewal.

B. The board may conduct an audit of licensees to verify compliance with the requirement for a renewal period.

C. Upon request, a licensee shall provide documentation as follows:

- 1. Documentation of Category I activities by submission of:
 - a. Official transcripts showing credit hours earned; or
 - b. Certificates of participation.
- 2. Attestation of completion of Category II activities.

D. Continuing education hours required by disciplinary order shall not be used to satisfy renewal requirements.

18VAC140-20-110. Late renewal; reinstatement; reactivation.

A. A social worker or clinical social worker whose license has expired may renew that license within one year after its expiration date by:

1. Providing evidence of having met all applicable continuing education requirements.
2. Paying the penalty for late renewal and the renewal fee as prescribed in 18VAC140-20-30.

B. A social worker or clinical social worker who fails to renew the license after one year and who wishes to resume practice shall apply for reinstatement and pay the reinstatement fee, which shall consist of the application processing fee and the penalty fee for late renewal, as set forth in 18VAC140-20-30. An applicant for reinstatement shall also provide documentation of having completed all applicable continued competency hours equal to the number of years the license has lapsed, not to exceed four years. An applicant for reinstatement shall also provide evidence of competency to practice by documenting:

1. Active practice in another United States jurisdiction for at least 24 out of the past 60 months immediately preceding application;
2. Active practice in an exempt setting for at least 24 out of the past 60 months immediately preceding application; or
3. Practice as a supervisee under supervision for at least 360 hours in the 12 months immediately preceding licensure in Virginia.

C. A social worker or clinical social worker wishing to reactivate an inactive license shall submit the renewal fee for active licensure minus any fee already paid for inactive licensure renewal, and document completion of continued competency hours equal to the number of years the license has been inactive, not to exceed four years. An applicant for reactivation who has been inactive for four or more years shall also provide evidence of competency to practice by documenting:

1. Active practice in another United States jurisdiction for at least 24 out of the past 60 months immediately preceding application;
2. Active practice in an exempt setting for at least 24 out of the past 60 months immediately preceding application; or
3. Practice as a supervisee under supervision for at least 360 hours in the 12 months immediately preceding licensure in Virginia.

18VAC140-20-120. [Repealed]

18VAC140-20-130. Renewal of registration for associate social workers and registered social workers.

The registration of every associate social worker and registered social worker with the former Virginia Board of Registration of Social Workers under former §54-775.4 of the Code of Virginia shall expire on June 30 of each year.

1. Each registrant shall return the completed application before the expiration date, accompanied by the payment of the renewal fee prescribed by the board.

2. Failure to receive the renewal notice shall not relieve the registrant from the renewal requirement.

18VAC140-20-140. [Repealed]

Part V. Standards of Practice.

18VAC140-20-150. Professional conduct.

A. The protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and the best interest of the public shall be the primary guide in determining the appropriate professional conduct of all persons whose activities are regulated by the board. Regardless of the delivery method, whether in person, by telephone or electronically, these standards shall apply to the practice of social work.

B. Persons licensed as social workers and clinical social workers shall:

1. Be able to justify all services rendered to or on behalf of clients as necessary for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

2. Provide for continuation of care when services must be interrupted or terminated.

3. Practice only within the competency areas for which they are qualified by education and experience.

4. Report to the board known or suspected violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of social work.

5. Neither accept nor give commissions, rebates, or other forms of remuneration for referral of clients for professional services.

6. Ensure that clients are aware of fees and billing arrangements before rendering services.

7. Inform clients of potential risks and benefits of services and the limitations on confidentiality and ensure that clients have provided informed written consent to treatment.

8. Keep confidential their therapeutic relationships with clients and disclose client records to others only with written consent of the client, with the following exceptions: (i) when the client is a danger to self or others; or (ii) as required by law.

9. When advertising their services to the public, ensure that such advertising is neither fraudulent nor misleading.

10. As treatment requires and with the written consent of the client, collaborate with other health or mental health providers concurrently providing services to the client.

11. Refrain from undertaking any activity in which one's personal problems are likely to lead to inadequate or harmful services.

12. Recognize conflicts of interest and inform all parties of the nature and directions of loyalties and responsibilities involved.

C. In regard to client records, persons licensed by the board shall comply with provisions of § 32.1-127.1:03 of the Code of Virginia on health records privacy and shall:

1. Maintain written or electronic clinical records for each client to include identifying information and assessment that substantiates diagnosis and treatment plans. Each record shall include a diagnosis and treatment plan, progress notes for each case activity, information received from all collaborative contacts and the treatment implications of that information, and the termination process and summary.

2. Maintain client records securely, inform all employees of the requirements of confidentiality, and provide for the destruction of records that are no longer useful in a manner that ensures client confidentiality.

3. Disclose or release records to others only with clients' expressed written consent or that of their legally authorized representative or as mandated by law.

4. Ensure confidentiality in the usage of client records and clinical materials by obtaining informed consent from clients or their legally authorized representative before (i) videotaping, (ii) audio recording, (iii) permitting third-party observation, or (iv) using identifiable client records and clinical materials in teaching, writing or public presentations.

5. Maintain client records for a minimum of six years or as otherwise required by law from the date of termination of the therapeutic relationship with the following exceptions:

a. At minimum, records of a minor child shall be maintained for six years after attaining the age of majority or 10 years following termination, whichever comes later.

b. Records that are required by contractual obligation or federal law to be maintained for a longer period of time.

c. Records that have been transferred to another mental health professional or have been given to the client or his legally authorized representative.

D. In regard to dual relationships, persons licensed by the board shall:

1. Not engage in a dual relationship with a client or a supervisee that could impair professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation or harm to the client or supervisee. (Examples of such a relationship include, but are not limited to, familial, social, financial, business, bartering, or a close personal relationship with a client or supervisee.) Social workers shall take appropriate professional precautions when a dual relationship cannot be avoided, such as informed consent, consultation, supervision, and documentation to ensure that judgment is not impaired and no exploitation occurs.

2. Not have any type of romantic relationship or sexual intimacies with a client or those included in collateral therapeutic services, and not provide services to those persons with whom they have had a

romantic or sexual relationship. Social workers shall not engage in romantic relationship or sexual intimacies with a former client within a minimum of five years after terminating the professional relationship. Social workers who engage in such a relationship after five years following termination shall have the responsibility to examine and document thoroughly that such a relationship did not have an exploitive nature, based on factors such as duration of therapy, amount of time since therapy, termination circumstances, client's personal history and mental status, adverse impact on the client. A client's consent to, initiation of or participation in sexual behavior or involvement with a social worker does not change the nature of the conduct nor lift the regulatory prohibition.

3. Not engage in any romantic or sexual relationship or establish a therapeutic relationship with a current supervisee or student. Social workers shall avoid any nonsexual dual relationship with a supervisee or student in which there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the supervisee or student, or the potential for interference with the supervisor's professional judgment.

4. Recognize conflicts of interest and inform all parties of the nature and directions of loyalties and responsibilities involved.

5. Not engage in a personal relationship with a former client in which there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm or if the former client continues to relate to the social worker in his professional capacity.

E. Upon learning of evidence that indicates a reasonable probability that another mental health provider is or may be guilty of a violation of standards of conduct as defined in statute or regulation, persons licensed by the board shall advise their clients of their right to report such misconduct to the Department of Health Professions in accordance with § 54.1-2400.4 of the Code of Virginia.

18VAC140-20-160. Grounds for disciplinary action or denial of issuance of a license or registration.

The board may refuse to admit an applicant to an examination; refuse to issue a license or registration to an applicant; or reprimand, impose a monetary penalty, place on probation, impose such terms as it may designate, suspend for a stated period of time or indefinitely, or revoke a license or registration for one or more of the following grounds:

1. Conviction of a felony or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;

2. Procurement of license by fraud or misrepresentation;

3. Conducting one's practice in such a manner so as to make the practice a danger to the health and welfare of one's clients or to the public. In the event a question arises concerning the continued competence of a licensee, the board will consider evidence of continuing education.

4. Being unable to practice social work with reasonable skill and safety to clients by reason of illness, excessive use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals or any other type of material or as a result of any mental or physical condition;

5. Conducting one's practice in a manner contrary to the standards of ethics of social work or in violation of 18VAC140-20-150, standards of practice;
6. Performing functions outside the board-licensed area of competency;
7. Failure to comply with the continued competency requirements set forth in 18VAC140-20-105; and
8. Violating or aiding and abetting another to violate any statute applicable to the practice of social work or any provision of this chapter; and
9. Failure to provide supervision in accordance with the provisions of 18VAC140-20-50 or 18VAC140-20-60.

18VAC140-20-170. Reinstatement following disciplinary action.

Any person whose license has been suspended, revoked, or denied renewal by the board under the provisions of 18VAC140-20-160 shall, in order to be eligible for reinstatement, (i) submit a new application to the board for a license, (ii) pay the appropriate reinstatement fee, and (iii) submit any other credentials as prescribed by the board. After a hearing, the board may, at its discretion, grant the reinstatement.

18VAC140-20-171. Criteria for delegation of informal fact-finding proceedings to an agency subordinate.

A. Decision to delegate. In accordance with § 54.1-2400 (10) of the Code of Virginia, the board may delegate an informal fact-finding proceeding to an agency subordinate upon determination that probable cause exists that a practitioner may be subject to a disciplinary action.

B. Criteria for delegation. Cases that may not be delegated to an agency subordinate include violations of standards of practice as set forth in 18 VAC 140-20-150, except as may otherwise be determined by the probable cause committee in consultation with the board chair.

C. Criteria for an agency subordinate.

1. An agency subordinate authorized by the board to conduct an informal fact-finding proceeding may include board members and professional staff or other persons deemed knowledgeable by virtue of their training and experience in administrative proceedings involving the regulation and discipline of health professionals.

2. The executive director shall maintain a list of appropriately qualified persons to whom an informal fact-finding proceeding may be delegated.

3. The board may delegate to the executive director the selection of the agency subordinate who is deemed appropriately qualified to conduct a proceeding based on the qualifications of the subordinate and the type of case being heard.

VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

Impact of Criminal Convictions, Impairment, and Past History on Social Work licensure in Virginia

INTRODUCTION

This document provides information for persons interested in becoming a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) or Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). It clarifies how convictions, impairment, and other past history may affect the application process and subsequent licensure by the Board of Social Work.

Until an individual applies for licensure, the Board of Social Work is unable to review, or consider for approval, an individual with a criminal conviction, history of action taken in another jurisdiction, or history of possible impairment. The Board has no jurisdiction until an application has been filed.

GUIDELINES FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE: EXAMINATION, ENDORSEMENT, AND REINSTATEMENT

Applicants for licensure by examination, endorsement and reinstatement who meet the qualifications as set forth in the law and regulations may be issued a license pursuant to authority delegated to the Executive Director of the Board in accordance with the Board of Social Work Regulations.

An applicant whose license has been revoked or suspended in another jurisdiction is not eligible for licensure in Virginia unless the credential has been reinstated by the jurisdiction which revoked or suspended it.

Affirmative responses to any questions on applications for licensure related to grounds for the Board to refuse to admit a candidate to an examination, refuse to issue a license or impose sanction shall be referred to the Executive Director to determine how to proceed. The Executive Director, or designee, may approve the application without referral to the Credentials Committee in the following cases:

1. The applicant presents a history of chemical dependence with evidence of continued abstinence and recovery. The Executive Director cannot approve applicants for reinstatement if the license was revoked or suspended by the Board or if it lapsed while an investigation was pending.
2. The applicant has a history of criminal conviction(s) which does not constitute grounds for denial or Board action or the applicant's criminal conviction history meets the following criteria:
 - The applicant's conviction history consists solely of misdemeanor convictions involving moral turpitude that are greater than 10 years old.

- The applicant's conviction history consists of one misdemeanor conviction involving moral turpitude greater than 5 years old and all court requirements have been met.
- The applicant's conviction history consists of one misdemeanor conviction involving moral turpitude less than 5 years old, the applicant is in full compliance or has met all court requirements, and the applicant has accepted a pre-hearing consent order to approve the application with a reprimand.
- The applicant's conviction history consists of one non-violent felony conviction greater than 10 years old and all court/probationary/parole requirements have been met.

3. The applicant's conviction history consists of offenses committed as a juvenile and the applicant has no record of convictions as an adult.

BASIS FOR DENIAL OF LICENSURE

The Board of Social Work may refuse to admit a candidate to any examination or refuse to issue a license to any applicant with a conviction of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude. Likewise, the Board may refuse licensure to an applicant who is unable to practice social work with reasonable skill and safety to clients by reason of illness, excessive use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals or any other type of material or as a result of any mental or physical condition (referred to as a history of impairment).

Misdemeanor convictions involving moral turpitude mean convictions related to lying, cheating or stealing. Examples include, but are not limited to: reporting false information to the police, shoplifting or concealment of merchandise, petit larceny, welfare fraud, embezzlement, and writing worthless checks. While information must be gathered regarding all convictions, misdemeanor convictions other than those involving moral turpitude will not prevent an applicant from becoming a LSW or LCSW. However, if the misdemeanor conviction information also suggests a possible impairment issue, such as DUI and illegal drug possession convictions, then there still may be a basis for denial during the licensure application process.

Criminal convictions for ANY felony may cause an applicant to be denied Social Work licensure. *Each applicant is considered on an individual basis. There are NO criminal convictions or impairments that are an absolute bar to Social Work licensure.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED REGARDING CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS, PAST ACTIONS, OR POSSIBLE IMPAIRMENTS

Applications for licensure include questions about the applicant's history, specifically:

1. Any and all criminal convictions ever received;
2. Any past action taken against the applicant in another state or jurisdiction, including denial of licensure or certification in another state or jurisdiction; and
3. Any mental or physical illness, or chemical dependency condition that could interfere with the applicant's ability to practice.

Indicating “yes” to any questions about convictions, past actions, or possible impairment does not mean the application will be denied. It means more information must be gathered and considered before a decision can be made, which delays the usual application and testing process. Sometimes an administrative proceeding is required before a decision regarding the application can be made. The Board of Social Work has the ultimate authority to approve an applicant for testing and subsequent licensure, or to deny approval.

The following information will be requested from an applicant with a criminal conviction:

- A certified copy of all conviction orders (obtained from the courthouse of record);
- Evidence that all court ordered requirements were met (i.e., letter from the probation officer if on supervised probation, paid fines and restitution, etc.);
- A letter from the applicant explaining the factual circumstances leading to the criminal offense(s); and
- Letters from employers concerning work performance (specifically from Social Work related employers, if possible).

The following information will be requested from the applicant with past disciplinary action or licensure/certification denial in another state:

- A certified copy of the Order for disciplinary action or denial from the other state licensing entity; and certified copy of any subsequent actions (i.e. reinstatement), if applicable;
- A letter from the applicant explaining the factual circumstances leading to the action or denial; and
- Letters from employers concerning work performance (Social Work related preferred) since action.

The following information may be requested from applicants with a possible impairment:

- Evidence of any past treatment (i.e., discharge summary from outpatient treatment and inpatient hospitalizations);
- A letter from the applicant’s current treating healthcare provider(s) indicating diagnosis, treatment regimen, compliance with treatment, and ability to practice safely;
- A letter from the applicant explaining the factual circumstances of condition or impairment and addressing ongoing efforts to function safely (including efforts to remain compliant with treatment, maintain sobriety, attendance at AA/NA meetings, etc.); and
- Letters from employers concerning work performance (specifically from Social Work related employers, if possible).

NOTE: Some applicants may be eligible for the Health Practitioner’s Monitoring Program (HPMP), which is a monitoring program for persons with impairments due to chemical dependency, mental illness, or physical disabilities. Willingness to participate in the HPMP is information the Board of Social Work will consider during the review process for applicants with a history of impairment or a criminal conviction history related to impairment. Information about the Virginia HPMP may be obtained directly from the DHP homepage at www.dhp.virginia.gov.

Once the Board of Social Work has received the necessary and relevant additional information, the application will be considered. Some applicants may be approved based on review of the

documentation provided. Other applicants may be required to meet with Board of Social Work representative(s) for an informal fact finding conference to consider the application. After the informal fact-finding conference, the application may be: i) approved, ii) approved with conditions or terms, or iii) denied.

NOTE: Failure to reveal criminal convictions, past disciplinary actions, and/or possible impairment issues on any application for licensure is grounds for disciplinary action by the Board of Social Work, even after the license has been issued. It is considered to be “procurement of license by fraud or misrepresentation,” and a basis for disciplinary action that is separate from the underlying conviction, past action, or impairment issue once discovered. Possible disciplinary actions that may be taken range from reprimand to revocation of a license.

FOLLOWING LICENSURE

Criminal convictions and other actions can also affect an individual already licensed as a LSW or LCSW by the Board of Social Work. Any felony conviction, court adjudication of incompetence, or suspension or revocation of a license or certificate held in another state will result in a “mandatory suspension” of the individual’s license to practice in Virginia. This is a nondiscretionary action taken by the Director of DHP, rather than the Board of Social Work, according to § 54.1-2409 of the Code of Virginia. The mandatory suspension remains in effect until the individual applies for reinstatement and appears at a formal hearing before the Board of Social Work and demonstrates sufficient evidence that he or she is safe and competent to return to practice. At the formal hearing, three fourths of the Board members present must agree to reinstate the individual's license to practice in order for the license to be restored.

GETTING A CRIMINAL RECORD EXPUNGED

Having been granted a pardon, clemency, or having civil rights restored following a felony conviction does not change the fact that a person has a criminal conviction. That conviction remains on the individual’s licensure record. Therefore, any criminal conviction *must* be revealed on any application for licensing, unless it has been expunged.

Chapter 23.1 of Title 19.2 of the Code of Virginia describes the process for expunging criminal records. If a person wants a conviction to be removed from their record, the individual must seek expungement pursuant to §19.2-392.2 of the Code of Virginia. Individuals should seek legal counsel to pursue this course, which involves specific petitions to the court, State Police procedures, and hearings in court.

VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: AUTHORIZATION

A. Statutory Authority

The Virginia Board of Social Work (“Board”) is established and operates pursuant to §§ 54.1-2400 and 54.1-3700, et seq., of the *Code of Virginia*. Regulations promulgated by the Virginia Board of Social Work may be found in 18VAC140-20-10 et seq., “Regulations Governing the Practice of Social Work”.

B. Duties

The Virginia Board of Social Work is charged with promulgating and enforcing regulations governing the licensure and practice of social work and clinical social work in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This includes, but is not limited to: setting fees; creating requirements for and issuing licenses, certificates, or registrations; setting standards of practice; and implementing a system of disciplinary action.

C. Mission

To ensure the delivery of safe and competent patient care by licensing health professionals, enforcing standards of practice, and providing information to healthcare practitioners and the public.

ARTICLE II: THE BOARD

A. Membership

1. The Board shall consist of nine (9) members, appointed by the Governor as follows:
 - a. Seven (7) shall be licensed social workers in Virginia, who have been in active practice of social work for at least five years prior to appointment and,
 - b. Two (2) shall be citizen members.
2. The terms of the members of the Board shall be four (4) years.
3. Members of the Board of Social Work holding a voting office in any related professional association or one that takes a policy position on the regulations of the Board shall abstain from voting on issues where there may be a conflict of interest present.

B. Officers

1. The Chairperson or designee shall preserve order and conduct all proceedings according to parliamentary rules, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and the Administrative Process Act. Roberts Rules of Order will guide parliamentary procedure for the meetings. Except where specifically provided otherwise by the law or as otherwise ordered by the Board, the Chairperson shall appoint all committees, and shall sign as Chairperson to the certificates authorized to be signed by the Chairperson.

2. The Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson and assume the duties of Chairperson in the event of an unexpired term.
3. In the absences of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, the Chairperson shall appoint another board member to preside at the meeting and/or formal administrative hearing.
4. The Executive Director shall be the custodian of all Board records. He/she shall preserve a correct list of all applicants and licensees, shall manage the correspondence of the Board, and shall perform all such other duties as naturally pertain to this position.

C. Duties of Members

1. Each member shall participate in all matters before the Board.
2. Members shall attend all regular and special meetings of the Board unless prevented by illness or similar unavoidable cause. In the event of two (2) consecutive unexcused absences at any meeting of the Board or its committees, the Chairperson shall make a recommendation to the Director of the Department of Health Professions for referral to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and Secretary of the Commonwealth.
3. The Governor may remove any Board member for cause, and the Governor shall be sole judge of the sufficiency of the cause for removal pursuant to §2.2-108.

D. Election of Officers

1. The Nomination Committee shall present a slate of officers for Chairman and Vice-Chairman at the meeting scheduled prior to July 1. The election of officers shall occur at the first scheduled Board meeting following July 1 of each odd year, and elected officers shall assume their duties at the end of the meeting.
2. Officers shall be elected at a meeting of the Board with a quorum present.
3. The Chairperson shall ask for additional nominations from the floor by office.
4. Voting shall be by voice vote, roll call, or show of hands. A simple majority shall prevail with the current Chairperson casting a vote only to break a tie.
5. Special elections shall be held in the same manner in the event of a vacancy of a position to fill the unexpired term.
6. The election shall occur in the following order: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson.
7. All officers shall be elected for a term of two years, and may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

E. Meetings

1. The full Board shall meet quarterly, unless a meeting is not required to conduct Board business.
2. Order of Business at Meetings:
 - a. Period of Public Comment

- b. Approval of Minutes of preceding regular Board meeting and any called meeting since the last regular meeting of the Board.
 - c. Reports of Officers and staff
 - d. Reports of Committees
 - e. Election of Officers (as needed)
 - f. Unfinished Business
 - g. New Business
3. The order of business may be changed at any meeting by a majority vote.

ARTICLE III: COMMITTEES

A. Duties and Frequency of Meetings.

- 1. Members appointed to a committee shall faithfully perform the duties assigned to the committee.
- 2. All standing committees shall meet as necessary to conduct the business of the Board.

B. Standing Committees

Standing committees of the Board shall consist of the following:

- Regulatory/Legislative Committee
- Special Conference Committee
- Credentials Committee
- Nomination Committee
- Any other Standing Committees created by the Board.

1. Regulatory/Legislative Committee

- a. The Regulatory/Legislative Committee shall consist of at least two (2) Board members appointed by the Chairperson of the Board.
- b. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board.
- c. The Committee shall consider all questions bearing upon state legislation and regulation governing the professions regulated by the Board.
- d. The Committee shall recommend to the Board changes in law and regulations as it may deem advisable and, at the direction of the Board, shall take such steps as may further the desire of the Board in matters of legislation and regulation.
- e. The Chairperson of the Committee shall submit proposed changes in applicable laws and regulations in writing to the Board prior to any scheduled meeting.

2. Special Conference Committee

- a. The Special Conference Committee shall consist of two (2) Board members.
- b. The Special Conference Committee shall conduct informal conferences pursuant to §§2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400 of the *Code of Virginia* as necessary to adjudicate cases in a timely manner in accordance with the agency standards for case resolution.

- c. The Special Conference Committee shall hold informal conferences at the request of the applicant or licensee to determine if Board requirements have been met.
 - d. The Chairperson of the Board shall designate another board member as an alternate on this committee in the event one of the standing committee members becomes ill or is unable to attend a scheduled conference date.
 - e. Should the caseload increase to the level that additional special conference committees are needed, the Chairperson of the Board may appoint additional committees.
3. Credentials Committee
- a. The Credentials Committee shall consist of at least two (2) Board members appointed by the Chairman of the Board, with the Chairman of the Committee to be appointed by the Chairman of the Board.
 - b. The members of the committee shall review non-routine licensure applications to determine the credentials of the applicant and the applicability of the statutes and regulations.
 - c. The Committee member who conducted the initial review shall provide guidance to staff on action to be taken.
 - d. The Credentials Committee shall not be required to meet collectively to conduct initial reviews.
4. Nomination Committee
- a. The Nomination Committee shall be composed of at least two members of the Board appointed by the Chairman of the Board, with the Chairman of the Committee to be appointed by the Chairman of the Board.
 - b. The Nomination Committee shall consult with Board members and staff to recommend nominee(s) for the Board positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
 - c. Sitting officers shall not serve on the Nomination Committee.

ARTICLE IV: GENERAL DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Board delegates the following functions:

1. The Board delegates to Board staff the authority to issue and renew licenses or certificates and to approve supervision applications for which regulatory and statutory qualifications have been met. If there is basis upon which the Board could refuse to issue or renew the license or certification or to deny the supervision application, the Executive Director may only issue a license, certificate, or registration upon consultation with a member of the Credentials Committee, or in accordance with delegated authority provided in a guidance document of the Board.

2. The Board delegates to Board staff the authority to develop and approve any and all forms used in the daily operations of Board business, to include, but not be limited to, licensure and registration applications, renewal forms, and documents used in the disciplinary process.
3. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the authority to grant an accommodation of additional testing time or other requests for accommodation to candidates for Board-required examinations pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, provided the candidate provides documentation that supports such an accommodation.
4. The Board delegates to the Executive Director authority to grant an extension for good cause of up to one (1) year for the completion of continuing education requirements upon written request from the licensee prior to the renewal date.
5. The Board delegates to the Executive Director authority to grant an exemption for all or part of the continuing education requirements due to circumstances beyond the control of the licensee or certificate holder, such as temporary disability, mandatory military service, or officially declared disasters.
6. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the authority to reinstate a license or certificate when the reinstatement is due to the lapse of the license or certificate rather than a disciplinary action and there is no basis upon which the Board could refuse to reinstate.
7. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the authority to sign as entered any Order or Consent Order resulting from the disciplinary process or other administrative proceeding.
8. The Board delegates to the Executive Director, who may consult with a member of the Special Conference Committee, the authority to provide guidance to the agency's Enforcement Division in situations wherein a complaint is of questionable jurisdiction and an investigation may not be necessary.
9. The Board delegates authority to the Executive Director to close non-jurisdictional cases and fee dispute cases without review by a Board member.
10. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the authority to review alleged violations of law or regulations with a member of the Special Conference Committee to make a determination as to whether probable cause exists to proceed with possible disciplinary action.
11. In accordance with established Board guidance documents, the Board delegates to the Executive Director the determination of probable cause, for the purpose of offering a confidential consent agreement, a pre-hearing consent order, or for scheduling an informal conference.

12. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the selection of the agency subordinate who is deemed appropriately qualified to conduct a proceeding based on the qualifications of the subordinate and the type of case being convened.
13. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the convening of a quorum of the Board by telephone conference call, for the purpose of considering the summary suspension of a license or for the purpose of considering settlement proposals.
14. The Board delegates to the Chairperson, the authority to represent the Board in instances where Board "consultation" or "review" may be requested where a vote of the Board is not required and a meeting is not feasible.
15. The Board delegates authority to the Executive Director to issue an Advisory Letter to the person who is the subject of a complaint pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2(F), when it is determined that a probable cause review indicates a disciplinary proceeding will not be instituted.
16. The Board delegates authority to the Executive Director to delegate tasks to the Deputy Executive Director, as necessary.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to these bylaws shall be presented in writing to all Board members, the Executive Director of the Board, and the Board's legal counsel prior to any scheduled Board meeting. Amendments to the bylaws shall become effective with a favorable vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at that regular meeting.

Adopted: 12/17/96

Revised: 10/3/2008; 4/17/2009; 10/25/2013; 10/27/2017