



DRAFT

**Virginia Board of Social Work
Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233
Board Room 1**

- PRESIDING OFFICER:** Canek Aguirre, Citizen Member, Board Chairperson
- BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elke Cox, MSW, LCSW
Martha Meadows, MSW, LCSW
Denise Purgold, MSW, LCSW
Sherwood Randolph, MSW, LCSW (*attended remotely from Pennsylvania due to a scheduling conflict*)
Teresa Reynolds, MSW, LCSW
- BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gloria Manns, MSW, LCSW
Ruth Ann Smulik, Citizen Member
- BOARD STAFF PRESENT:** Jaime Hoyle, JD, Executive Director
Shaderra Jefferson, Licensing Specialist
Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director- Discipline
Sharniece Vaughan, Licensing Supervisor
- DHP STAFF PRESENT:** Arne Owens, Agency Director, Department of Health Professions (DHP)
Erin Barrett, JD, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, DHP
Matt Novak, Policy & Economic Analyst, DHP
- BOARD COUNSEL PRESENT:** James Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General
- PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** Mark Smith, The Virginia Public Access Project
Ophelia von Ludwig, LCSW, OVL, LLC
Kim Young, LCSW, Dope Black Social Worker
A.J. Thomas
Denise Daly Konrad, Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF)
Kevin Holder, LCSW, Richmond Association of Black Social Workers
Nicole Hillman, VCU MSW student
- CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Aguirre called the Board Meeting to order at 10:03 am.
- ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:** An introduction was done of all board members and staff. Six members of the board were present at roll call; therefore, a quorum was established.
- MISSION STATEMENT:** Mr. Aguirre read the mission statement of the Department of Health Professions, which was also the mission statement of the board.
- ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The agenda was adopted as presented.
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** **Discussion (HB606 House Bill 606 Price, Clinical Social Workers, Licensure Exam Alternatives)**
Kimberly Young provided public comment on HB606 and discussed an alternative to taking the exam for licensure. Ms. Young stated that she does not wish to eliminate the exam but would like other options to show competency.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The board reviewed the minutes from the last meeting held on November 3, 2023. Mr. Aguirre noted a change to reflect “Mr. Randolph” instead of “Ms. Randolph”.

Motion: Ms. Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was properly seconded by Ms. Cox and passed unanimously.

AGENCY REPORT:

Mr. Owens welcomed all members of the board. He informed the board about the new security measures that have taken place at the Perimeter Center and how everyone entering the building must now go through a safety screening, which includes passing items through an x-ray machine and walking through a magnetometer.

Mr. Owens informed the board that the state budget was signed on May 13, 2024. He reminded the board that while the Department of Health Professions does not get its funding from the General Fund through the General Assembly, but rather through licensure fees, the General Assembly still must approve the DHP budget. The Agency is already preparing for the 2025 General Assembly.

Mr. Owens also informed the board that an internal salary study is being conducted by Gallagher to ensure that salaries are comparable to other state agencies.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT:

Mr. Aguirre stated that it was an honor to work with the Board of Social Work for more than 8 years and thanked board members and staff for their hard work and dedication.

LEGISLATION & REGULATORY REPORT:

- **Chart of Regulatory Actions**

Ms. Barrett reviewed the current regulatory actions for the Board of Social Work as of June 14, 2024. A copy of the chart was included in the agenda packet.

- **General Assembly Update**

Ms. Barrett provided an update on the 2024 General Assembly bills.

- **House Bill 606**

Ms. Barrett advised that his matter will be discussed in more detail later in the meeting but noted that the letter from Senator Favola does not request the formation of a workgroup.

- **Petition for Rulemaking: Sophia Stephenson (LPCs Providing supervision in ROS)**

The board discussed the petition but did not find that the requested changes would be necessary or beneficial due to differing levels of supervision between the two disciplines, existing availability of LCSW supervisors, changes in technology which allow virtual supervision with greater ease, and the advisability of maintaining consistency with the requirements of the Council on Social Work Education.

Motion: Ms. Purgold made a motion to take no action on the petition, which Ms. Cox properly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Amendment to Guidance Document 140-9**

Guidance Document 140-9 lists the supervision training requirements for Licensed Clinical Social Workers in Virginia. Due to the recent changes, there is a need to amend the guidance document to align with the new regulations. The changes require supervisors, after completing the initial 14 hours of continuing education in supervision, to obtain 7 additional hours of continuing education in supervision

every 5 years.

Motion: Ms. Purgold made a motion, which Ms. Reynolds properly seconded, to amend Guidance Document 140-9. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Discussion regarding paid internships**

Ms. Cox stated that the availability of paid internships depends on the employing agency and their funding, as some agencies will pay for education. Ms. Reynolds added that hiring interns requires a lot of hands-on management. She further noted that paying interns can create blurred lines, as the intern is then considered an employee rather than being part of an education program. Mr. Aguirre noted his support of paid internships but agreed that the available funding varies between organizations. He inquired about the board's ability to sponsor paid internships.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Hoyle advised that Mr. Aguirre and Ms. Manns will complete their second terms on the board as of June 30, 2024 but will remain as current board members until they are replaced. She further advised of a seat vacancy following Ebony Buggs' resignation. Ms. Hoyle congratulated Ms. Vaughan for her new role as Licensing Supervisor for the Board of Social Work.

Ms. Hoyle advised that she will not receive a completed budget for the board until the September 2024 meeting. Currently, the board has \$2,104,000 cash on hand, versus last year's \$2,338,000, but this does not reflect revenue from renewals.

The Virginia Board of Social Work has received more out-of-state applications due to recent changes in the regulations. Ms. Hoyle attended a workgroup in Maryland to provide them with a better understanding of Virginia's licensure process. She also mentioned the need for board members to attend the ASWB conference in San Diego, California in November. Also, there is an ASWB new board member training in Washington, D.C. that she highly recommends new board members attend.

DISCIPLINE REPORT:

Ms. Lang referred to the discipline report in the meeting agenda. She thanked board members who have worked with staff to review cases for probable cause and advised that she recently filled the part-time position for a licensed case reviewer. She will still need board members to review cases periodically if the reviewer has a conflict of interest in specific matters.

In addition to the case reviewer, Ms. Lang also contracted an Agency Subordinate for the board and has been given a new FTE position for discipline. The Agency Subordinate is a former board member, John Salay, who will hear cases at informal conferences. All the Agency Subordinate's recommended decisions will be presented to the board for their consideration and vote at subsequent board meetings. Ms. Lang is currently working on the recruitment process for the new discipline FTE, a position that will be shared by the three BSU boards.

For the three Behavioral Science boards combined, staff is working on 501 open cases, with 153 complaints in the investigative process.

LICENSING REPORT:

Ms. Lang provided the licensing report on behalf of Ms. Lenart and referred to the licensing data included in the meeting agenda. She congratulated Sharniece Vaughan on her promotion to Licensing Supervisor, a position left vacant after Latasha Austin accepted a new position with the Board of Counseling and said that staff is excited to have her in this new role. Ms. Lang also discussed the satisfaction surveys from the 3rd quarter being at 95.4% which is higher than last quarter's 94.8%. The board

has a total of 16,200 active licenses and registrations in Virginia. From January 2024-May 2024, there have been 1,276 licenses and registrations issued.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Ad Hoc Committee**

Mr. Randolph asked about the Ad Hoc Committee as he is now the only member of this committee since Ebony Bugg resigned.

**SOCIAL WORK
COMPACT:****Compact Commissioner**

Ms. Hoyle advised that the General Assembly passed the Social Work Compact and that Virginia was one of the first 7 states to join. Currently, there are 20 states that have joined the compact. The Board discussed the requirement to appoint a Compact Commissioner and a Temporary Representative to attend meetings on the Commissioner's behalf when necessary.

Motion: Ms. Cox made a motion, which Ms. Reynolds properly seconded, to elect Jaime Hoyle as Commissioner and Jennifer Lang as the Temporary Representative. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:**House Bill 606**

The board discussed House Bill 606 and opined that further research is needed to include in the report, specifically pass rates based on race, use of antibias measures, any action the board has taken to increase diversity, the board's capacity to manage alternative pathways, alternative measures for oversight if the exam is eliminated, and a review of what other boards are doing to determine if the same actions can work in Virginia. Ms. Hoyle will reach out directly to CSWE, Dr. Stacey Hardy-Chandler with ASWB, social work programs, and other stakeholders for information. The board will form a subcommittee to address these issues on an ongoing basis but because of the tight timeframe for the report, the Committee will not have much opportunity to provide any immediate support for the report. Ms. Barrett reminded everyone that the board does not have control or jurisdiction over the educational programs.

Ms. Hoyle stated that she will complete a draft by the end of September to allow for agency review and approval. In addition, Ms. Barrett stated that the executive branch must approve the report prior to the November 1, 2024 deadline.

ELECTIONS:**Chairperson**

Ms. Cox nominated Teresa Reynolds for the board chairperson position. With no other nominations submitted, Ms. Reynolds was elected by acclamation.

Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Reynolds nominated Elke Cox for the board vice-chairperson position. With no other nominations submitted, Ms. Cox was elected by acclamation.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 27, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Aguirre adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Canek Aguirre, Citizen Member, Chair

Jaime Hoyle, JD, Executive Director