

FINAL APPROVED

ADVISORY BOARD ON GENETIC COUNSELING

Minutes

September 19, 2022

The Advisory Board on Genetic Counseling met on Monday, September 19, 2022 at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tahnee Causey, GC - Chair
Lydia Higgs, GC - Vice-Chair
Martha Thomas, GC

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lori Swain, Citizen Member

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, MD - Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM - Deputy Director, Licensure
Erin Barrett, JD - DHP Senior Policy Analyst
Colanthia Opher - Deputy Director, Administration

GUESTS PRESENT: None

Call to Order

Tahnee Causey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

Emergency Egress Procedures

Dr. Harp announced the emergency egress instructions.

Roll Call

Roll was called; a quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes

Lydia Higgs moved to adopt the minutes of the May 23, 2022 meeting. Martha Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Adoption of Agenda

Martha Thomas moved to adopt the agenda. Lydia Higgs seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None

New Business

1. Periodic Review of Regulations Governing the Practice of Genetic Counseling

Erin Barrett led the discussion. She presented her recommendations to delete current provisions in 18VAC85-170-10 B. - Definition of Conscience Clause, 18VAC85-170-20, 18VAC85-170-100 (D), 18VAC85-170-110, 18VAC85-170-140 (E) (3), 18VAC85-170-150A. (3)(a)(b)(c), 18VAC85-170-160 (A) (1), and 18VAC85-170-170. Most of these provisions are in the law, therefore it is unnecessary to repeat them in regulation. Members discussed retaining the language provision in 18VAC85-170-150 A. (2) and amending language in 18VAC85-170-150A. (3) to state, “*When a genetic or diagnostic test is recommended, documented informed consent shall be obtained from the patient in accordance with the policies of the health care entity and consistent with the standard of care. Practitioners shall inform patients of the risks, benefits, and alternatives of the recommended procedure that a reasonably prudent practitioner practicing genetic counseling in Virginia would tell a patient.*”

Martha Thomas moved that the Advisory Board recommend these changes as discussed to the full Board. Lydia Higgs seconded. Motion passed.

2. Review of Bylaws for Advisory Board

For information only, Erin Barrett presented the uniform Bylaws for all Advisory Boards that the full Board approved at its June meeting. The Bylaws are slated to become effective on September 29, 2022.

3. Approval of 2023 Meeting Calendar

Lydia Higgs moved to adopt the 2023 meeting calendar. Martha Thomas seconded. Motion passed.

4. Election of Officers

Tahnee Causey moved to nominate Lydia Higgs as Chair and Martha Thomas as Vice-Chair. Martha Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Announcements:

License statistics

Michael Sobowale provided the license statistics report. There is a total of 7 temporarily-licensed genetic counselors 6 of which are current active in Virginia with 1 current active out-of-state. For fully-licensed genetic counselors, there is a total of 543, 124 of which are current active in Virginia with 418 current active out-of-state. There is 1 current inactive out-of-state.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, February 6, 2023 @ 1pm.

Adjournment

With no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 1:48pm.

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director