



**DRAFT**  
**Virginia Board of Social Work**  
**Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, November 3, 2023, 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:** Eboni Bugg, MSW, LCSW  
Elke Cox, MSW, LCSW  
Martha Meadows, MSW, LCSW  
Denise Purgold, MSW, LCSW  
Sherwood Randolph, MSW, LCSW

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gloria Manns, MSW, LCSW  
Teresa Reynolds, 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  
Charlotte Lenart, Deputy Executive Director- Licensing  
Sharniece Vaughan, Licensing Specialist

**DHP STAFF PRESENT:** Erin Barrett, JD, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Department of Health Professions  
James Jenkins, RN, Agency Deputy Director, Special Advisor to the Governor on Workforce  
Matt Novak, Policy & Economic Analyst, Department of Health Professions

**BOARD COUNSEL PRESENT:** James Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General

**PRESENTATION SPEAKERS:** Barbara Hodgdon, PhD, Deputy Director, Healthcare Workforce Data Center, DHP

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** Demetria Davis, LCSW  
Debra Riggs, Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Aguirre called the Board Meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

**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:** Mr. Aguirre announced that two petitions for rulemaking need to be added to the legislative report. Mr. Randolph made a motion, which was properly seconded by Ms. Cox, to adopt the agenda with the two additions. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment was provided.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Board reviewed the minutes from the last meeting held on August 18, 2023.

**Motion:** Ms. Randolph made a motion, which Ms. Purgold properly seconded, to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2023 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENCY REPORT:**

Mr. Jenkins thanked the Board members for their commitment and service to the Board and profession.

Mr. Jenkins provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Care efforts and indicated that he and Ms. Hoyle will be providing a presentation in November on the Right Help Right Now updates sharing the progress on workforce developments and initiatives.

Mr. Jenkins announced that the Agency is currently planning for the next General Assembly session.

**BOARD CHAIR REPORT:**

Nothing to report.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- **Virginia's Licensed Master's Social Work Workforce**  
Dr. Hodgdon presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Master's Social Work Workforce in Virginia. The presentation concluded that there was an increase in LMSWs, two thirds of LMSW have a micro concentration and a fourth have a macro concentration, of the macro LMSWs licensees, 68% stated they provide clinical services and 82% of micro LMSW stated that they provide clinical services, a majority of the LMSWs are not eligible for licensure and the lowest concentration of LMSWs are located in the South and Southwest Virginia.
- **Virginia's Licensed Clinical Social Work Workforce**  
Dr. Hodgdon presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Clinical Social Work Workforce in Virginia. The presentation concluded that there was an increase in licensees, a younger age distribution of licensees, diversity index is increasing overtime for LCSWs, median income is higher than median education dept and the percentage of LCSW intending to retire by 65 years of age has decreased.

**LEGISLATION & REGULATORY REPORT:**

- **Chart of Regulatory Actions**  
Ms. Barrett reviewed with the Board the current regulatory actions for the Board of Social work as of October 23, 2023. A copy of the chart was included in the agenda packet.

**Legislative Actions**

Ms. Barrett indicated that during Governor Younkin recent visit he announced that he may be supporting legislation to eliminate the Board of Health Professions. Ms. Barnett explained that the Board of Health Professions does not develop any policies for the Agency. Therefore, it is unlikely that there will be any appointments to the Board of Health Professions until the Governor makes a decision.

Ms. Barrett gave an update on the Music Therapy Regulations and advised the Board that the Music Therapy Advisory Board recently met to come up with proposed reduction in requirement for Music Therapist. The proposed reduction in regulations from the Music Therapy Advisory Board will not come before the Board until she receives guidance from Secretary's office.

- **Definition of “generalist social work”**

Ms. Barrett stated that the Office of Attorney General suggested the Board define “generalist social work” in the proposed regulations. Ms. Barrett stated that the Board could either amend the proposed regulations with a definition of generalist social work or could delete section C in 18VAC140-20-37 from the current proposed action. After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided to leave section 37 as is and to review it at a later date.

**Motion:** Mr. Randolph made a motion, which Ms. Bugg properly seconded, to keep the original language in 18VAC140.20.37 of the current proposed regulations and issue a Notice of Intended Action (NOIRA) to amend section 37 of regulations 18VAC140.20. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Completion of Periodic Review of Public Participation Guidelines Contained in 18VAC140-11**

Ms. Barrett reviewed the Public Participation Guidelines with the Board.

**Motion:** Ms. Buggs made a motion, which Ms. Meadows properly seconded, to retain 18VAC140-11 as is. The motion passed unanimously.

**Consideration of petition for rulemaking (Petitioner-Erin Tomlinson)**

The Board considered the request to amend 18VAC140-20-105(B)(1)(d) to include Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing International Association (EMDRIA) and American Psychology Association (APA) as approved trainings. The Board accepted the petition for rulemaking for adding APA as a continuing education provider but did not elect to include EMDRIA training in the list of approved providers, as most EMDRIA training is approved by one of the entities already listed in the regulation or by the APA.

**Motion:** Mr. Randolph made a motion, which Ms. Purgold properly seconded, to accept the petition and initiate rule making and accept APA as an approved provider and to initiate a Notice of Intended Action (NOIRA) to amend rule 18VAC140-20-105(B)(1)(d). The motion passed unanimously.

**Consideration of petition for rulemaking (Petitioner – Shanta Clay)**

The Board considered the request to amend 18VAC140-20-70 to set passage of the licensure examination at 99 for all levels of licensure. The Board does not control or evaluate the passing score on the national examination, the passing score changes depending on the test version used, and the Board does include individual passing scores in regulations for examinations as a policy.

**Motion:** Ms. Purgold made a motion, which Ms. Bugg properly seconded, to deny the petitioner request. The motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Ms. Hoyle thanked staff and announced that the Governor had appointed Ruth Ann Smulik as the Board’s citizen member.

Ms. Hoyle informed the Board that as part of her work for the Governor’s Right Help, Right Now behavioral health initiative, she attended a faith-based forum, and that Ms. Cox was also in attendance.

With respect to workforce, the Board of Social Work continues to be praised for its

actions to balance protecting the public but also reducing barriers to help address the workforce shortage. Ms. Hoyle indicated that she had reached out to the bordering states to discuss reciprocity. She hopes to have more information by the next meeting.

Ms. Hoyle also informed the Board that the conference for the Association of Social Work Boards conflicted with the Board meeting, but that Ms. Austin was currently attending on behalf of the Board and will provide a report at the next meeting.

#### **DISCIPLINE REPORT:**

Ms. Lang reported that from January 1 to October 31, 2023, the Board of Social Work received 128 completed investigations from the Enforcement Division. This represents a 41% increase when compared to the same time frame in 2022.

##### Staffing

Ms. Lang reported that in addition to herself, the discipline unit has one other full-time staff member, Christy Evans. Ms. Lang and Ms. Evans manage the disciplinary process for the three behavioral science boards and, in addition to the discipline cases, Ms. Evans also manages compliance monitoring and the annual continuing education audits. However, Ms. Lang reported that Cheryl Branch was recently hired as a part-time audit specialist, which will allow Ms. Evans more time to focus on discipline and managing the informal conference process.

##### Hearings

Ms. Lang announced that a formal hearing will be scheduled for March 29, 2024, following the quarterly board meeting. She requested that board members advise her as soon as possible if they will not be available to attend, so that she can ensure a panel of the board is available to move forward with the hearing.

#### **LICENSING REPORT:**

Ms. Lenart report on the licensure statistics and satisfaction survey results for the Board of Social Work. A copy of the report given was included in the agenda packet. She indicated that staff continue to work hard which is reflective of the 97% satisfaction survey and applications are currently being processed within 7- 10 business days.

Ms. Lenart stated that Shaderra Jefferson was recently hired by the Board as a licensing specialist and Darlene Graham retired from her part-time position with the Board.

Ms. Lenart reported that staff recently updated the licensure process handbook and application instructions immediately following the recent changes to the regulations.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Ad Hoc Committee**

Mr. Randolph and Ms. Buggs met on October 30, 2023 to discuss if the Board needed to present testing information to local institutions and colleges. The committee determined that a better use of the Board's time and resources would be to have ongoing communication with the social work community by having timely communication to address regulatory issues, ASWB pass rates, ASWB's Fifth Theory support program for test takers, Social Work Compact, Board's mission and the limitation of the Board.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATES:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 29, 2024.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Aguirre adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

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Canek Aguirre, Citizen Member, Chair

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Jaime Hoyle, JD, Executive Director

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