

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING
REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, February 8, 2018**

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2018, in Board Room 1 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

PRESIDING: Johnston Brendel, Ed.D., LPC, LMFT, Chairperson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Doyle, Ed.D., LPC, LSATP
Danielle Hunt, LPC
Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Citizen Member
Holly Tracy, LPC, LMFT

STAFF PRESENT: Tracey Arrington-Edmonds, Licensing Specialist
Christy Evans, Discipline Case Specialist
Jaime Hoyle, J.D., Executive Director
Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director
Charlotte Lenart, Licensing Manager
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst

ORDERING OF THE AGENDA:

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Dr. Doyle, which was properly seconded by Ms. Sanchez-Jones, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2017 meeting.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

Arnold Woodruff of the Virginia Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (VAMFT), Janet Moore and Heavenly Weaver of Odyssey Community Services, Erin Smith of the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), Lilyana B. Sintayehu (resident/applicant) and Representative(s) from the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (DBHDS)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments

DISCUSSION:

- I. **Old Business:**
 - **Review definition of required courses** - The Committee agreed to discuss the definitions of required courses at a future Committee meeting.

- **Foreign degree discussion** – The current regulations do not clearly allow for the acceptance of foreign degrees. Upon a motion by Dr. Doyle, which was properly seconded by Ms. Tracy, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the Board adopt a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to amend the Regulations to ensure applicants with foreign degrees have a pathway to licensure.
- **Bylaws** - Upon a motion by Ms. Hunt, which was properly seconded by Ms. Tracy, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the following changes to the Bylaws.
 - New language to include the authority of the Board to approve Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHP) & Registered Peer Recovery Specialist (RPRS) regulations and other registrations.
 - Add “licensed” in front of “professional counselors” under Article II The Board A. Membership a.i;
 - Move item #4 listed under Article II The Board, B. Officers, to Article IV General Delegation of Authority.
 - Ensure “Chairman” is replaced with “Chairperson”.

Ms. Yeatts requested the Committee consider amending the bylaws to decrease the amount of time an officer can serve on the Board from a two-year term to a one-year term. The Committee agreed to bring this issue to the Board for discussion.

- **Criminal Background Check Requirement Discussion** – The Committee discussed requiring a criminal background check for applicants. Upon a motion by Ms. Hunt, which was properly seconded by Ms. Tracy, the Committee voted unanimously to request the Board recommend DHP include in its 2019 legislative packet, a requirement that Board of Counseling applicants undergo a criminal background.

Upon a motion by Dr. Doyle, which was properly seconded by Ms. Tracy, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the Board amend Guidance Document 115-2: Impact of Criminal Convictions to reflect that the document applies to registrants as well as licensees and certificate holders.

- **Discussion on Draft Joint Guidance Document Titles and Signatures** – The Committee discussed the Board of Psychology’s Draft Joint Guidance Document on Assessment Titles and Signatures. The Committee declined to move forward and concluded no formal response was necessary.

II. **New Business:**

- **New Proposed Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHP) & Registered Peer Recovery Specialist (RPRS)** – Ms. Yeatts outlined areas of the regulations that would require changes per the public comments received and suggested that the Board/Committee hold another Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP) to work with

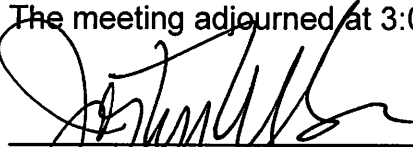
stakeholders to address the issues raised in the public comment. The RAP would need to take place prior to the May 2018 meetings.

Ms. Yeatts suggested that the Committee could address immediately the issue of approved degrees by amending the current Guidance Document 115-8: Approved Degrees in Human Services and Related Fields for QMHP. Upon a motion by Ms. Tracy, that was properly seconded by Ms. Hunt, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the Board amend the Guidance Document to allow a Sociology degree and not to add criminal justice to the list of acceptable degrees.

- **Licensure Portability** – Dr. Doyle recommended the Committee take no action at this time.
- **Art Therapy Licensure** – The Committee recommended that no action be taken at this time.
- **Guidance Document 115-1.9 –Consider Adding NBCC-MAC Certification as a National Certification Accepted by the Board** – Upon a motion by Dr. Doyle, which was properly seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the Board amend Guidance Document 115-1.9: National Certifications Approved by the Board for certification as a Substance Abuse Counselor by endorsement to include the NBCC-MAC.
- **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING** - 1:00 p.m. on May 17, 2018

ADJOURNMENT:

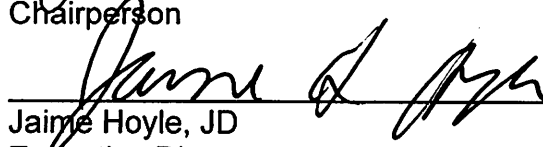
The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.



Johnston Brendel, Ed.D., LPC, LMFT
Chairperson

05/17/2018

Date



Jaime Hoyle, JD
Executive Director

5/18/18

Date