



Virginia Department of

Health Professions

Board of Counseling

FINAL-APPROVED

Virginia Board of Counseling

Art Therapy Advisory Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 18, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233

Board Room 4

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Elizabeth Anne Mills, LPC, ATR-BC, Advisory Board Vice-Chair

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Danica Henrich, LPC, LMFT, ATR-BC, Advisory Board Chair *(attended virtually due to ailing family member)*

Leila Saadeh, LPC, ATR-BC

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Holly Zajur, Citizen Member

BOARD STAFF PRESENT:

Latasha Austin, Licensing & Operations Supervisor

Jaime Hoyle, JD, Executive Director

Charlotte Lenart, Deputy Executive Director – Licensing

Dalyce Logan, Licensing Specialist

DHP STAFF PRESENT:

Erin Barrett, JD, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Department of Health Professions

PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

Mary Roberts, PhD, LPC-ACS, ATR-BC, ATCS, Old Dominion University

Spencer Powers, LPC, ATR-BC, Old Dominion University

Sarah Deaver, PhD, ATR-BC, Virginia Art Therapy Association

Gretchen Graves, ATR-BC, Past Art Therapy Advisory Board Chair

Laura Tuomisto, ATR-BC

Juliana Haug, MA, ATR-P

Suzanna Anderson, LPC, ATR, LPCC

Julia Willinger, LPC, ATR-BC

Gioia Chilton, PhD, ATR-BC

Meredith Ashley, American Art Therapy Association

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Mills called the Art Therapy Advisory Board meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT
OF A QUORUM:**

An introduction was done of all Advisory Board members and staff. Three members of the Advisory Board were present at roll call; therefore, a quorum was established.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Ms. Mills read the mission statement of the Department of Health Professions, which was also the mission statement of the Advisory Board. Ms. Mills also read the emergency egress instructions.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

The agenda indicated Ms. Henrich would preside over the meeting. Ms. Mills informed everyone at the meeting that she would preside over the meeting as Ms. Henrich was unable to attend in person. Ms. Mills also indicated, without providing detail, that she wanted to change the agenda by adding new business to it.

Motion: Ms. Saadeh made a motion, which Ms. Mills properly seconded, to adopt the meeting agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

***Note:** After the Public Comment period, Ms. Mills discussed with Ms. Barrett

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and Ms. Hoyle the new business she wanted added to the agenda. Staff advised that the new business could not be added because it constituted a substantive change, and notice had not been given to the public as required under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act that the business would be discussed. As such, new business was not added to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Advisory Board reviewed the minutes from the last meeting held on October 6, 2023. The following corrections were made to the minutes:

- A correction was made to the spelling of Leila Saadeh's first name
- The professional organization for public attendee Tuesdai Johnson was changed to Virginia Art Therapy Association
- Under election of officers, Ms. Henrich was elected as chair, not re-elected
- Under the legislative report, "approval of" was added to the following sentence: She indicated the only pending action is the approval of proposed initial regulations for licensure of Art Therapist
- Under the legislative report, the title Dr. was removed from Ms. Henrich's name
- Under the legislative report, "by the Governor's office" was added to the following motion; Ms. Henrich made a motion, which Ms. Bonuccelli properly seconded, to accept changes as discussed subject to review by the Governor's office.
- Ms. Henrich's credentials were corrected to add ATR-BC

The minutes from the October 6, 2023 meeting were approved as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The following persons provided public comment;

- Dr. Roberts provided public comment addressing her concerns of the licensure process for Art Therapist not moving forward and the accreditation issues the delays are causing.
- Mr. Powers provided public comment also addressing the delays in licensure and the loss of art therapists to other jurisdictions that have licensure. He indicated that if the Advisory Board is in the position of pushing the issue along, he would like the Board to proceed with the process.
- Ms. Graves informed the Advisory Board that Section 54.1-3029.1 of the Code of Virginia cited in Guidance Document 115-1.3 provided in the agenda packet refers to Massage Therapist and the document needed to be corrected with the proper code.
- Dr. Deaver expressed her frustration and lack of understanding for the lengthy time it is taking for licensure for Art Therapist to begin. She indicated that without licensure, there is a lack of art therapists to serve those in Virginia because we are losing them to other jurisdictions.

The Advisory Board took a break at 2:31pm. The Advisory Board meeting reconvened at 2:40pm.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY REPORT:

Ms. Barrett reviewed with the Advisory Board the current regulatory actions. Ms. Barrett informed everyone that the Board of Counseling has no control over timelines. She recommended interested parties contact the offices of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Governor to express concerns related to the delays. Ms. Barrett explained the regulatory steps to the Advisory Board.

Ms. Hoyle added that the Department of Health Professions nor the Board controls the length of time it takes for regulations to move through the regulatory process. She indicated that the Board has operated within its timelines as it relates to the regulatory action for Art Therapist. She indicated that the Board nor board staff can act as lobbyist. She expressed her understanding with the frustration of the public and Advisory Board

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members, but staff is limited in what they can do.

Ms. Hoyle also advised that letters of concerns should be submitted to the offices of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Governor. She reminded Advisory Board members that they are gubernatorial appointees and cannot comment individually on Advisory Board or Board actions. The actions of the Advisory Board speak as a body through their public actions. Advisory Board members can only make comments to the Secretary & Governor's offices regarding the regulations as public citizens and must specify that they are making such comments as public citizens and not as a Board member.

Ms. Hoyle also reminded everyone about gubernatorial appointments and that staff have no control over appointments or the process for Board appointments. Persons wishing to be considered should submit an application through the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

CONSIDERATION OF BYLAW AMENDMENT:

The Advisory Board reviewed Guidance Document 115-1.3, the Bylaws for the Advisory Board on Art Therapy. It was noted that a correction would be made to the Code of Virginia cited in Guidance Document 115-1.3 as informed by Ms. Graves during public comment that was incorrect.

It was also suggested that the chair and vice chair terms be changed from 1 year to 2 year terms. If accepted this change would not take effect until the next election.

Motion: Ms. Mills made a motion, which Ms. Henrich properly seconded, to accept changes as discussed subject to review. The motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Motion: Ms. Henrich made a motion, which Ms. Saadeh properly seconded, to re-elect Ms. Henrich as chair. The motion passed unanimously.

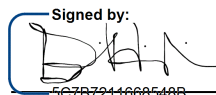
Motion: Ms. Mills made a motion, which Ms. Henrich properly seconded, to elect Ms. Saadeh as vice-chair. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Staff will be in touch about next meeting dates.

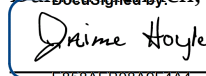
ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Mills adjourned the October 18, 2024 Art Therapy Advisory Board meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Signed by:


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Danica Henrich, LPC, LMFT, ATR-BC, Advisory Board Chair

Signed by:


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Jaime Hoyle, JD, Executive Director