



PRESIDING OFFICER:	Terry R. Tinsley, PhD, LPC, LMFT, CSOTP, Board Chairperson
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	Maria Anastasiou, LMFT Lester Paul Bernard, PhD, LPC Marlo Burdge, Citizen Member Nakeisha Gordon, LPC Luanne Griffin, LPC Shannon Kuschel, PhD, LPC Matthew Scott, LMFT Maria Stransky, LPC, CSAC, CSOTP, Board Vice-Chairperson Tiffinee Yancey, PhD, LPC
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:	Benjamin Allison, Citizen Member Gerard Lawson, PhD, LPC, LSATP, NCC
BOARD STAFF PRESENT:	Latasha Austin, Licensing & Operations Manager Alesia Baskin, Senior Licensing Specialist <i>(joined at 11:10am)</i> Trasean Boatwright, Senior Licensing Specialist <i>(joined at 11:10am)</i> Shannon Brogan, Senior Licensing Specialist <i>(joined at 11:10am)</i> Sandie Cotman, Registration Program Supervisor <i>(joined at 11:10am)</i> Jaime Hoyle, JD, Executive Director Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director- Discipline Charlotte Lenart, Deputy Executive Dir.-Licensing <i>(joined via Webex at 11:00 am, left at 12:07pm)</i> Dalyce Logan, Senior Licensing Specialist
DHP STAFF PRESENT:	Arnie Owens, Agency Director, Department of Health Professions
BOARD COUNSEL PRESENT:	James Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	Becky Bowers-Lanier Denise Daly Konrad, Virginia Health Care Foundation Jennifer Faison, Virginia Association of Community Services Boards Jennifer Fidura, Virginia Network of Private Providers Danica Henrich, ATR-BC, Advisory Board on Art Therapy, Chair Helen Holz, Compass Leila Saadeh, LPC, ATR-BC, Advisory Board on Art Therapy, Vice-Chair Mark Smith Gretchen Wilhelm, Compass
CALL TO ORDER:	Dr. Tinsley called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.
MOMENT OF SILENCE:	Moment of silence was observed.
ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:	A formal introduction of all Board members and staff was conducted. At the time of roll call, ten Board members were present, establishing a quorum.
MISSION STATEMENT:	Dr. Tinsley read the mission statement of the Department of Health Professions,

which was also the mission statement of the Board. Dr. Tinsley also read the emergency egress instructions.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Agenda adopted as presented.

LEGAL CONSULTATION:

Closed Meeting: Ms. Stransky moved that the Board of Counseling convene in a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the *Code of Virginia* for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual litigation in the matter of *Raymond v. DHP, et al.* She further moved that James Rutkowski, Jaime Hoyle, Jennifer Lang, Latasha Austin, Dalyce Logan, Arne Owens, Robert Claiborne, and Thomas Sanford attend the closed session because their presence was deemed necessary and would aid the board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Yancey and passed with a majority, with only Ms. Burdge opposing.

Reconvene: Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed meeting met the requirements of § 2.2-3712 of the *Code of Virginia*, the board reconvened in an open meeting at 10:30am.

**SUMMARY SUSPENSION
CONSIDERATION:**

Re: Robin Spears, Resident in Counseling, QMHP-A
Resident License No. 0704013360
QMHP-A Registration No. 0732006766

The board received information from David Robinson, Assistant Attorney General, regarding Robin Spears, to determine whether her ability to practice as a Resident in Counseling and QMHP-A constituted a substantial danger to the public health and safety.

Closed Meeting: Ms. Stransky moved that the Board of Counseling convene in a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Robin Spears. Additionally, she moved that James Rutkowski, Jaime Hoyle, Jennifer Lang, Latasha Austin, Dalyce Logan, and Arne Owens attend the closed session because their presence was deemed necessary and would aid the board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and passed unanimously.

Reconvene: Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed meeting met the requirements of § 2.2-3712 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Board reconvened in open meeting at 10:51am and announced the decision.

Decision: On a motion by Dr. Yancey, and duly seconded by Dr. Bernard, the board determined that Ms. Spears' ability to practice constituted a substantial danger to the public health and safety and voted to summarily suspend her license to practice as a Resident in Counseling and registration to practice as a QMHP-A, simultaneous with the institution of proceedings for a formal administrative hearing pursuant to § 54.1-2408.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. She further moved that the board offer Ms. Spears a Consent Order for revocation of her license and registration in lieu of the formal hearing. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jennifer Fidura provided public comment, emphasizing the importance of the agenda item discussing board-approved training for BHTAs, BHTs, and QMHPs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes from the last quarterly board meeting held on January 24, 2025.

Motion: Dr. Yancey made a motion, which Dr. Kuschel properly seconded to

approve the minutes from the January 24, 2025 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENCY DIRECTOR REPORT:

Mr. Owens reported on the conclusion of the 2025 General Assembly. He announced the passing of Senate Bill 1363 (2025) regarding the elimination of the Board of Health Professions. Mr. Owens provided a brief report related to the preparation of the next biennial budget for the upcoming 2026 General Assembly session.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT:

Dr. Tinsley provided an overview of the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the counseling profession. Key points included emerging trends, potential benefits, as well as concerns regarding ethical implications and client confidentiality.

LEGISLATION & REGULATORY REPORT:

- **Current Regulatory Actions**

Ms. Hoyle reviewed and discussed the report on current regulatory actions as of April 7, 2025, as included in the agenda packet. She noted that since that date, the proposed regulation requiring supervisors to submit evaluations and confirm resident hours within a designated timeframe has advanced from the Secretary's Office to the Governor's Office.

- **Legislation Report**

Ms. Hoyle reviewed and discussed the legislation report dated April 25, 2025, as presented in the agenda packet.

- **Adoption of final regulatory changes for licensure of Art Therapists**

Ms. Hoyle reviewed and discussed with the Board the draft final regulations for the licensure of art therapists, as recommended by the Advisory Board on Art Therapy. These regulations had previously been reviewed and approved by the Advisory Board in October 2023 and re-reviewed on March 28, 2025, due to delays in the Executive Branch review process.

Key Changes in the Final Regulations included the consolidation of certain draft regulations for clarity and efficiency, clarification that ATR-BC certification often meets licensure requirements and general language clean-up to improve clarity and consistency.

A total of 96 public comments were received. The majority supported the licensure of art therapists but did not address specific regulatory language.

Motion: Dr. Yancey made a motion, which Dr. Kuschel properly seconded, to adopt final regulatory changes as recommended by the Advisory Board on Art Therapy. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ms. Stransky informed the Board that the Regulatory Committee convened on March 28, 2025. She provided a recap of the meeting, referencing the detailed minutes starting on page 89 of the meeting agenda.

The Board took a break at 11:19am and the meeting was reconvened at 11:32am.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discussion of Board-Approved Training for BHTAs, BHTs, and QMHPs**

Ms. Hoyle informed the Board that with the May 8 implementation deadline approaching, existing policy documents regarding training for BHTAs, BHTs, QMHPs, and QMHP-Trainees need to be amended. The goal is to align the documents with the Code, regulations, and intent of SB403, and to avoid unintentionally creating new barriers to workforce entry.

Ms. Hoyle informed the Board that staff recommend outlining the content areas and minimum hours required to meet didactic education standards. A definition of "didactic" should also be added to policy documents, and Peer Recovery training should be removed from the list of approved programs.

She also informed the Board that per legislation, the Board must accept a Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker (LBSW) credential as meeting the 60-hour requirement. Staff also recommended grandfathering previously registered QMHP-Ts as having met the training requirements. The Board also discussed whether to accept a master's degree in human services as fulfilling the prerequisite and discussed the following core content and hours minimally needed to meet the didactic education requirements.

Content	BHTA Hours	BHT Hours	QMHP-T Hours	QMHP Hours
Ethics	6	6	12	12
Boundaries & Dual Relationships	6	6	12	12
Documentation & Record Keeping	4	4	8	8
Confidentiality	2	2	4	4
Cultural Competency	2	2	4	4
Human Services Coursework or CE	--	20	20	40
Total	20	40	60	80

Motion: Ms. Gordon made a motion, which Dr. Kuschel properly seconded, to:

1. Approve the core content areas and hours required for didactic education discussed above.
2. Remove all references to Peer Recovery Training.
3. Add a definition of "didactic" to policy documents.
4. Accept a master's degree in human services as fulfilling the prerequisite.
5. Authorize staff to update policy documents to reflect these changes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Owens commended the Board for their work and emphasized the importance of creating direct pathways from high school into the behavioral health workforce.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Hoyle provided an update on the Counseling Compact. She reported that the fee for Virginia applicants to join the Compact will be \$50.00, with fees varying for licensure in other jurisdictions. While the Compact is progressing, it is not yet operational due to unresolved issues related to the FBI criminal background check requirements. The FBI has not received clear guidance on necessary changes, resulting in a nationwide standstill. This issue is not unique to Virginia.

Ms. Hoyle informed the Board that the Counseling Regulatory Boards Annual Summit is scheduled for June 25–27, 2025, in Austin, Texas.

LICENSING REPORT:

Ms. Lang gave the licensing report on behalf of Ms. Lenart. She referenced the licensing report, beginning on page 96 of the meeting agenda, and noted that the

Board currently oversees 42,000 licensees, certificate holders, and registrants. She commended the Counseling staff for their exceptional dedication, accuracy in processing applications, and responsiveness to applicant inquiries. A recent 2nd Quarter satisfaction survey reported a 95.1% satisfaction rate.

Ms. Lang informed the Board that a new process handbook has been developed for QMHPs and BHTs, updated applications, instructions, automated emails, and informational materials have been complete. She informed the Board that QMHP-Trainee and QMHP applications would begin May 12 and BHT and BHTA applications would begin June 2.

Ms. Lang informed the Board that at the request of the Regulatory Committee, the website was updated with information on Artificial Intelligence, and communication was sent to all licensees and certificate holders. Email notifications for renewals will be sent in early May, reminding licensees to renew by June 30. Additionally, Ms. Lang noted that Charlotte recently presented to students at Reynolds Community College, VCU, and Norfolk State University.

DISCIPLINE REPORT:

Ms. Lang thanked the board members for their time and patience in reviewing the documents necessary to make case decisions during the meeting. She referenced the discipline report, beginning on page 100 of the meeting agenda, and noted that staff is actively working on 228 cases for the Board of Counseling, and 587 cases for the combined behavioral science boards. Additionally, she noted that she and Dr. Tinsley presented at the VACES conference on March 8, 2025.

Mr. Boatwright, Ms. Brogan, Ms. Cotman, Ms. Logan, Ms. Baskin and all the public attendees left the meeting at 12:37p.m.

The Board took a break at 12:37pm and the meeting was reconvened at 1:01pm.

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED DECISIONS:

Closed Meeting: Ms. Stransky moved that the Board of Counseling convene in a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* to consider agency subordinate recommendations. She further moved that James Rutkowski, Jaime Hoyle, Jennifer Lang, Latasha Austin, and Dalyce Logan attend the closed meeting because their presence was deemed necessary and would aid the board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Nicole Foster, Resident in Counseling, QMHP-Trainee

License No. 0704015408

Registration No. 0734006510

Case No. 228196

Ms. Foster did not appear before the board and did not submit a written response. The board considered the agency subordinate's recommendation to reprimand Ms. Foster and place certain terms and conditions on her license to practice as a Resident in Counseling and registration to practice as a QMHP-Trainee.

Chelsi Simmons, LPC

License No. 0701006226

Case No. 231531

Ms. Simmons did not appear before the board and did not submit a written response. The board considered the agency subordinate's recommendation to place certain terms and conditions on Ms. Simmons' license to practice as a professional counselor.

Christina Rawls-Dolin, LPC

License No. 0701009394

Case Nos. 231599 and 233188

Ms. Rawls-Dolin did not appear before the board but submitted a written response. The board considered Ms. Rawls-Dolin's written response and the agency subordinate's recommendation to place certain terms and conditions on Ms. Rawls-Dolin's license to practice as a professional counselor.

Brenna Cash, LPC**License No. 0701009631****Case No. 233201**

Ms. Cash did not appear before the board and did not submit a written response. The board considered the agency subordinate's recommendation to place certain terms and conditions on Ms. Cash's license to practice as a professional counselor.

Reconvene: Ms. Stransky certified that, pursuant to § 2.2-3712 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Board of Counseling heard, discussed, or considered only those public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as identified in the original motion.

Decision: Upon a motion by Dr. Yancey, and duly seconded by Dr. Kuschel, the board unanimously voted to accept the agency subordinate recommendations, as presented, in the matters of Nicole Foster, RIC, QMHP-T, Chelsi Simmons, LPC, Christina Rawls-Dolin, LPC, and Brenna Cash, LPC.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 25, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Tinsley adjourned the April 25, 2025, meeting at 1:12 p.m.


Terry R. Tinsley, PhD, LPC, LMFT, CSOTP, Board Chairperson
Jaime Hoyle, JD, Executive Director