

March 28, 2025
Department of Health Professions
9960 Mayland Dr.
2nd Floor, Board Room 4
2:00 p.m.

Call to Order – Danica Henrich, ATR-BC, Chair

- Welcome and Introductions
- Evacuation Procedure/Mission of the Board.....Page 2

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes*

- October 18, 2024..... Page 4

Public Comment

The Advisory Board will not receive comment on any pending regulation process for which a public comment period has closed or any pending or closed complaint or disciplinary matter.

Legislative and Regulatory Report - Erin Barrett, JD, DHP Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

- Chart of Regulatory Actions.....Page 7
- Adoption of final regulatory changes for the licensure of art therapists*.....Page 8

Executive Director Report – Jaime Hoyle, JD

- Next Steps/Meetings
- Upcoming Training

Meeting Adjournment

**Requires a Committee Vote*

This information is in **DRAFT** form and is subject to change. The official agenda and packet will be approved by the public body at the meeting and will be available to the public pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3707(F).



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to ensure safe and competent patient care by licensing health professionals, enforcing standards of practice, and providing information to health care practitioners and the public.

EMERGENCY EGRESS

Please listen to the following instructions about exiting these premises in the event of an emergency.

In the event of a fire or other emergency requiring the evacuation of the building, alarms will sound. When the alarms sound, leave the room immediately. Follow any instructions given by the Security staff.

Board Room 1

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. **(Point)** Upon exiting the room, turn **RIGHT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

Board Room 2

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. **(Point)** Upon exiting the room, turn **RIGHT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

You may also exit the room using the side door **(Point)**, turn **Right** out the door and make an immediate **Left**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

Board Rooms 3 and 4

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. **(Point)** Upon exiting the room, turn **RIGHT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

Training Room 1

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. **(Point)** Upon exiting the room, turn **LEFT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.

Training Room 2

Exit the room using one of the doors at the back of the room. **(Point)** Upon exiting the doors, turn **LEFT**. Follow the corridor to the emergency exit at the end of the hall.

Upon exiting the building, proceed straight ahead through the parking lot to the fence at the end of the lot. Wait there for further instructions.



Virginia Department of

Health Professions

Board of Counseling

DRAFT**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, 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 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 from LPC, LMFT to 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 lost of art therapist 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 are little art therapist 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

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 citizen 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.

Danica Henrich, ATR-BC, Advisory Board Chair

Jaime Hoyle, JD, Executive Director

Advisory Board on Art Therapy
Current Regulatory Actions
As of March 10, 2025

In the Governor's Office

None.

In the Secretary's Office

None.

At the Department of Planning and Budget

None.

At the Office of the Attorney General

None.

Recently effective or awaiting publication

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Publication date	Effective date/ next steps
18VAC115-90	Proposed	New chapter for licensure of art therapists	12/16/2024	Comment period from 12/16/2024 – 2/14/2025; Board of Counseling will vote on final regulations at April 25, 2025 meeting.

Agenda Item: Adoption of final regulatory changes for the licensure of art therapists

Included in your agenda package:

- Draft final regulations regarding changes necessary for licensure of art therapists;
- Public comment received regarding the proposed stage.

Staff notes: The final regulations change the following:

- Combine some draft regulations that were unnecessarily separated
- Make clear that in many cases the ATR-BC certification will satisfy licensure requirements; and
- Language clean up.

The proposed action was published with the understanding that the Board of Counseling would make these changes as the final action. The Advisory Board on Art Therapy previously reviewed the majority of the changes shown here and approved them (October 2023).

96 public comments were received. Most were supportive of licensure of art therapists and did not address the proposed regulatory language. One requested an addition to the accepted providers of continuing education. In the attached changes the list of approved providers is removed from regulation; approvals for CE providers should be in a guidance document for flexibility and do not constitute a requirement that should be in regulation. Another provided detailed suggestions to make the regulatory language more restrictive. Those changes are not recommended by the policy office.

Action needed:

- Motion to recommend final regulatory changes to license art therapists to the Board of Counseling.

Project 6583 - Final

Board of Counseling

New chapter for licensure

Chapter 90

Regulations Governing the Practice of Art Therapy

18VAC115-90-10. Definitions.

A. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the meaning ascribed to them in § 54.1-3500 of the Code of Virginia:

"Art therapist"

"Art therapy"

"Art Therapy Associate"

"Board"

"Counseling"

B. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Applicant" means any individual who has submitted an official application and paid the application fee for licensure as an art therapist or art therapy associate.

"ATCB" means the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc.

"ATR" means a Registered Art Therapist, a credential issued by the ATCB after meeting established educational standards, successful completion of advanced specific graduate-level education in art therapy and supervised post-graduate art therapy experience.

“ATR-BC” means a Board Certified Registered Art Therapist, a credential issued by the ATCB after meeting the requirements for the ATR credential and passing a national examination.

“ATR-P” means a Provisional Registered Art Therapist, a credential issued by the ATCB after meeting the established educational standards, successful completion of advanced specific graduate-level education in art therapy, and practicing art therapy under an approved supervisor.

18VAC115-90-20. Fees required by the board.

A. The board has established the following fees applicable to licensure as an art therapist or art therapy associate:

<u>Initial licensure as an art therapist: Application processing and initial licensure</u>	<u>\$175</u>
<u>Initial licensure as an art therapy associate: Application processing and initial licensure</u>	<u>\$65</u>
<u>Active annual license renewal as an art therapist</u>	<u>\$130</u>
<u>Inactive annual license renewal as an art therapist</u>	<u>\$65</u>
<u>Late renewal</u>	<u>\$45</u>
<u>Duplicate license</u>	<u>\$10</u>
<u>Verification of licensure to another jurisdiction</u>	<u>\$30</u>
<u>Reinstatement of a lapsed license</u>	<u>\$200</u>
<u>Replacement of or additional wall certificate</u>	<u>\$25</u>
<u>Returned check or dishonored credit card or debit card</u>	<u>\$50</u>
<u>Reinstatement following revocation or suspension</u>	<u>\$600</u>

B. All fees are nonrefundable.

18VAC115-90-30. Prerequisites Requirements for licensure as an art therapist and art therapist associate.

A. Every applicant for licensure as an art therapist shall submit to the board:

1. A completed application;

2. The application processing fee and initial licensure fee as prescribed in 18VAC115-90-20;

3. Evidence of current, active certification in good standing as an ATR-BC granted by the ATCB or its successor organization, as approved by the board;

~~3.~~ 4. Verification of any other mental health or health professional license, registration, or certificate ever held in Virginia or another jurisdiction; and

~~4.~~ 5. A current report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

B. An applicant shall have no unresolved disciplinary action against a mental health or health professional license, certificate, or registration held in Virginia or in another U. S. jurisdiction. The board will consider history of disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis.

C. Every applicant for licensure as an art therapy associate shall submit to the board:

1. A completed application;

2. The application processing fee and initial licensure fee as prescribed in 18VAC115-90-20;

3. Evidence of a current registration as an ATR-P from the ATCB;

4. Verification of any other mental health or health professional license, registration, or certificate ever held in Virginia or another jurisdiction; and

5. A current report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

18VAC115-90-40. Requirements for licensure by endorsement.

~~In addition to pre-requisites as set forth in 18VAC115-90-30:~~

~~A. Every applicant for licensure by examination as an art therapist shall submit to the board evidence of a current ATR-BC certification from the ATCB.~~

B. Every applicant for licensure by endorsement as an art therapist shall submit to the board:

1. Verification of a current, unrestricted art therapy license issued from another United States jurisdiction, or if lapsed, evidence that the license is eligible for reinstatement;

2. ~~An attestation of having read and understood the regulations and laws governing the practice of art therapy in Virginia; and either~~

~~a. Current ATR-BC certification from the ATCB, or~~

b. Documentation of passage of the examination of the ATCB and evidence of autonomous, clinical practice in art therapy, as defined in §54.1-3500 of the Code of Virginia, for 24 of the last 60 months immediately preceding his licensure application in Virginia. Clinical practice shall mean the rendering of direct clinical art therapy services, clinical supervision of clinical art therapy services, or teaching graduate-level courses in art therapy.

~~C. Every applicant for licensure as an art therapy associate shall submit to the board evidence of a current registration as an ATR or an ATR-P from the ATCB.~~

18VAC115-90-50. ~~Requirements for~~ Limitation on Practice as an Art Therapy Associate.

A. Art therapy associates shall not call themselves Licensed Art Therapists, directly bill for services rendered, or in any way represent themselves as independent, autonomous practitioners. Associates shall use the title of "Art Therapy Associate" in all written communications. Clients shall be informed in writing that the associate does not have the authority for independent practice, is practicing under supervision, and shall provide the supervisor's name, professional address, and phone number.

B. Associates shall not engage in practice under supervision in areas for which they have not had the appropriate education or training.

18VAC115-90-60. General requirements applicable to art therapy associates; examination requirements; schedules; time limits.

~~A. Every applicant for initial licensure by examination by the board as an art therapist shall pass the Art Therapy Credentials Board examination prescribed by the ATCB.~~

~~B. An applicant art therapy associate~~ is required to ~~pass the prescribed examination and~~ obtain registration as an ATR-BC no later than five years from the date of initial issuance by the board of an art therapy associate license, unless the board has granted an extension of the associate license.

C. An art therapy associate who has not met the requirements for licensure as an art therapist within five years of issuance of licensure as an art therapy associate may submit an application for extension of licensure to the board. Such application shall include:

1. A plan for completing the requirement to obtain licensure as an art therapist;
2. Documentation of compliance with the continuing education requirements;
3. Documentation of compliance with requirements related to supervision; and
4. A letter of recommendation from the clinical supervisor of record.

An extension of an associate art therapy license shall be valid for a period of two years.

18VAC115-90-70. Annual renewal of licensure.

A. Every art therapist who intends to continue active practice shall submit to the board on or before June 30 of each year:

1. A completed form for renewal of the license on which the art therapist attests to compliance with the continuing competency requirements prescribed in this chapter; and
2. The renewal fee prescribed in 18VAC115-90-20.

B. An art therapist who wishes to place his license in an inactive status may do so upon payment of the inactive renewal fee as established in 18VAC115-90-20. No person shall practice art therapy in Virginia unless he holds a current active license. A licensee who has selected an inactive status may become active by fulfilling the reactivation requirements set forth in subsection C of 18VAC115-90-110.

~~C. The license of an art therapy associate shall expire after five years from initial licensure unless an extension is granted as indicated in subsection C of 18VAC115-90-60.~~

~~D.~~ Licensees shall notify the board of a change in the address of record or the public address, if different from the address of record within 60 days. Failure to receive a renewal notice from the board shall not relieve the license holder from the renewal requirement.

~~E.~~ D. Practice with an expired license is prohibited and may constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

18VAC115-90-80. Continued competency requirements for renewal of a license.

A. In order to renew an active license, a practitioner shall attest to the following to the board:

1. Maintenance of a current credential as an ATR-BC, which shall satisfy board requirements for continuing education; or

2. Completion of a minimum of 20 hours of continuing competency. A minimum of two of hours shall be in courses that emphasize the ethics, standards of practice, or laws governing behavioral science professions in Virginia.

B. The board may grant an extension for good cause of up to one year for the completion of continuing competency requirements upon written request from the licensee prior to the renewal date. Such extension shall not relieve the licensee of the continuing competency requirement.

C. The board may grant an exemption for all or part of the continuing competency requirements due to circumstances beyond the control of the licensee such as temporary disability, mandatory military service, or officially declared disasters.

D. An art therapist who holds another license issued by a Virginia health regulatory board shall not be required to obtain more than 20 total continuing education hours in order to renew an art therapy license, except at least 10 of the required hours of continuing education shall be specifically related to art therapy.

E. Up to two hours of the 20 hours required for annual renewal may be satisfied through the delivery of art therapy services, without compensation, to low-income individuals receiving health services through a local health department or a free clinic organized in whole or primarily for the delivery of those services. One hour of continuing education may be credited for three hours of providing such volunteer services, as documented by the health department or free clinic.

~~F. An art therapist who was licensed by examination is exempt from meeting continuing competency requirements for the first renewal following initial licensure.~~

18VAC115-90-90. Continuing competency activity criteria.

~~A. Approved hours of continuing competency activity for an art therapist shall be approved if they meet the continued education requirements for recertification as an ATR-BG.~~

~~B. Additionally, continuing competency activity for an art therapist shall be approved if they are workshops, seminars, conferences, or courses in the behavioral health field offered by an individual or organization that has been certified or approved by one of the following:~~

~~1. The International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors and its state affiliates;~~

~~2. The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and its state affiliates;~~

~~3. The American Association of State Counseling Boards;~~

~~4. The American Counseling Association and its state and local affiliates;~~

~~5. The American Psychological Association and its state affiliates;~~

~~6. The Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification;~~

~~7. NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals and its state and local affiliates;~~

~~8. National Association of Social Workers;~~

~~9. National Board for Certified Counselors;~~

~~10. A national behavioral health organization or certification body;~~

~~11. Individuals or organizations that have been approved as continuing competency sponsors by the American Association of State Counseling Boards or a counseling board in another state;~~

~~12. The American Association of Pastoral Counselors;~~

~~13. The American Art Therapy Association and its state affiliates;~~

~~14. The Art Therapy Credentials Board; or~~

~~15. The International Expressive Arts Therapy Association.~~

18VAC115-90-100. Documenting compliance with continuing competency requirements.

A. Art therapists ~~are required to~~ shall maintain ~~original~~ documentation for a period of two years following renewal.

B. After the end of each renewal period, the board may conduct a random audit of art therapists to verify compliance with the requirement for that renewal period.

C. Upon request, an art therapist shall provide documentation as follows:

1. Official transcripts showing credit hours earned; or

2. Certificates of participation.

~~D. Continuing competency hours required by a disciplinary order shall not be used to satisfy renewal requirements.~~

18VAC115-90-110. Late renewal; reactivation or reinstatement.

A. An art therapist whose license has expired may renew it within one year after its expiration date by paying the late fee prescribed in 18VAC115-90-20 as well as the license renewal fee prescribed for the year the license was not renewed and providing evidence of having met all applicable continuing competency requirements. or providing evidence of current and active certification in good standing as an ATR-BC.

B. An art therapist who fails to renew a license after one year or more and wishes to resume practice shall apply for reinstatement, pay the reinstatement fee for a lapsed license, submit verification of any mental health license he holds or has held in another jurisdiction, if applicable, and provide evidence of having met all applicable continuing competency requirements not to exceed a maximum of 80 hours. or providing evidence of current and active certification in good standing as an ATR-BC. The board may require the applicant for reinstatement to submit evidence regarding the continued ability to perform the functions within the scope of practice of the license.

C. An art therapist wishing to reactivate an inactive license shall submit (i) the renewal fee for active licensure minus any fee already paid for inactive licensure renewal; (ii) documentation of continued competency hours equal to the number of years the license has been inactive not to exceed a maximum of 80 hours or providing evidence of current and active certification in good standing as an ATR-BC.; and (iii) verification of any mental health license he holds or has held in another jurisdiction, if applicable. The board may require the applicant for reactivation to submit evidence regarding the continued ability to perform the functions within the scope of practice of the license.

18VAC115-90-120. Standards of practice.

A. The protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and the best interest of the public shall be the primary guide in determining the appropriate professional conduct of all persons whose activities are regulated by the board. Regardless of the delivery method, whether in person, by phone or electronically, these standards shall apply to the practice of art therapy.

B. Persons licensed by the board shall:

1. Practice in a manner that is in the best interest of the public and does not endanger the public health, safety, or welfare;
2. Practice only within the boundaries of their competence, based on their education, training, supervised experience, and appropriate professional experience and represent their education training and experience accurately to clients;
3. Stay abreast of new art therapy information, concepts, applications and practices which are necessary to providing appropriate, effective professional services;
4. Be able to justify all services rendered to clients as necessary and appropriate for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes;
5. Document the need for and steps taken to terminate a therapeutic relationship when it becomes clear that the client is not benefiting from the relationship. Document the assistance provided in making appropriate arrangements for the continuation of treatment for clients, when necessary, following termination of a therapeutic relationship;
6. Make appropriate arrangements for continuation of services, when necessary, during interruptions such as vacations, unavailability, relocation, illness, and disability;

7. Disclose to clients all experimental methods of treatment and inform clients of the risks and benefits of any such treatment. Ensure that the welfare of the clients is in no way compromised in any experimentation or research involving those clients;

8. Neither accept nor give commissions, rebates, or other forms of remuneration for referral of clients for professional services;

9. Inform clients of the purposes, goals, techniques, procedures, limitations, potential risks, and benefits of services to be performed, the limitations of confidentiality, and other pertinent information when art therapy is initiated, and throughout the therapeutic process as necessary. Provide clients with accurate information regarding the implications of diagnosis, the intended use of tests and reports, fees, and billing arrangements;

10. Select tests for use with clients that are valid, reliable and appropriate and carefully interpret the performance of individuals not represented in standardized norms;

11. Determine whether a client is receiving services from another mental health service provider, and if so, refrain from providing services to the client without having an informed consent discussion with the client and having been granted communication privileges with the other professional;

12. Use only in connection with one's practice as a mental health professional those educational and professional degrees or titles that have been earned at a college or university accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U. S. Department of Education, or credentials granted by a national certifying agency, and that are art therapy in nature; and

13. Advertise professional services fairly and accurately in a manner which is not false, misleading or deceptive.

C. In regard to client records, persons licensed by the board shall:

1. Maintain written or electronic clinical records for each client to include treatment dates and identifying information to substantiate diagnosis and treatment plan, client progress, and termination. Client records include artwork or any visual production produced by the client during clinical sessions;
2. Maintain client records securely, inform all employees of the requirements of confidentiality and provide for the destruction of records which are no longer useful in a manner that ensures client confidentiality;
3. Disclose or release records to others only with the client's expressed written consent or that of the client's legally authorized representative or as otherwise permitted or required by law;
4. Ensure confidentiality in the usage of client records and clinical materials, including artwork or any visual production produced by the client during clinical sessions, by obtaining informed consent from the client or the client's legally authorized representative before (i) videotaping, (ii) audio recording, (iii) permitting third party observation, or (iv) using identifiable client records and clinical materials in teaching, writing or public presentations; and
5. Maintain client records for a minimum of five years or as otherwise required by law from the date of termination of the art therapy relationship with the following exceptions:
 - a. At minimum, records of a minor child shall be maintained for five years after attaining the age of majority (18 years) or ten years following termination, whichever comes later;
 - b. Records that are required by contractual obligation or federal law to be maintained for a longer period of time; or

c. Records that have been transferred to another mental health service provider or given to the client or his legally authorized representative.

D. In regard to dual relationships, persons licensed by the board shall:

1. Avoid dual relationships with clients that could impair professional judgment or increase the risk of harm to clients. (Examples of such relationships include, but are not limited to, familial, social, financial, business, bartering, or close personal relationships with clients.) Art therapists shall take appropriate professional precautions when a dual relationship cannot be avoided, such as informed consent, consultation, supervision, and documentation to ensure that judgment is not impaired and no exploitation occurs;

2. Not engage in any type of romantic relationships or sexual intimacies with clients or those included in a collateral relationship with the client and not provide therapy to persons with whom they have had a romantic relationship or sexual intimacy. Art therapists shall not engage in romantic relationships or sexual intimacies with former clients within a minimum of five years after terminating the art therapy relationship. Art therapists who engage in such relationship or intimacy after five years following termination shall have the responsibility to examine and document thoroughly that such relations do not have an exploitive nature, based on factors such as duration of art therapy, amount of time since art therapy, termination circumstances, client's personal history and mental status, or adverse impact on the client. A client's consent to, initiation of or participation in sexual behavior or involvement with an art therapist does not change the nature of the conduct nor lift the regulatory prohibition;

3. Not engage in any romantic relationship or sexual intimacy or establish an art therapy or psychotherapeutic relationship with a supervisee or student. Licensed Art Therapists shall avoid any nonsexual dual relationship with a supervisee or student in which there is

a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the supervisee or student or the potential for interference with the supervisor's professional judgment; and

4. Recognize conflicts of interest and inform all parties of the nature and directions of loyalties and responsibilities involved.

E. Persons licensed by this board shall report to the board known or suspected violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of art therapy.

F. Persons licensed by the board shall advise their clients of their right to report to the Department of Health Professions any information of which the licensee may become aware in his professional capacity indicating that there is a reasonable probability that a person licensed or certified as a mental health service provider, as defined in § 54.1-2400.1 of the Code of Virginia, may have engaged in unethical, fraudulent or unprofessional conduct as defined by the pertinent licensing statutes and regulations.

18VAC115-90-130. Grounds for revocation, suspension, probation, reprimand, or denial of license.

~~A. Action by the~~ The board may refuse to issue a license, reprimand, impose a monetary penalty, place on probation, impose such terms as the board may designate, to revoke, or suspend, deny issuance or renewal of a license, or take disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with for one or more of the following grounds:

1. Conviction of a felony, or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, or violation of or aid to another in violating any provision of Chapter 35 (§54.1-3500 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia, any other statute applicable to the practice of art therapy, or any provision of this chapter;

2. Procuring, attempting to procure, or maintaining a license by fraud or misrepresentation;

3. Conducting one's practice in such a manner as to make it a danger to the health and welfare of one's clients or to the public, or if one is unable to practice art therapy with reasonable skill and safety to clients by reason of illness, abusive use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or other type of material or result of any mental or physical condition;

4. Intentional or negligent conduct that causes or is likely to cause injury to a client or clients;

5. Performance of functions outside the demonstrable areas of competency;

6. Failure to comply with the continued competency requirements set forth in this chapter;

7. Violating or abetting another person in the violation of any provision of any statute applicable to the practice of art therapy, or any part or portion of this chapter; or

8. Performance of an act likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public.

~~B. Following the revocation or suspension of a license, the licensee may petition the board for reinstatement upon good cause shown or as a result of substantial new evidence having been obtained that would alter the determination reached.~~

18VAC115-90-140. Reinstatement following disciplinary action.

~~A. Any person whose license has been suspended or who has been denied reinstatement by board order, having met the terms of the order, may submit a new application and fee for reinstatement of licensure.~~

~~B. The board in its discretion may, after an administrative proceeding, grant the reinstatement sought in subsection A of this section.~~

Any person whose license has been suspended, revoked, or denied renewal by the board under the provisions of 18VAC115-90-130 shall, in order to be eligible for reinstatement, (i) submit a new application to the board for a license, (ii) pay the appropriate reinstatement fee, and (iii)

As recommended by Art Therapy Advisory Board: October 6, 2023

submit any other credentials as prescribed by the board. After a hearing, the board may, at the board's discretion, grant the reinstatement.

Draft Final



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Agency

Department of Health Professions

Board

Board of Counseling

Chapter

Regulations Governing the Practice of Art Therapy [18 VAC 115 - 90]

Action	New chapter for licensure
Stage	Proposed
Comment Period	Ended on 2/14/2025

96 comments

All good comments for this forum [Show Only Flagged](#)

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Commenter: Miki Goerd

12/30/24 2:51 pm

Suggestions for the AT license regulations

Hello,

I appreciate the consideration this reg gives for us to be able to use volunteer service hours for continuing education credits.

I have one suggestion:

Please include Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) as well as local chapters of National Social Workers Association (NASW) as qualified providers for continuing education. Much like myself, there are some social workers who hold the credentials of art therapist. Including these organizations as the CEU provider helps off-set the cost to maintain licenses tremendously.

Thank you,

Miki Goerd, LCSW, ATR-BC

CommentID: **229074**

Commenter: Heather A Stemas

1/7/25 4:36 pm

Art therapy regulations

Please expedite the credential process for Art therapists in Virginia. Mental Health needs across all demographics in the state of Virginia are very high and Art therapist should be included to the list of clinicians available. This would improve access to care for many more who need it, and it would open up more appropriate jobs to increase job satisfaction, job retention and reimbursement for Art therapists- issues that are sorely lacking in our State.

CommentID: 229118

Commenter: Jeff Reichert

1/7/25 9:08 pm

Art Therapy Licensure

My wife is a licensed Art Therapist in Maryland and DC who's excluded from many Art Therapist jobs in Virginia due to the lack of licensure in Virginia. Because of this, she currently works in Maryland as an Art Therapist rather than her home state where she'd prefer to work and help those in need. As a result, the people of Virginia are losing out a wonderfully talented and experienced Art Therapist. Please expedite the credential process for Art Therapists in Virginia.

CommentID: 229119

Commenter: Suzanne Alfaro

1/8/25 5:06 pm

Support for Proposed Art Therapy Regulations

Virginians should have a range of mental health therapeutic options available so I am in support the passage of the Proposed Art Therapy Regulations. I support ensuring competency and accountability for Art Therapists and that they, as with other licensed mental health professionals, be reimbursed for their services by insurers/third-party payers. I recommend passage of the regulations.

CommentID: 229120

Commenter: Christina Koenig

1/13/25 10:47 am

Support for Art Therapy Licensure

Creative art therapy professionals continue to advocate for regulations to gain recognition and protect the clients we serve. Many people who seek out art therapy have come from circumstances such as trauma, abuse, substance use, and mental health challenges that can make them vulnerable. Lack of licensure regulations allows an untrained person to claim themselves as an art therapist, work with people from the above circumstances, and cause harm due to lack of knowledge. Just like social workers and licensed professional counselors are regulated, it is imperative that art therapists receive the same regulatory protections.

CommentID: 229131

Commenter: Alyssa Hayes - The Center for Creative Healing

1/13/25 11:11 am

Art Therapy Licensure

As an art therapist, I have found providing opportunities for creative expression to be incredibly important to reaching clients who do not respond to traditional talk therapy. Passing this bill will be essential to incorporating creative arts into therapy space under the specific standards of Virginia.

Commenter: Crista Kostenko

1/18/25 10:23 am

Art therapist licensure

Our communities need more access to mental health resources. In view of the mental health crisis in our state, and the lack of adequate resources for Virginians who would benefit from mental health treatment, I am contacting you as an art therapist regarding these proposed art therapy regulations. Establishing licensure for art therapists would protect the public and serve to expand access to vital mental health resources for all Virginians. Empowering the Board of Counseling to issue licenses to Virginian art therapists will serve to provide clarity in the marketplace by instituting title and practice protection around art therapy, protecting the public from bad actors or untrained professionals from other fields who would otherwise market themselves as art therapists while providing dangerously substandard care.

CommentID: 229358

Commenter: Hannah Phillips Hale (Creating Compassion LLC)

1/20/25 11:01 am

Art Therapy Licensure will be a wonderful thing for the state of Virginia!!

Virginia art therapists have worked hard over the course of many years to pass legislation creating a unique license for art therapists that protects the public and allows art therapists to practice art therapy in its own right. Creating a licensure process for Art Therapists will allow communities to be served in more robust ways and will also provide more protection for the public, so that there are less 'bad actors' engaging in unethical and harmful practices, when they have not been appropriately trained for the job. Licensure for Art Therapists in the state of Virginia would empower our community to better address the mental health crisis within the state and practice art therapy as art therapists, rather than as practitioners of other mental healthcare professions, as Art Therapists are specifically trained for this work (in the creative process, psychological development, group therapy, art therapy assessment, psychodiagnostics, research methods, and multicultural competency development and cultural humility). The coursework, typically involved for Art Therapists includes Psychopathology, Psychological assessment, Human growth and development, Counseling/Psychological theories, Helping relationships, Research, Professional orientation, Ethical and legal issues, Multicultural and social issues, History and theory of art therapy, Materials and techniques of practice in art therapy, Creativity studies, Studio art, Application of art therapy with people in different treatment settings, Art therapy assessment, Group art therapy, Culminating thesis or project, and Practicum and internships. Everyday, art therapists support clients' mental, emotional, and physical well-being, including children experiencing behavioral challenges, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder; people and caregivers in medical crises; victims of violence or other trauma—from military service members to student survivors of mass shootings; older adults struggling with dementia or Alzheimer's Disease; or anyone that needs help coping with life's challenges. Providing further efforts to support Art Therapists in meeting the needs of the public, through implementing Licensure for this profession, would be a wonderful way to also support the people of Virginia and empower our state to use more creative opportunities for people to heal, grow, and learn about what allows them to live their healthiest and happiest lives.

CommentID: 229448

Commenter: John Cafazza

1/21/25 11:00 am

Support for Art Therapy Licensure (18 VAC 115-90)

Thank you for your serious consideration of and sincere efforts to pass this bill. I know and can attest to the value and life-changing benefit of Art Therapy on behalf of family members. Please make every effort to provide this additional recognition of and support for this key tool to provide critical life changing healing for so many Virginians in need.

CommentID: 229495

Commenter: Sarah

1/21/25 1:45 pm

Art Therapy in Virginia

It is important for and beneficial to the state of Virginia to provide licensure for the field of Art Therapy. Other states are already doing this and have been for many years. This is a positive move for the state: licensure allows more protection for both the public and for providers, so there are more regulatory guidelines in place and less 'bad actors' who may be using it unethically, without training, and in a way that might harm others or allow primarily for personal gains. By offering licensure, the state could see growth instead of people moving out of Virginia for jobs. Art Therapists in Virginia want to be recognized and also want to have the ability to help more people, as licensure will also allow for more individuals to access services through their insurance. Case studies and small experiments have suggested that art therapy can help with many different conditions, including depression, self-esteem, and social behavior. It can also help people express themselves non-verbally, which can be beneficial for people who have difficulty expressing themselves verbally. Thank you for the opportunity to make a public comment and I hope this regulatory action moves forward.

CommentID: 229537

Commenter: Jennifer August

1/24/25 8:16 am

Public Comment on Virginia Art Therapist License Proposed Regulations

"Purpose: The board has adopted regulations to establish qualifications for education, examination, and experience that will ensure minimal competency for issuance or renewal of licensure as an art therapist to protect the health and safety of clients or patients who receive art therapy services."

"Issues: The primary advantage to the public is that the proposed amendments ensure competency and accountability"

The Regulations must empower these obligations by authoritatively, consistently administering the Standards of the Art Therapy Profession cited as required for licensure. Overall, the regs seem to set the appropriate standard for Art Therapist licensees, but defeat the purpose of the license through confounded standards that defer to unqualified practitioners, 'certifying' agencies, and 'training' programs.

I. The Art Therapy Credentials Board Code of Ethics, Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures shall be the standard for the Board to oversee the conduct of licensees because its ATR-P, ATR, and ATR-BC credentials are required for licensure.

The Proposed Regulations improperly accommodate licensees who do not maintain the ATR-BC credential, and, therefore, are not subject to the ATCB Code of Ethics. Furthermore, it is possible that a person could have been

credentialed by the ATCB, but deemed ineligible through disciplinary action. And third, the teaching of a graduate course in Art Therapy, or having practiced Art Therapy, should not be qualifying factors for the license.

Section **18VAC115-90-120. Standards of practice** parses out certain ethical obligations. It needs to set forth the licensee must not have criminal, no contender pleas, and obligate them to self-report any such violation unless Virginia law enforcement already supplies that information to the Board.

Mandatory reporting of abuse also needs to be incorporated into the Regs, unless elsewhere.

II. These Sections of the Regs are mutually incongruent:

“18VAC115-90-40. Requirements for licensure.

In addition to the prerequisites set forth in 18VAC115-90-30:

1. Each applicant for licensure by examination as an art therapist shall submit to the board evidence of a current ATR-BC certification from the ATCB. (...) and:

c. Either:

(1) Current ATR-BC certification from the ATCB; or

(2) Documentation of passage of the examination of the ATCB and evidence of autonomous, clinical practice in art therapy, as defined in § 54.1-3500 of the Code of Virginia, for 24 of the last 60 months immediately preceding licensure application in Virginia. Clinical practice shall mean the rendering of direct clinical art therapy services, clinical supervision of clinical art therapy services, or teaching graduate-level courses in art therapy.”

III. The “minimum” Art Therapy Master’s degree empowers the ‘Standards of Practice’ among the Professions Licensed by the Board:

The only national standard for the “minimum” training and education “for entry-level practice of Art Therapy” to meet the State’s “Purpose” and “Issues” above requires an accredited Art Therapy, and no other, Master’s degree per the American Art Therapy Association.

The Regs must consistently reflect this “minimum” training to support practitioners’ adherence to their separate Codes of Ethics which require: “a person shall only practice according to qualified training and qualified experience,” being the Art Therapy Master’s degree, or post-graduate equivalent Art Therapy degree unmentioned in the Regs.

Section **18VAC115-90-120. Standards of practice** may ensure consumer protection by driving non-Art Therapists to the minimum education to practice Art Therapy, and their Codes of Ethics, specifically:

"A. The protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and the best interest of the public shall be the primary guides in determining the appropriate professional conduct of all persons whose activities are regulated by the board and

B. Each person licensed by the board shall:

2. Practice only within the boundaries of the licensee's competence, based on education, training, supervised experience, and appropriate professional experience, and represent education, training, and experience accurately to clients;

13. Advertise professional services fairly and accurately in a manner that is not false, misleading, or deceptive.
Such as holding the "minimum" credential to practice Art Therapy.

Commentary: The Regs may follow suit of nearby states to incorporate the standards of the respective mental health licensees by stating "Art teaching is not Art Therapy," "an individual may not practice, attempt to practice, or offer to practice Art Therapy unless licensed as an Art Therapist by the Board" to empower this section that already conveys "License required," but which could be authoritatively stated "no person shall convey or tend to convey the person is trained or otherwise qualified to deliver Art Therapy services unless licensed by the Board and holding an Art Therapy Master's degree." This protects the public, comporting with the states and Virginia's "Purpose" and "Issues" set forth above.

IV. The Proposed Regs presuppose a standard no where in Art Therapists' training or other states' licensure -- that Art in Therapy "is a modality."

The separate licensure of Art Therapists in Virginia settles, as legally unsupportable, that Art in Therapy is a "modality." The Definition of "Art Therapy" in Section 5.4.1-3500 Code of Virginia incorporated into the Regs makes anything Art+health, mental health, psychotherapy "Art Therapy" – now separately regulated by the Board as "Art Therapy":

"Art therapy" means the integrated use of psychotherapeutic principles, visual art media, and the creative process in the assessment, treatment, and remediation of psychosocial, emotional, cognitive, physical, and developmental disorders in children, adolescents, adults, families, or groups.

Therefore, the findings of the 2018 Report that are feathered throughout the Regs were unsupportable then, and are unsupportable now based on every standard in America for the Art Therapy profession and the practice of Art Therapy. The Regs must align the licensure law with the national standards (it also sets forth) to correct the disinformation that preceded the enactment of the license:

"Background. In 2018, the Board of Health Professions assembled a regulatory research committee that conducted a study titled "Study into the Need to Regulate Art Therapists in the Commonwealth of Virginia" on behalf of the Virginia Art Therapy Association.³ The major findings of the study are:

1. Art therapy is an integrative mental health and human services profession. Art therapists are educated in psychotherapeutic principles as specifically trained in the use of art media to provide counseling to individuals, families and groups.

2. Art therapy is categorically different than "art in therapy." Art in therapy is a therapeutic modality leveraging the creative process as a growth-producing experience."

Comporting with the separate licensure of Counselors and Art Therapists in Virginia, in 2009, the American Counseling Association and the American Art Therapy Association established a national standard that Art Therapy “is a separate and distinct” profession from Counseling.

The Regs need to reflect this and certainly not make way for modality-practice of a separately-regulated, advance-practice healthcare profession (US Department of Labor Standard Occupational Classification O*NET: “Art Therapist,” “Healthcare Occupation,” “extensive preparation necessary.” Once a mental health profession attains licensure, it is no longer a free-for-all icebreaker “modality.” Art-in-Therapy, by every standard, is “Art Therapy.” Those presenting otherwise are attempting unqualified practice, or unethically supporting it. Modality practice defeats consumer protection obligations and oppresses the Art Therapist workforce.

To further support the license as separate, the Definitions in Virginia Code Section 5.4.1-3500 separately define the other disciplines licensed by the Board: “Practice of counseling,” “Practice of marriage and family therapy,” and “practice of substance abuse treatment.”

The separate practice of “Art Therapy” is empowered by the separate accredited Art Therapy Master’s degree, also required for licensure. The Regs need to authoritatively communicate the actual qualifying standards of the Art Therapy profession (simply: Art Therapy Master’s degree plus ATCB credential).

V. The ATCB standards of the profession also need to be implemented in the approved supervisor section, set forth as a supervisor holding the ATR-BC or ATCS credential.

This recognizes that non-credential holders cannot comply with their Codes of Ethics to provide clinical supervision unless they have the “minimum” training and demonstrated competency attained in a Master’s program in Art Therapy (AATA). These are 2 national standards the Regs must adopt.

VI. The continuing competency standards propose unrelated or substandard ‘training’ and ‘certification’ for the “Art Therapy” profession.

As a consumer protection obligation, the Regs must reconcile that Art Therapists, and the profession overall, are facing unprecedented, unqualified, competing, and diminishing ‘training,’ ‘certification,’ and ‘ethics’ that controvert the national standards adopted in the license. This confuses the public, who are led to believe a workshop “certificate” equates with the 8-year-earned ATR-BC credential required for licensure. Where, throughout America, “Art Therapy” is the name of the regulated profession and occupation, as in Virginia Code corresponding to the Regs, it would be helpful if the CEUs were ones related to the license – that are offered by accepted national certifying entities with legal presence in Virginia.

For example, the IEAT is not a domestic entity and is widely involved with issuing ‘certificates’ in Art Therapy that confuse the public. Those holding the REAT credential must take 1 hour per certification cycle to maintain that credential. Thus, relying on the IEAT for Art Therapists’ continuing education is not a substantially similar standard. Other proposed CUE purveyors seem unrelated to the profession and the license. It would seem more appropriate if the CEU standards of the ATCB were simply adopted, to assure apples-to-apples, particularly, since the licensee would be using the approved continuing training to maintain the ATCB credential.

The sections of the regs that seem to defeat the “Purpose” and “Issues” of the Regs as set forth above are:

“18VAC115-90-90. Continuing competency activity criteria.

A. Hours of continuing competency activity for an art therapist shall be approved if the hours meet the continued education requirements for recertification as an ATR-BC.

B. Additionally, continuing competency activity for an art therapist shall be approved if the activities are workshops, seminars, conferences, or courses in the behavioral health field offered by an individual or organization that has been certified or approved by one of the following:

6. The Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification;

10. A national behavioral health organization or certification body;

15. The International Expressive Arts Therapy Association

-

Related Commentary for CEUs: 18VAC115-90-120. Standards of practice.

“12. Use only in connection with the licensee's practice as a mental health professional those educational and professional degrees or titles that (i) have been earned at a college or university accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, (ii) are credentials granted by a national certifying agency, and (iii) are art therapy in nature”

As a consumer protection and advertising issue, non-Art Therapists can earn the non-domestic REAT (Registered Expressive Arts Therapist) ‘credential’ in as few as 15 hours, I believe. The Regs should omit Section 12 above to protect licensees and clearly communicate the only domestic standard, adopted via the “Art Therapist” license, being the LPAT and LAAT credentials.

Overall, it is disappointing to see the Proposed Regs accommodate persons who do not meet the “minimum” training or the ATCB credentials to qualify for the credentials. I look forward to the simple revisions to implement the actual standards of the Art Therapy profession, without functional or administrative revision. Thank you for your work.

Jennifer August, LPAT (Delaware), LCPAT (Maryland), ATR-BC

Dated: 1/24/25

CommentID: 229829

Commenter: Candace E Phillilps

1/24/25 12:25 pm

Licensure for Art Therapy

Mental health is a huge part of the public health of Virginia and the improvement of positive mental health deserves to be approached with the appropriate experience and training which has been

acquired by licensed Art Therapists. It is vital that the state of Virginia approves and moves forward with providing licensure for the field of Art Therapy. Licensure would provide more protection for the public since the treatment provided would follow guidelines for effective and positive help in treatment. Licensure requirements would hopefully weed out potential practitioners who really have not undertaken the necessary training to work with the public for mental health improvement. Licensure would also allow more individuals to access mental health services through their insurance. This bill addressing Art Therapy Licensure in Virginia would be a move toward improvement in mental health services for the people in this state.

CommentID: **229852**

Commenter: Christina Hart

1/25/25 11:38 am

Support for Art Therapy Licensure

I am immensely grateful that the board is taking a serious look into the benefits of Art Therapy for licensing to protect all future clients from harm that could unintentionally occur from those trying to utilize art therapy methods without proper training. Art therapy is such a wonderful process that allows the subconscious to unleash memories and emotions that may have been buried deep within the individual in order to process and express emotions in times that verbal communication may be difficult, and all by using line/color/shape.

I can attest to the value of art therapy through the success of my clients. There are a number of studies available that also show how art therapy can help identify, process, and help in the healing process to reduce symptoms of anxiety, depression, PTSD, postpartum troubles and more including exploring ones spirituality and views of self. There are also studies that show how art therapy can aid in couples and family work to help bring these groups into a more cohesive bond by helping explore attachments, decision making skills, social cues, mindfulness, gratitude and more.

I sincerely hope this regulatory process moves forward into completion and gets the recognition that it so deserves.

CommentID: **229966**

Commenter: Lynne Oglesby

1/25/25 1:29 pm

Support Art Therapy

As an RN, A health and wellness coach and a pottery teacher, I see the value in the healing power of art. It has the ability to reorient ourselves as in the Wounded Warrior Project, to help us connect to ourselves and others, as I have seen in children's pottery classes and to build confidence in self-esteem as we explore our creative abilities.

Thank you for making this healing modality a priority in a complex and challenging world.

CommentID: **229989**

Commenter: Alana Chandler

1/25/25 1:33 pm

Support Art Therapy

Art Therapy is a powerful integration of using counseling skills and the art making process to assist in building insights and healing in our clients and communities. Art is the communication avenue for the world to connect when words just aren't enough. Art Therapy Licensure will allow not only more healing our communities but more growth as a field - more evidence based research opportunities, more awareness, and more support.

CommentID: 229990

Commenter: Juli Edwards-McDaniel

1/25/25 1:35 pm

Healing through Art

All forms of art and their ability to help us all heal from trauma or vicarious trauma is such a powerful media that should continue to be supported.

Juli

CommentID: 229992

Commenter: Dana Roebuck, Seeking Depth to Recovery

1/25/25 1:59 pm

Art Therapy is Crucial

The importance of art therapy is both seen and felt, in the hands of the creators, the arms of the clinicians, and the lives of the community. Neurologically, our trauma is stored in feeling states connected to our senses. Our tougher and best memories have color, texture, shape, and smell. Our ability to verbally process these moments can be stifled by our trauma, nervous system, and access to safe spaces. Having a clinician facilitate a space to do this, share this, and hold this safely is crucial to the lives of those who are differently abled, neurologically challenged, and those just seeking another way to heal!

CommentID: 229993

Commenter: Davin Lindsey

1/25/25 2:58 pm

Support Art Therapy

When I made the journey to come to this art show, I thought about what I might see and how I would be respectful and try my hardest to understand every piece that I see. When walking around the Art Show and looking at every piece I tried my best to understand any meaning that may be associated with art. And I can confidently say that Art Therapy is very important and can really help people that may have a hard time expressing themselves. I truly do believe that what these Art Therapists do and what they work so hard to accomplish, is very important not only to the teachers but also their clients / patients. Please keep continuing to make the community a better place and continue to support and help those that need your helping hand,

CommentID: 229995

Commenter: Isabelle Lee

1/25/25 3:02 pm

Support Art Therapy

I am very glad that I came to the Newport art show I saw many great art pieces today and I saw my sisters beautiful and I completely support art therapy and the importance of it.

CommentID: 229996

Commenter: Virginia citizen

2/4/25 5:51 pm

Where is the family?

If it doesn't include family and/or guardians then forget it.

CommentID: 230627

Commenter: Laura Tuomisto

2/5/25 8:43 am

Support for Regulation of Art Therapists

I support regulating the practice of art therapy. Our communities continue to be in great need of access to mental health care and it feels imperative to remove as many barriers as possible. Without a path to licensure in the state of Virginia, art therapists have been forced to double up on their education and training to obtain additional licenses, move to a state with an active license for art therapists, and/or work in positions that do not always allow them to use their full set of skills when supporting clients. In addition, this regulatory process would also protect the public from those who are advertising themselves as art therapists without adequate training. It is my hope that this process is completed soon so that we can be a part of the solution to the mental health crisis we face.

CommentID: 230641

Commenter: Savanna Kelley, Valley CAC

2/5/25 12:04 pm

Please Support Art Therapy!

Supporting art therapy is a vital way to support mental health efforts in communities across the nation! Please support art therapists and the crucial work they are doing to provide essential mental health interventions!

CommentID: 230644

Commenter: Valley Children's Advocacy Center

2/5/25 1:08 pm

Art Therapist Licensure

By allocating funds and recognizing art therapists as licensed professionals, we will advance the services catered to helping community members heal. I hope that you all take the time and effort to recognize these integral professionals, who dedicated their time, education, and money to heal our society.

CommentID: 230649

Commenter: Cindy Fellows

2/5/25 3:51 pm

Support Art Therapy

Champion art therapists and their essential work in providing creative, healing interventions for those in need. Supporting art therapy is a powerful way to promote mental health in communities nationwide!

CommentID: 230650

Commenter: Seth

2/5/25 4:52 pm

Support Art Therapy!

Supporting art therapy is so important! Please make this happen!

CommentID: 230652

Commenter: Emily Vandevander

2/5/25 6:13 pm

The value of art therapy/Art Therapy licensure

Art therapy has been very helpful for me and I truly feel that the therapists should be allowed to be licensed.

CommentID: 230655

Commenter: Lisa. Coastal Art Therapy Services

2/5/25 11:21 pm

Yes to the regulations

I support the proposed art therapy regulations and am in favor of art therapy licensure in Virginia. Art therapists are trained mental health professionals who have a master's degree and have received didactic and internship training comparable to other regulated mental health professions like counseling and social work. Art therapists in Virginia should also be entitled to get title protection and get mandatory third-party reimbursement, just like counselors and social workers. Unregulated mental health professions increase the risk of harming the public and malpractice.

CommentID: 230657

Commenter: Nichole Kern

2/6/25 9:07 am

Bringing Art Therapy Inline with Other Practices

I fully support aligning Art Therapy regulations and licensing with other counseling practices, particularly patient safety protections. This should improve both the profession and practitioners.

CommentID: 230663

Commenter: Camille

2/6/25 10:41 am

Art Therapy is Invaluable

Art therapy has been a lifesaver for families like ours with children. These practitioners have incredible tools that enable children to build trust and learn a language to express their feelings, communicate them with others, and even advocate for themselves. It's not hyperbole to say art therapy saves lives.

CommentID: 230665

Commenter: Lauren

2/7/25 2:15 pm

Support for Art Therapy

Art therapy is a powerful mental health tool that fosters healing and self-expression, particularly for individuals who struggle to articulate their feelings through traditional methods.

CommentID: **230755**

Commenter: David L.

2/7/25 3:56 pm

In Support of Art Therapists

I believe mental health is an ever-present problem that seldom gets the proper attention it deserves as an issue for both public commons and individuals. I believe the established licensure of art therapists will assist in ameliorating mental health issues.

CommentID: **230768**

Commenter: Marie (Meg) Fay Mortman, BSN, RN, ONN-CG

2/8/25 12:02 pm

In support of Art Therapists

In view of the mental health crisis in our state, and the lack of adequate resources for Virginians who would benefit from mental health treatment, I am contacting you as a health professional regarding Regulations Governing the Practice of Art Therapy. This established licensure for art therapists would protect the public and serve to expand access to vital mental health resources for all Virginians. Empowering the Board of Counseling to issue licenses to Virginian art therapists will serve to provide clarity in the marketplace by instituting title and practice protection around art therapy, protecting the public from bad actors or untrained professionals from other fields who would otherwise market themselves as art therapists while providing dangerously substandard care.

As an RN, I see the need we have for this specialized form a care. Art Therapists are uniquely positioned to provide care in a way that patients need but often do not know about or have access to. Formalizing their licensure would benefit all parties involved.

CommentID: **230848**

Commenter: Anonymous

2/8/25 1:41 pm

In support of Art Therapists

In view of the mental health crisis in our state, and the lack of adequate resources for Virginians who would benefit from mental health treatment, I am contacting you as a (*professional educator*) regarding Regulations Governing the Practice of Art Therapy. This established licensure for art therapists would protect the public and serve to expand access to vital mental health resources for all Virginians. Empowering the Board of Counseling to issue licenses to Virginian art therapists will serve to provide clarity in the marketplace by instituting title and practice protection around art therapy, protecting the public from bad actors or untrained professionals from other fields who would otherwise market themselves as art therapists while providing dangerously substandard care.

CommentID: **230867**

Commenter: Gioia Chilton, ATR-BC

2/8/25 7:12 pm

Make the CEU standards same as the ATCB

I agree with the intent here and second the comment that it would be simpler as Jennifer August stated, if the CEU standards of the ATCB were simply adopted, to assure apples-to-apples, particularly, since the licensee would be obtaining the approved continuing training to maintain the ATCB credential anyway.

CommentID: 231050

Commenter: Anonymous

2/9/25 7:43 am

In support of Art Therapy Licensure

As a recent resident of the Commonwealth and an individual who practiced art therapy in a state that now has licensure, I am in support of this bill. Licensure will protect the public from receiving services from untrained art therapists. In addition, licensure has the potential to bring more art therapists, needed mental health professionals, to the Commonwealth to serve Virginians.

CommentID: 231258

Commenter: Laura Dobbs

2/9/25 8:12 am

Ethical practice supports art therapy licensure

I have been a registered art therapist for 23 years and it has been a fight to educate others about ethical practices in our field. I am also a licensed professional therapist because art therapy is not billable currently. Just because a therapist uses art in session does not make it "art therapy" and it can be a strong misrepresentation of the thorough training an art therapist has. By introducing an art therapy licensure, we can minimize harm to clients and ensure that those seeking art therapy services will be met with experienced and adequately trained clinicians. Licensure will also promote third party reimbursement and allow access to additional populations that may not be able to afford out of pocket costs for treatment.

CommentID: 231270

Commenter: Christina Hagemeyer

2/9/25 9:24 am

In support of art therapy

I have been practicing art therapy since 2018. I know the power that it can bring to a session and the benefit it has for clients and patients. Having a license that regulates this profession will allow for better patient care and greater support for those individuals practicing. The regulations and requirements should be in line with the ATCB and other states who have already implemented such licenses in order to keep consistency across the profession. Art therapy is a lifesaving profession that will benefit from regulation in our to protect patients and better equip professionals.

CommentID: 231313

Commenter: Melissa Sykes, Summit Counseling Services

2/9/25 10:16 pm

Art Therapy Licensure

I have been practicing art therapy post-graduate since 2016 and believe very strongly in this modality as an intervention for mental health difficulties from all walks of life. By allowing for art therapy licensure in Virginia, we can more effectively provide this service to those who can benefit in a safe and effective form. I appreciate your time and attention in this matter!

Melissa Sykes, LPC, ATR, CSAC

CommentID: **231979**

Commenter: Kathy Sow

2/9/25 10:57 pm

Supporting Art Therapy Licensure

Art therapy provides a powerful way for people to express themselves, heal, and improve their well-being. Establishing a distinct art therapy licensure in Virginia will help ensure more people have access to this valuable service and allow art therapists to practice under ethical and safe guidelines.

CommentID: **231984**

Commenter: Virginia Citizen

2/10/25 8:56 am

Yes to Licensing for Art Therapy

We need more access to mental health resources. Establishing licensure for art therapists will serve to protect the public and expand access to vital mental health resources. I am writing as a beneficiary of art therapy who's life has been vitally improved by this field. I support the move to empower the Board of Counseling to issue licenses to Virginian art therapists.

CommentID: **232066**

Commenter: Anonymous

2/10/25 10:54 am

Support Art Therapy

Art Therapy can be a stepping stone to those who are new to therapeutic techniques and can be brought with them anywhere to help soothe in daily stresses and anxieties. It is crucial.

CommentID: **232108**

Commenter: Lydia Faulkner - art therapy grad student

2/10/25 11:05 am

Support Art Therapy!

I am currently getting my masters in counseling and art therapy. I want to be able to get my license in Virginia and have no barriers so I can help as many people as I can. Support art therapy it is crucial to the mental health field!!

CommentID: **232110**

Commenter: Gretchen Graves

2/10/25 2:32 pm

Support for these regulations

These regulations look very solid and I support them. If there was any changes to be made, I would say to let continuing education credits and renewal be due once every five years rather than annually. That is 100 CEU's once every five years rather than 20 per year. This would reduce the amount of review the advisory board would have to do and it would sync up with renewal for the ATR-BC. I do feel like there was a reason why this was not implemented, but I don't recall what it was.

CommentID: **232168**

Commenter: Aby C.

2/11/25 9:24 am

Art Therapy connects people with the world!

As someone who previously studied music therapy as their intended career choice, I know how important art therapy is at providing people with disabilities (whether mental, emotional, or physical) a chance at feeling understood and supported when traditional medicine has not worked. Successful therapy is good therapy, and that should fundamentally include music therapy, art therapy, nontraditional but proven methods! There's synapses in the brain that connect when creating. Synapses that don't happen in public school classrooms while learning about the periodic table. Synapses that don't connect while eating with your family at the dining room table. Synapses that don't connect while struggling to communicate with your loved ones. This brain matter growth can often be a key milestone for our community members that has been failed by pills and talk therapy alone. In a world where healthcare is getting more expensive, allowing art therapy licensure in Virginia not only creates another option, but also connects patients with disabilities to the world around them through professionally guided creative expression. This in turn will positively affect the community I live in and in the community I want to raise my future children in. As a Norfolk Resident, I am in full support of pushing forward with art therapy licensure in Virginia!

CommentID: **232310**

Commenter: Julia Willinger, LPC, ATR-BC

2/11/25 11:08 pm

In Support of Art Therapy Licensure

As a Board Certified Art Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Membership Director for the Virginia Art Therapy Association - I support the approval of the proposed regulations for state-wide licensure. This will provide more credibility to the value of the profession; increase ethical practices/use of Art Therapy throughout the state; and is a step in the right direction for expanding accessibility for the community/general public to receive Art Therapy services.

CommentID: **232495**

Commenter: Monika Burkholder, MS, ATR-BC

2/12/25 3:52 pm

Yes for Art Therapy

As a Board Certified Art Therapist - I support the approval of the proposed regulations for state-wide licensure. This will provide more credibility to the value of the profession; increase ethical practices of Art Therapy throughout the state; and is a step in the right direction for expanding

accessibility for the community/general public to receive Art Therapy services. I have left the state of VA now, and see art therapy licensure as an important step in growing the number of art therapists in Virginia.

CommentID: **232619**

Commenter: Gretchen Cureton

2/13/25 12:06 pm

Support for Art therapy

In view of the mental health crisis in our state, and the lack of adequate resources for Virginians who would benefit from mental health treatment, I am contacting you as a *parent and concerned citizen* regarding Regulations Governing the Practice of Art Therapy. This established licensure for art therapists would protect the public and serve to expand access to vital mental health resources for all Virginians. Empowering the Board of Counseling to issue licenses to Virginian art therapists will serve to provide clarity in the marketplace by instituting title and practice protection around art therapy, protecting the public from bad actors or untrained professionals from other fields who would otherwise market themselves as art therapists while providing dangerously substandard care

CommentID: **232739**

Commenter: Cheryl S.

2/13/25 8:04 pm

Support

Residents of Virginia will benefit from licensure for art therapists by expanding access to the increasing need for mental health care and offer citizens protection by regulating service delivery. Art therapists provide mental health services for people of all ages; treating a continuum of concerns through primarily non-verbal and creative methods. As a provider, I have found art therapy to be particularly effective with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), adolescents experiencing anxiety and depression, and military service personnel and their families experiencing myriad challenges. Please allow this regulatory action to advance.

CommentID: **232789**

Commenter: Great News Counseling Services

2/13/25 8:24 pm

Support for art therapy licensure

I support art therapy licensure in Virginia

CommentID: **232792**

Commenter: Anonymous

2/13/25 8:42 pm

Important to license art therapy in Virgi ua

I support art therapy licensure in Virginia.

CommentID: **232795**

Commenter: Jeagle

2/13/25 8:46 pm

Support art therapy

I support art therapy licensure in the state of Virginia

CommentID: 232796

Commenter: Lindsay Carroll

2/13/25 9:10 pm

Support of art therapy licensure

Art therapy is a critical tool to help constituents learn emotional expression and regulation. Oftentimes, people struggle to find the words to articulate an experience. Art therapy provides a nonverbal language for these experiences to help expand on awareness and improve ability to communicate. Licensure provides a path for trained professionals to practice. Regulations help ensure the public is not misled about the services received.

CommentID: 232798

Commenter: Kelli Eagle

2/13/25 9:42 pm

Support Art Therapy Licensure

I support Art Therapy licensure in VA which will provide guidelines and protection for the patients and therapists.

CommentID: 232800

Commenter: Chantel Gates

2/13/25 10:18 pm

Support for Art Therapy Licensure

I'm an art therapy graduate student and I support this as it can positively impact clients, the community, and future art therapists such as myself.

CommentID: 232804

Commenter: Kristene Thorne (LPC)

2/13/25 11:42 pm

Art Therapy Licensure in the Commonwealth of Virginia

As a mental health therapist in the Commonwealth of Virginia, I strongly support Art Therapy Licensure within Virginia. Research shows that Art Therapy is one of the most effective interventions for treating trauma in children, adolescents, and adults as it addresses the "right brain" in a way that traditional Cognitive Behavioral Therapy cannot. In addition, Virginia NEEDS more child and adolescent friendly therapists, and most art therapists are trained to work with these populations. Art therapy is extremely effective in working with our young people. Art Therapy is not "just coloring and crafts." It is a very expensive and respectable training earned at credible university; a more intensive training than traditional mental health therapists receive. Art Therapists in Virginia should be highly regarded as the specialized trauma professionals that they are as well as more accessible to Virginia residents.

CommentID: 232815

Commenter: Laura Leonard

2/14/25 5:20 am

Art Therapy Licensure

I support Art Therapy Licensure in the state of Virginia

CommentID: **232820**

Commenter: Mary Roberts

2/14/25 7:07 am

Support Art Therapy Licensure

Please continue to move Licensure for Art Therapists in Virginia forward. I support the requirements for licensure as written to begin issuing much needed licenses in VA. Licensure provides protection to clients and the public for legitimate art therapy services by credentialed and licensed providers. Title protection provides assurance to art therapists that their work is valued and protected ethically with minimum professional dispositions and standards. I support annual continuing education as stated in the regulations and consistent with other licensed professions. I am aware that the ATCB revises policies regularly, as such, the standards as written are aligned based on the ATCB standards written at the time the licensure standards were composed. As the Art Therapy Advisory Board moves forward, a systematic process of review and updating standards at a reasonable schedule can be established. It is most important to begin licensing art therapists with the standards as written, which are clear and proficient for determining who meets requirements for licensure.

CommentID: **232822**

Commenter: Andrew Hale

2/14/25 8:25 am

Art Therapy Licensure

I support Art Therapy licensure in Virginia.

CommentID: **232829**

Commenter: Emilie Bradley

2/14/25 8:29 am

Support for Licensure

As a practicing art therapist in Virginia, I see great benefit in licensure for all art therapists in the state. Please continue to move licensure for all art therapists in Virginia. I support the requirements for licensure to begin issuing much needed licenses in VA. This will provide structure and more credibility to the profession. Title protection will help ensure that there is consistency in the level of care individuals seeking treatment can receive instead of providers trying to pass off using "art therapy" in their practice without appropriate education. It is my hope the process is completed soon so our communities can benefit from the good that art therapy licensure can provide.

CommentID: **232830**

Commenter: Kristopher Forren, MA, ATR-P

2/14/25 8:31 am

Support Art Therapy Licensure!

Please consider supporting the important work Art Therapists in the state of Virginia provide for their clients, patients, students, residents, military personnel, and so on.

CommentID: 232832

Commenter: Maria Weaver

2/14/25 8:49 am

Support Art Therapy licensure

I have been working in the behavioral health field for about 10 years, and it is incredible to see the benefits of art therapy not only in small children but also for some adults. I definitely support Art Therapy licensure in the state of Virginia.

CommentID: 232838

Commenter: CK

2/14/25 8:49 am

In full support

Given the ongoing mental health crisis in our state and the shortage of adequate resources for Virginians in need of treatment, I am reaching out as both a parent and a concerned citizen regarding the **Regulations Governing the Practice of Art Therapy**. Establishing licensure for art therapists is a critical step toward expanding access to essential mental health services while ensuring public safety. Granting the Board of Counseling the authority to license art therapists in Virginia would create much-needed clarity in the field, safeguarding individuals from unqualified practitioners who might otherwise claim the title without proper training. This measure would not only protect the integrity of art therapy but also ensure that those seeking care receive safe, professional, and effective treatment.

CommentID: 232839

Commenter: SJ

2/14/25 9:20 am

Art Therapy Licensure

I support Art therapy licensure in the state of Virginia.

CommentID: 232844

Commenter: Taylor Kotait

2/14/25 9:51 am

Support Art Therapy

I support and often use Art Therapy as a part of treatment with kids and teens, I have personally seen tremendous growth in clients using this modality and fully support art therapy!

CommentID: 232849

Commenter: Richard J Phillips

2/14/25 10:00 am

Art Therapy is a Big Plus

Art Therapy is a big plus for the Commonwealth of Virginia and for the general populace at large. We know of several people who have been helped to heal mentally and emotionally due to Art

Therapy services. Licensure allows protection for both providers and for the general public. Regulatory guidelines would help to prevent untrained, unethical, or those seeking personal gain, from practicing Art Therapy to the detriment of others. Moreover, licensure can help provide services to more people who need it because insurance companies would be more willing to participate with payment for services.

CommentID: 232851

Commenter: ADHD Counseling in the Roanoke Valley

2/14/25 10:00 am

Support Art Therapy

I support the art therapy licensure in the state of Virginia.

CommentID: 232853

Commenter: Cassie Smith

2/14/25 10:07 am

Support Licensure for Art Therapy

I support licensure for art therapy as it will ensure individuals will be treated by properly trained professionals.

CommentID: 232855

Commenter: Jaana Kilkki

2/14/25 10:07 am

Supporting Art Therapy Licensure

I support the Art Therapy licensure. As a practicing Art Therapist, I know firsthand how important this license is. Licensing art therapists in Virginia will ensure that ethical practices will be followed, and that mental health access will improve. It also will ensure that art therapists don't need to leave the state to be able to practice and provide services.

CommentID: 232856

Commenter: Adrienne Fridley

2/14/25 10:11 am

Art Therapy Is Needed

Good morning, my name is Adrienne Fridley. I have been with an Art Therapist for just over four years now. I am currently 34 years old and have been in therapy for my CPTSD since I was 19 years old. I would like to state that I attempted to go to my local CSB for regular therapy as well as case management and medication services, however my involvement there was sporadic. I could never identify with a therapist that "fit my needs". There was a therapist in particular that made a statement that "everyone is a victim of sexual assault" and went on to say other belittling comments which made me leave the CSB for some time. (I am a survivor of sexual assault.) My ultimate choice to leave the CSB was when I found out whom my biological father was and I brought it up to my psychiatrist at the time, she told me that "in her country, cousins get married all the time." This was very hurtful to me at the time and not something I needed to hear while Covid was going on. The main reason it was hurtful is my biological mother had me at 14 and I found out thru ancestry DNA that my "biological father" sexually assaulted her and is also her 2nd cousin, he was also well into his mid 20s at the time.

I mentioned Covid because I met my Art Therapist at this time. She is over an hour away from my home and I am able to do my appointments with her via telehealth and see her in person when I'm able to make it there.

Art Therapy ties hand in hand with CPT/CBT Therapy and it should not be looked down upon, it should be further explored to help people and covered by all insurances to help people. Any form of therapy should, rather it be any I've listed in this above statement or other forms such as hypnotism, acupuncture or the countless other things that could truly make a difference in someone's lives.

The statement "a mile a someone's shoes" truly rings here when it comes to this. The stigma surrounding mental illness or illness in general should not exist in 2025.

Thank you for reading. Please feel free to reach out to me.

CommentID: 232857

Commenter: Noel Anderson

2/14/25 10:15 am

I support Art Therapy Licensure

The term "art therapy" is often loosely thrown around as a way to engage in art with some sort of emotional focus. I have run into individuals who claim to do art therapy, but are not certified or licensed, they simply do art. There is a stark difference between an artist and a mental health professional. This is the danger that comes without an art therapy license. I support an Art Therapy license in Virginia to protect the title of Art Therapy, but also protect the individuals who wish to receive such services.

CommentID: 232859

Commenter: Ryan Heathcock, CLVS

2/14/25 10:27 am

I SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH VIA ART THERAPY

Increased mental health access will ensure that art therapy is practiced ethically by qualified professionals. Likewise, art therapists won't need to leave the state to practice. Having access to professionals committed to patient health and wellness is what helps to serve the greater good of the citizens in need within the state of Virginia.

CommentID: 232860

Commenter: Anonymous

2/14/25 10:29 am

Art Therapy is Vital

Art therapy plays a crucial role. It provided my daughter with a way to explore and process sensitive topics that she struggled to understand. Additionally, the art therapist dedicated time to listen to my daughter and introduced her to creative and healthy methods of expressing her thoughts.

CommentID: 232862

Commenter: Emmy Grinnell

2/14/25 10:29 am

I support art therapy

I support art therapy licensures in the state of Virginia!

CommentID: 232863

Commenter: Laurie Cordova

2/14/25 10:38 am

In support of art therapy

In view of the mental health crisis in our state, and the lack of adequate resources for Virginians who would benefit from mental health treatment, I am contacting you as a parent and concerned citizen regarding Regulations Governing the Practice of Art Therapy. This established licensure for art therapists would protect the public and serve to expand access to vital mental health resources for all Virginians. Empowering the Board of Counseling to issue licenses to Virginian art therapists will serve to provide clarity in the marketplace by instituting title and practice protection around art therapy, protecting the public from bad actors or untrained professionals from other fields who would otherwise market themselves as art therapists while providing dangerously substandard care.

CommentID: 232864

Commenter: Kiara Gates

2/14/25 11:18 am

Support Art Therapy

I benefited from art therapy and proudly support it!

CommentID: 232872

Commenter: mia goff

2/14/25 11:26 am

Art therapy is needed

Art Therapy is extremely helpful and important

CommentID: 232873

Commenter: Veronica Genova

2/14/25 11:30 am

Art Therapy is Needed

I have worked with so many populations, all of which have expressed valuing what art therapy has provided them. And I know dozens of art therapist who have had the exact same experiences with even more populations.

CommentID: 232875

Commenter: Susan Garnett, LPC, ATR-BC

2/14/25 11:31 am

Support Art Therapy Licensure

I support the approval of the proposed regulations for state-wide licensure of Art Therapy. This will help make Art Therapy more accessible to more people in Virginia and protect the public from unqualified providers.

Commenter: Peter Linn

2/14/25 12:40 pm

Support for professional credentials for Art Therapists

I support professionalizing the status and credentialing of an extremely important, supportive, and worthwhile profession - Art Therapy. These individuals are able to help a wide variety of people by age, situation, and problem. They not only assist clients through artistic activities, but are just good listeners, able to help folks work their way through difficult concerns with multiple tools. The rigorous academic and field preparation, continuing, supervised development, and commitment to helping others, are essential to being a recognized, credentialed, professional.

CommentID: 232884

Commenter: Erin Donohue

2/14/25 2:03 pm

Art Therapy Licensure

Please consider licensure for Art Therapists to practice in Virginia. Art therapy is a valuable and important therapy for many children and adults who are unable to access traditional talk therapy. Thank you for considering supporting this bill!

CommentID: 232888

Commenter: Dawn E. Campbell, MA Art Therapy - License Eligible

2/14/25 2:18 pm

VA Statewide licensure of Art Therapy

I strongly advocate for the approval of the proposed regulations for statewide licensure of Art Therapy. This crucial step will not only ensure that individuals seeking Art Therapy receive services from qualified and competent professionals, thereby protecting the public's well-being, but also:

- Improve the quality and consistency of Art Therapy services across Virginia.
- Ensure that professional development and ethical standards are promoted within the field.
- Increase public trust and confidence in the efficacy of Art Therapy.
- Licensure will enhance the recognition and integration of Art Therapy within the broader healthcare system, fostering better communication and collaboration between Art Therapists and other healthcare professionals.

CommentID: 232891

Commenter: Vanae Hatcher, MA, ATR-P

2/14/25 6:34 pm

I Support Art Therapy Licensure!!!

I strongly support Art Therapy Licensure in the state of Virginia!!!

CommentID: 232912

Commenter: Mckenzie Slough

2/14/25 7:27 pm

Art Therapy

I support!

CommentID: 232923

Commenter: Saana Williams

2/14/25 7:29 pm

I support!

Art therapy is an important part of mental health practices and deserves the support for this bill. Licensure will ensure that this method is protected and used. I support this bill!

CommentID: 232924

Commenter: Suvi Williams

2/14/25 7:30 pm

Art Therapy Licensure

Let's get art therapy licensure in the state of VA! It's about time!

CommentID: 232925

Commenter: Jen W

2/14/25 7:34 pm

Art Therapy!

Art therapy is a vital method and I fully support getting Art Therapy licensure in VA!!!!

CommentID: 232926

Commenter: Grace Mulumba

2/14/25 7:37 pm

Support Art Therapy

The passing of this bill would significantly improve the field of art therapy in Virginia which is a necessity for the states mental health services.

CommentID: 232927

Commenter: Paola C

2/14/25 7:43 pm

Support Art Therapy!

Fully support Art Therapy licensure in VA!

CommentID: 232928

Commenter: Valerie Butler

2/14/25 7:45 pm

I support ART THERAPY

I support ART THERAPY

CommentID: **232929**

Commenter: SD Hayes

2/14/25 7:47 pm

Art Therapy Licensure

I support Art Therapy Licensure in the state of Virginia!

CommentID: **232930**

Commenter: Vanessa Hayes

2/14/25 7:50 pm

Support Art Therapy

I support Art Therapy licensure in Virginia

CommentID: **232931**

Commenter: Laura Lynn

2/14/25 8:39 pm

Art Therapy in VA

I support Art Therapy licensure in Virginia!

CommentID: **232935**

Commenter: Anonymous

2/14/25 9:06 pm

Art therapy necessary

Art therapy is necessary for the state of Virginia , WE TRULY NEED THIS!!

CommentID: **232936**

Commenter: Claudia Harry

2/14/25 9:23 pm

Art Therapy in Va-yes!

Support

CommentID: **232941**

Commenter: Rindy Trapnell

2/14/25 9:46 pm

Support

I support art therapy.

CommentID: **232943**

Commenter: Lacy Mucklow, MA, ATR-BC, LPAT-S, LCPAT, ATCS

2/14/25 11:59 pm

Support Virginia Licensure

I'm commenting in support of the Virginia art therapy license. It has been many years in the making and I am happy to see that there will be. Licensure, that will put us on par with our other master's level clinicians, as well as recognition of the art therapy profession as a mental health provider to many people who would benefit from it, including the military with whom I have worked for most of my career. Having A license will provide greater availability for services to people who need it. It will also protect the public from people who claim to practice art therapy but are not masters level trained to do so.

CommentID: **232947**