

**Virginia Board of Counseling
Formal Hearing
April 25, 2025**

Matter:	<u>Michele Ward-Horsley, QMHP-A</u> Attorney: n/a Case No.: 205606 Registration No.: 0732004341
Call to Order:	A panel of the Board of Counseling ("Board") convened on April 25, 2025 at 1:16 p.m. at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia, Board Room 2.
Board Members Present/ Establishment of a Quorum:	Terry Tinsley, Ph.D., LPC, CSOTP, Chairperson Maria Anastasiou, LMFT L. Paul Bernard, Ph.D., LPC Marlo Burdge, Citizen Member Nakeisha Gordon, LPC Luann Griffin, LPC Shannon Kuschel, LPC Matthew Scott, LMFT Maria Stransky, LPC, CSAC, CSOTP Tiffinee Yancey, Ph.D., LPC With 10 members present, a quorum of the board was established.
Board Counsel:	James Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Board Staff Present:	Jaime Hoyle, Executive Director Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director Latasha Austin, Licensing Supervisor
Court Reporter:	Juan Ortega, Court Reporter Ortega International Reporting
Parties on Behalf of the Commonwealth:	Emily Tatum, Esq., Senior Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division
Commonwealth's Witnesses:	Dwayne Cromer, Senior Inspector, DHP
Respondent's Witnesses:	None
Preliminary Matters:	Ms. Ward-Horsley did not appear at the formal hearing in accordance with the Notice dated July 2, 2024 and the Amended Notice dated March 24, 2025, and was not represented by legal counsel. Based upon the representation of the Commonwealth, Dr. Tinsley ruled that proper notice was provided to Ms. Ward-Horsley and the hearing proceeded.
Discussion:	The Board received evidence and sworn testimony on behalf of the Commonwealth regarding the allegations in the Notice.

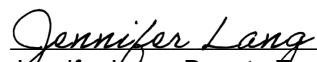
Closed Session: Upon a motion by Ms. Stransky, and duly seconded by Ms. Anastasiou, the Board voted to convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Michele Ward-Horsley, QMHP-A. Additionally, she moved that James Rutkowski, Jaime Hoyle, Jennifer Lang, and Latasha Austin attend the closed meeting because their presence was deemed necessary and would aid the Board in its deliberation.

Reconvene: Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code, the Board reconvened in open session and announced its decision.

Decision and Vote: Ms. Gordon moved that the Board of Counseling indefinitely suspend Ms. Ward-Horsley's right to renew her registration to practice as a QMHP-A, for not less than six months. The basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order which will be sent to respondent at their address of record. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kuschel and passed with a unanimous vote.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The decision shall be effective upon the entry of a written board Order containing the findings, conclusions and decisions of this formal hearing panel.



Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director
Virginia Board of Counseling

May 1, 2025

Date