

**DRAFT**

Virginia Board of Counseling
Regulatory Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233
Board Room 1

- PRESIDING OFFICER:** Gerard Lawson, PhD, LPC, LSATP, NCC, Committee Chairperson
- BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Nakeisha Gordon, LPC
Luanne Griffin, LPC
Terry R. Tinsley, PhD, LPC, LMFT, CSOTP
Cyrus Williams, PhD, LPC, LSATP
- BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** none
- BOARD STAFF PRESENT:** Latasha Austin, Licensing & Operations Manager
Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director
Christy Palmore, Senior Discipline Case Specialist
Maria S. Stransky, LPC, CSOTP, CSAC, Executive Director
- DHP STAFF PRESENT:** Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs, Department of Health Professions
- PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** none
- CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Lawson called the Regulatory Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:** All Committee members and staff introduced themselves. Five Committee members were present in person at roll call, establishing a quorum.
- MISSION STATEMENT:** Dr. Lawson read the Department of Health Professions' mission statement, which also serves as the Committee's mission statement. He then read the emergency egress instructions.
- ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The meeting agenda was adopted as presented.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Board reviewed the minutes from the last meeting held on March 20, 2026.
Motion: Ms. Gordon made a motion, which Ms. Griffin properly seconded, to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2026 Committee meeting, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** Written public comment was emailed to the Board from Sharon Watson requesting that the Board of Counseling change the below residency requirement in the current LPC, LMFT, LSATP regulations and adopt the following as quickly as possible, due to the burden the current regulation is having on some Residents:

The resident will complete a minimum of ~~1,000~~ 500 hours of face-to-face client contact and ~~100~~ 50 hours of supervision within two years immediately preceding application to the board for licensure as a professional counselor.
- NEW BUSINESS:**
- **Consideration of Petition for Rulemaking- Branner**

Ms. Barrett reviewed and discussed with the Committee the Petition for Rulemaking received requesting the Board to allow QMHP supervised hours to count toward licensure as an LPC.

There were ten comments received on the petition, all in support of the petition.

Motion: Dr. Williams made a motion, which Ms. Gordon properly seconded, to recommend to the Board of Counseling that the petition be denied because the scopes of practice and experience between QMHPs and counseling residents are different and such a change would negatively impact public safety.

The motion passed unanimously, with none opposed

- **Consideration of Petition for Rulemaking- Thomas**

Ms. Barrett reviewed and discussed with the Committee the Petition for Rulemaking received requesting the Board to allow experience obtained as a CSAC in another jurisdiction to meet the requirements to be a CSAC supervisor in Virginia.

No comments were received on this petition.

Motion: Ms. Griffin made a motion, which Dr. Williams properly seconded, to recommend to the Board of Counseling that the petition be denied because there is too much variation in certification state by state to reliably endorse experience for supervision.

The motion passed unanimously, with none opposed

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Periodic Reviews**

Ms. Barrett provided a marked-up draft of Chapters 20, 50, and 60 reflecting the last committee discussion with recommended edits for sections not covered. She invited suggestions, general changes, and any needed edits to the regulations.

Ms. Barrett discussed proposed revisions to Chapters 20, 50, and 60, specifically within the following sections: Residency Requirements, Examination Requirements, Renewal, Continued Competency, Documenting Compliance, Late Renewal & Reinstatement, Standards of Practice and Reinstatement Following Disciplinary Action.

The Committee took a break at 11:42 a.m. The meeting was reconvened at 12:02p.m.

Action Items & Next Steps:

The Regulatory Committee will resume the periodic review of Chapters 20, 50, and 60 at the next meeting scheduled for September.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

The next Regulatory Meeting will be held September 11, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Lawson adjourned the June 5, 2026, Regulatory Committee meeting at 12:24 p.m.

Gerard Lawson, PhD, LPC, LSATP, NCC, Committee Chairperson

Maria S. Stransky, LPC, CSOTP, CSAC, Executive Director