

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING
BRIEF
January 2018**

Questions regarding this information may be directed to coun@dhp.virginia.gov
Emails regarding LPC, LMFT, LSATP, CRP or RPRS questions should be sent to: coun@dhp.virginia.gov
Emails regarding CSAC or CSAC-A questions should be sent to: csac@dhp.virginia.gov
Emails regarding QMHP questions should be sent to: qmhp@dhp.virginia.gov
(804) 367-4610 (Main Line)
(804) 367-3053 (QMHPs Only)

<p>BOARD MEMBERS</p> <p>Kevin Doyle, Ed.D, LPC, LSATP <i>Chair</i></p> <p>Jane Engelken, LPC, LSATP <i>Vice-Chair</i></p> <p>Barry J. Alvarez, MS, LMFT Board Member</p> <p>Johnston Brendel, Ed.D, LPC, LMFT Board Member</p> <p>Natalie F. Harris, LPC, LMFT, NCC, CCMHC Board Member</p> <p>Danielle Hunt, LPC Board Member</p> <p>Bev-Freda Jackson, Ph.D. Citizen Member</p> <p>Maria S. Stransky, LPC, CSOTP, CSAC Board Member</p> <p>Vivian Sanchez-Jones Citizen Member</p> <p>Terry Tinsley, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT, NCC, CSOTP Board Member</p> <p>Holly Tracy, LPC, LMFT Board Member</p> <p>Tiffanee Yancey, Ph.D., LPC, ACS, HS-BCP</p>	<p>BOARD ELECTION At the August 19, 2017 board meeting, the Board reelected Kevin Doyle Board Chair, and elected Jane Engelken Vice-Chair.</p> <p>RECENT BOARD MEETING The Board of Counseling held a full board meeting on November 3, 2017. Please visit the Calendar of Events to view the meeting minutes and stay up-to-date with Board activities. The next full Board meeting will be held on February 9, 2018, and is open to the public.</p> <p>2018 RENEWAL REMINDER All Certified Rehabilitation Providers, must renew their certifications by January 31, 2018. Renewal notices were sent by mail and by e-mail to the address on file with the Board. For assistance with online transactions, please contact the Department of Health Professions' Data Call Center at (804) 367-4444.</p> <p>All other Board of Counseling licenses and certifications, except for Certified Rehabilitation Providers, must be renewed by June 30, 2018. As a reminder, beginning with the June 30, 2018 renewal, the Virginia Board of Counseling is implementing an initiative to “Go Green” to reduce the number of paper renewal notices mailed by the Board. PAPER RENEWAL NOTICES WILL NO LONGER BE MAILED BY THE BOARD. Email renewal notices will be sent to all licensees at least 45 days prior to the renewal deadline. Please ensure that your email and mailing address remain up-to-date by logging into our Online Licensing system. All licensees wishing to change their name with the Board must submit the Name/Address Change form.</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE UPDATE Legislation passed during the 2017 Virginia General Assembly authorized the Board of Counseling to register Peer Recovery Specialists and Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHPs). This legislation also required the Board of Counseling to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this legislation within 280 days. As such, at its August 18, 2017 meeting, the Board voted to adopt emergency regulations. These Emergency Regulations Governing the Registration of Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHP) and Emergency Regulations Governing the Registration of Peer Recovery Specialists (RPRS) went into effect on December 18, 2017 and are available on the Virginia Board of Counseling website for your review.</p>
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The Board will begin accepting online applications to register as a QMHP or Peer Recovery Specialist on January 3, 2018. Current QMHPs have a year (January 3, 2018 through December 31, 2018) to become registered. For more information on the process, requirements, and contact information, please click on the following links for [QMHP FAQs](#) and [Peer Recovery Specialist FAQs](#). Additionally, please register with [Virginia Townhall](#) to receive notifications of Board meetings, posting of meeting minutes, regulatory changes and opportunities for public comment.

CHANGES TO THE REGULATIONS

Exemption from CE Requirement for New Licensees and to ease LSATP Endorsement Requirements – Effective December 28, 2017

The Board of Counseling adopted regulations to 1) grant an exemption from continuing education requirements for the first renewal of a license issued by examination; and 2) amend the endorsement requirements to make it possible for persons who hold other behavioral health licenses to obtain a substance abuse treatment professional license.

Requirement for CACREP accreditation for educational programs

The Board of Counseling had re-proposed regulations that would require all counseling programs leading to a license as a professional counselor to be clinically-focused and accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) or an approved affiliate, such as the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). This would be a phased-in requirement, allowing seven years from the effective date for students to complete their education in a non-CACREP program and for programs to achieve accreditation standards.

At its November 3, 2017 meeting, the Board voted to withdraw the stage to allow for more discussion and collaboration.

Clarifying CSAC and CSAC-A Regulations

The Board has been reviewing the regulations for certified substance abuse counselors (CSAC) and certified substance abuse counseling assistants (CSAC-A) to clarify portions of the regulations that have confused applicants, to add more specific requirements for the residency to better ensure accountability and quality in the experience, to add time limits for completion of the residency to avoid perpetual residents who may continue without passage of an examination and completion of certification, to add requirements for continuing education as a requirement for renewal to ensure on-going competency to practice, and to place additional standards of practice in regulation to address issues the Board has seen in complaints and disciplinary proceedings and for consistency with other professions in behavioral health.

These Regulations are currently at the Proposed stage.

Acceptance of doctoral practicum/internship hours towards residency requirements

At its meeting on May 19, 2017, the Board voted to initiate rulemaking in response to a petition filed by Dominique Adkins requesting acceptance of supervised practicum and internship hours in a doctoral program accredited by CACREP. The intent is to recognize hours acquired in

accredited doctoral programs as meeting a portion of the hours of supervised practice required for licensure. These Regulations are currently at the Proposed Stage.

Registration of Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHPs) and Peer Recovery Specialists

At its August 18, 2017 meeting, the Board voted to adopt emergency regulations and initiate rulemaking to require QMHPs and Peer Recovery Specialists to register with the Board of Counseling. The emergency regulations went into effect on December 18, 2017 and the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) which begins the process of making the emergency regulations permanent will be published on January 8, 2018. There will be a public comment period from January 8, 2018 until February 7, 2018.

VIRGINIA REGULATORY TOWN HALL

We encourage you to sign up and register as a Town Hall public user. [Virginia's Regulatory Town Hall](#) is your source for information regarding proposed changes to Virginia's regulations, opportunities for public comment, as well as meeting calendars and board minutes. You may also participate in online forums or sign up to receive email alerts.

HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DATACENTER

The Virginia Department of Health Professions' Healthcare Workforce Datacenter (HWDC) administers a Licensed Professional Counselor Survey during the license renewal process, which takes place every June. 4,291 Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) voluntarily took part in the 2017 Licensed Professional Counselor Survey. Click the link to access the [Virginia's Licensed Professional Counselor Workforce 2017 Report](#).