



**VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING
NEWSLETTER
July 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)

To view this email in a browser [click here](#)

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Ph.D.**
Citizen Member

**Maria S. Stransky,
LPC, CSOTP, CSAC**
Board Member

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations on the reappointments of Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Terry Tinsley, and Holly Tracy!

RECENT BOARD MEETING

The Board of Counseling held a full board meeting on May 18, 2018. 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 November 2, 2018, and is open to the public.

SUPERVISOR SUMMIT

The Board will host a Supervisor Summit on September 7, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Perimeter Center, 2nd Floor, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, VA 23233. This summit will allow an opportunity to explain the laws and regulations around supervision, as well as answer any questions. Attendees will be eligible for 2 hours of continuing education towards next year's renewal. Attendance will be limited to the first 150 registrations. Please register to attend at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4eaaa729abf58-supervisor2>.

QMHP INFORMATION SESSION

The Board will host a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) Information Session on October 11, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Perimeter Center, 2nd Floor, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, VA 23233. This information session will allow an opportunity to explain the registration requirements for QMHPs and answer any questions. Attendance will be limited to the first 150 registrations. Please register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4eaaa729abf58-qmhp>.

REGISTRATION OF QMHPs AND PEER RECOVERY SPECIALISTS

[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](#)



Vivian Sanchez-Jones
Citizen Member

Terry Tinsley, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT, CSOTP
Board Member

Holly Tracy, LPC, LMFT
Board Member

Tiffanee Yancey, Ph.D., LPC
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DHP SENIOR POLICY ANALYST
Elaine Yeatts

[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.

The Board began accepting online applications to register as a QMHP or Peer Recovery Specialist on January 3, 2018. (QMHP and RPRS applicants must submit an online application and mail in their supporting documentation in order to be considered. **All fees must be paid online with a credit card. Paper applications will not be accepted.**)

Current QMHPs who have been employed as QMHPs prior to December 31, 2017, have a year (January 3, 2018 through December 31, 2018) to become registered by submitting an online application, fee, and attestation from an employer that the applicant met the qualifications for a QMHP-A or a QMHP-C during the time of employment. After December 31, 2018, **all** applicants for registration must meet the current requirements for registration. For more information on the process, requirements, application, and contact information, please click on the following links for [QMHP Information Page](#) and [RPRS Information Page](#). Additionally, please register with [Virginia Townhall](#) to receive notifications of Board meetings, posting of meeting minutes, regulatory changes and opportunities for public comment.

EXAMINATION UPDATE

Applicants who were approved prior to 8/24/2016 to sit for the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) have until 8/24/2018 to pass the examination. Applicants who do not pass by this date, will need re-apply and provide evidence of why the board should approve the reapplication for examination. If the Board approves the reapplication, the applicant shall pass the examination within two years of such approval. If the applicant does not pass the examination within this additional two-year period, a new application will **NOT** be accepted.

NEW FORMS AND APPLICATIONS

The Board recently updated its forms and applications. Applicants can continue to use the old forms and applications until July 31, 2018. After August 1, 2018, the Board will only accept the new forms and applications. Forms that were previously signed by the supervisor or by a school official can still be considered past the 8/1/2018 date.

CHANGES TO THE REGULATIONS

Periodic Review of Regulations

The Board adopted a Notice of Intended Periodic Review of its Regulations Governing the Practice of Counseling and the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy, the Regulations Governing the Licensure of Substance Abuse Professionals, and the Regulations Governing the Certification of Rehabilitation Providers to determine which regulations should be repealed, amended, or retained in its current form.

Public comment is sought on the review of any issue relating to these regulations, including whether the regulation (i) is necessary for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare or for the economical performance of important governmental functions; (ii) minimizes the economic impact on small businesses in a manner



consistent with the stated objectives of applicable law; and (iii) is clearly written and easily understandable.

The Public Comment period begins August 6, 2018, and ends on September 5, 2018.

Comments may be submitted online to the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall at <http://www.townhall.virginia.gov/L/Forums.cfm>. Comments may also be sent to:

Elaine J. Yeatts
Senior Policy Analyst
Department of Health Professions
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23233

Credential Review for Foreign Graduates

The Board adopted a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to amend the Regulations to provide a pathway for foreign-trained graduates to obtain licensure in Virginia. The Board intends to adopt language similar to psychology, which provides that graduates of programs that are not within the United States or Canada can qualify for licensure if they can provide documentation from an acceptable credential evaluation service that allows the board to determine if the program meets the requirements set forth in the regulation.

The NOIRA is currently under review by the Department of Planning and Budget.

Registration of Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHPs) The Board adopted Proposed Regulations for registration of qualified mental health professionals pursuant to a mandate of Chapters 418 and 426 of the 2017 Acts of the Assembly. Regulations establish the fees required for registration and renewal of registration and specify the education and experience necessary to qualify for registration. In order to maintain registration, there is a requirement of eight hours of continuing education with a minimum of one hour in ethics. Standards of practice for qualified mental health professionals include practicing within one's competency area, practicing in a manner that does not endanger public health and safety, maintaining confidentiality, and avoiding dual relationships that would impair objectivity and increase risk of client exploitation. A violation of standards of practice or of applicable law or regulation provides grounds for disciplinary action by the Board.

The Proposed Regulations are currently under review by the Department of Planning and Budget.

Registration of Peer Recovery Specialists (RPRS)

The Board adopted Proposed Regulations for registration of peer recovery specialists pursuant to a mandate of Chapters 418 and 426 of the 2017 Acts of the Assembly. Regulations establish the fees required for registration and renewal of registration and specify the qualification for registration, which is evidence of meeting the requirements set out in regulations of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. In order to maintain registration, there is a requirement of eight hours of continuing education with a minimum of one hour in ethics. Standards of practice for registered peer recovery specialists include practicing within one's



competency area, practicing in a manner that does not endanger public health and safety, maintaining confidentiality, and avoiding dual relationships that would impair objectivity and increase risk of client exploitation. A violation of standards of practice or of applicable law or regulation provides grounds for disciplinary action by the Board.

The Proposed Regulations are currently under review by the Department of Planning and Budget.

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) and made recommendations 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 and under review by the Governor's Office.

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 and awaiting publication on 8/6/2018. A public comment period will be open from 8/6/2018 through 10/5/2018. Additionally there will be a public hearing limited to these Regulations on 8/17/2018 at 9:00 a.m. at 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23233.

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.



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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Healthcare Workforce Data Center

The Department of Health Professions Healthcare Workforce Data Center (HWDC) works to improve the data collection and measurement of Virginia's healthcare workforce through regular assessment of workforce supply and demand issues among the 80 professions and 350,000 practitioners licensed in Virginia by DHP.

DHP healthcare workforce data is provided online at <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc>. You can also find the HWDC's most recent report on Virginia's Licensed Professional Counselor Workforce: 2017 <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/docs/BehSci/0701LPC2017.pdf>.

Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program (HPMP)

The Department of Health Professions has a contract with Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Department of Psychiatry, Division of Addiction Psychiatry, to provide confidential services for the health practitioner, who may be impaired by any physical or mental disability, or who suffers from chemical dependency.

Available services include intake, referrals for assessment and/or treatment, monitoring, and alcohol and drug toxicology screens. Practitioners who meet certain criteria may receive approval for a stay of disciplinary action. This allows the practitioner to focus on recovery efforts. Requests for stayed disciplinary action are reviewed by a designated board liaison; with the final decision, being made by the individual's licensing board.

For more information, view the [Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program Orientation Handbook](#).

STAY CURRENT

Please ensure 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](#).