BOARD OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
REGULATORY RESEARCH COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING ON EMERGING PROFESSIONS
May 26, 2010

TIME AND PLACE: The public hearing was called to order at 10:04 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions. The purpose for the hearing was to receive public comment pursuant to its study into the need to regulate the emerging profession: Community Health Workers.

PRESIDING CHAIR: Damien Howell, P.T.

MEMBERS PRESENT: No other members were present.

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Director, Board of Health Professions
Jay Douglas, Executive Director, Virginia Board of Nursing
Laura Chapman, Operations Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: Arthur Garson, Jr.
Mary Sasser, MSW
Debra Riggs, NASWVA
Aimee Perron Seibert, NASWVA

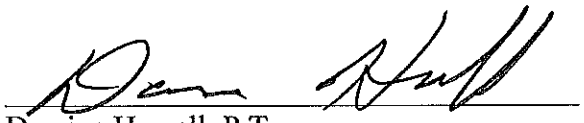
COURT REPORTER: Wanda Blanks, Farnsworth & Taylor Reporting, LLC

PUBLIC COMMENT: Arthur Garson, Jr., Provost, University of Virginia - Dr. Garson addressed the board by explaining the role of Grand Aides and Community Health Workers. 1) Grand Aides are members of the public who are trusted by the community and monitored by a nurse. 2) A training site has been secured in Harrisonburg for the one year training program of Grand Aides. 3) There are 28 protocols to assist people with simple primary care issues. 4) Dr. Garson is working with Virginia Community College System to standardize the curriculum. 5) Grand Aides will receive a laptop computer with internet access and a built in video camera to assist in obtaining and relaying information on the patient. 6) Baseline data will be collected on participating families for one year.

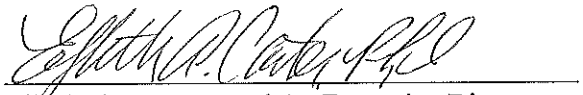
Mary Sasser, MSW, LCSW, MPA
National Association of Social Workers - Ms. Sasser stated that the National Association of Social Workers 1) is in support of regulating community health workers; 2) requests the inclusion of social workers in the team overseeing Grand Aides; 3) stresses the importance of

community health workers not identifying themselves as social workers, unless they are actually social workers; and 4) contends that community health workers and social workers share the same core values and goals.

ADJOURNMENT: The public hearing adjourned at 10:48 a.m.



Damien Howell, P.T.
Chair



Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D. Executive Director
Board of Health Professions