



**VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
NEWSLETTER
March 2021**

BOARD MEMBERS

**Dolores Paulson,
Ph.D., LCSW,
Chairperson**

**Maria Eugenia del
Villar, LCSW
Vice-Chairperson**

**Canek Aguirre
Citizen Member**

**Angelia Allen
Citizen Member**

**Jamie Clancey,
LCSW
Board Member**

**Michael Hayter,
LCSW, CSAC
Board Member**

**Gloria Manns, LCSW
Board Member**

**Teresa B. Reynolds,
LCSW
Board Member**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

June 30, 2020 ended the second term for Joseph Walsh, Ph.D., LCSW. We thank Dr. Walsh for his committed service to the Board and to the Commonwealth. We will continue to benefit from his valuable contributions, and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

We also want to welcome the new board member who began her term on July 1, 2020: Teresa Reynolds, LCSW. And, of course, congratulations to Canek Aguirre and Gloria Manns, LCSW on their reappointments to the Board.

RECENT BOARD MEETING

The Board of Social Work recently held a full board meeting on March 12, 2021. Please visit the [Calendar of Events](#) to view the meeting minutes and stay up-to-date with Board activities. The Board will hold its next full Board meeting on July 23, 2021. All meetings are open to the public, but the Board will probably still hold this meeting virtually while we remain in a State of Emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The agenda will include instructions for accessing the meeting virtually. Staff posts agendas on the website and Virginia Regulatory Townhall approximately one week before the scheduled meeting date but must post the agendas three days prior to the scheduled meeting date.

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.

LEGISLATIVE MANDATES

The 2020 Virginia General Assembly passed legislation requiring the establishment of an Advisory Board for Music Therapy, and to require the Board of Social Work to promulgate Regulations for licensure and renewal of licensure for music therapists.

The Governor appointed the following persons to the Advisory Board on Music Therapy:

- Gary Verhagen, MS, MT-BC, LCAT, Chairperson
- Anna McChesney, MS, LPC, MT-BC, Vice-Chairperson
- Michelle Westfall, MS, MT-BC
- Rae Stone, Citizen Member
- Anthony Meadows, PhD, MT-BC, FAMI



AGENCY STAFF

DHP Director

David E. Brown, D.C.

DHP Chief Deputy Director

Barbara Allison-Bryan, M.D.

DHP Senior Policy Analyst/Regulatory Compliance Manager

Elaine Yeatts

Assistant Attorney General

James Rutkowski

BOARDS OF COUNSELING, PSYCHOLOGY, and SOCIAL WORK STAFF

Executive Director

Jaime Hoyle, J.D.

Deputy Executive Director

Jennifer Lang

Deputy Executive Director, Licensing

Charlotte Lenart

Discipline & Compliance Case Specialist

Christy Evans

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK STAFF

Licensing & Operations Manager

Latasha Austin

Licensing Specialist

The Advisory Board on Music Therapy met on February 19, 2021 to adopt bylaws, elect officers, and adopt a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to promulgate regulations for the licensure of music therapists. The Board of Social Work approved these recommendations at its March 12, 2021 meeting.

REGULATORY ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Unprofessional conduct/practice of conversion therapy

The Board intends to specify in regulations that the requirement for persons licensed or registered by the Board to conduct "one's practice in such a manner so as to make the practice a danger to the health and welfare of one's clients or to the public " precludes the provision of conversion therapy on minors. It also defines what conversion therapy is and is not. The goal is to align regulations of the Board with the stated policy and ethics for the profession of social work.

These regulations are at the final stage. A public comment forum opened on 2/15/2021, and remains open through 3/17/2021. The effective date of the regulation is 3/16/2021.

Changes to supervision requirements

The Board proposes amendments to clarify that the definition of "face-to-face" may include the use of technology in the contact between a supervisee and a client and to add a definition for a "supervisory contract." Other amendments will: (1) clarify that the educational requirements must be completed before persons begin their post-graduate supervised experience; (2) eliminate the requirement that a supervisee notify the Board whenever there is a change of location or supervised experiences; and (3) reiterate that a person must remain under supervision until issued a license. For more information on the changes to the supervision requirements that will be effective 3/18/2021 [click here](#).

This is a Fast-Track action. The effective date of the regulation is 3/18/2021.

Changes to endorsement and reinstatement; standards of practice

The Board will consider amendments to the regulations for:

- 1) licensure by endorsement to eliminate all requirements for either supervised experience or active practice in another jurisdiction;
- 2) reinstatement or reactivation of licensure to eliminate requirements for a person whose license has been lapsed for 10 or more years to provide evidence of either active practice in another jurisdiction or in an exempt setting, or supervised practice of no less than 360 hours in a 12-month period; and,
- 3) additions to the standards of practice to specify that persons licensed by the board shall not engage in physical contact with a client when there is a likelihood of psychological harm to the client and shall not sexually harass a client.

These regulations are at the NOIRA stage, and published in the Virginia Register of Regulations on 3/1/2021.

A public comment forum will open on 3/1/2021 and remain open through 3/31/2021.

SUPERVISOR REGISTRY



Sharniece Vaughan

Administrative Assistant

Jared McDonough

Supervisors are not required to register with the Board; however, it is recommended. Supervisors wishing to be listed on the Approved [supervisory registry](#), must complete and submit to the Board an [Application to be a Board-Approved Supervisor](#). Being listed on the Supervisor Registry prevents the Board from having to review the supervisor's credentials and training in supervision every time a supervisee submits an application for Registration of Supervision.

SUPERVISOR INFORMATION

The Supervisor Information tab includes links to the [supervisory registry](#), [Application to be a Board-Approved Supervisor](#), [Supervisor FAQs](#), Guidance Document 140-9 [Content for Training on Supervision for Clinical Social Work, effective May 13, 2020](#) and the [Template of a Supervisee in Social Work Supervisory Contract](#).

COVID-19 ACTIONS

The Board took a number of actions to help students and licensees during the pandemic. The Board granted a one-year extension to complete any required Continuing Education (CE) to Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Master Social Workers, and Licensed Baccalaureate Social Workers. The Board requires licensees to complete the 2020 CE requirements as well as the 2021 requirements by the June 30, 2021 renewal. Please review the [Renewal FAQs](#) and [Renewal Information Chart](#) for more information on renewals.

Pursuant to Governor Northam's Executive Order 57, the Board issued accelerated temporary licenses to clinical social workers with an active license issued by another state. The Board issued 451 of these licenses with a 1-2 day turn-around. **Those temporary licenses expired on September 8, 2020.**

Health care practitioners with an active license issued by another state may provide continuity of care through telehealth services to their current patients who are Virginia residents. However, if they want to acquire new patients, or the Governor rescinds Executive Order 57, they must apply for full licensure in Virginia.

COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION

To find out more information related to the COVID-19 vaccinations, and when the vaccination will be available to you, please see the Virginia Department of Health information at the following link <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/>.

PAPERLESS LICENSING AND RENEWAL INFORMATION

During 2020, the Department of Health Professions (DHP) moved significantly towards paperless licensing. Everyone receives an initial hard copy and wall certificate of the license, certification, or registration. During the 2019 renewal cycle, you received information indicating that you received the last hard copy of your license. For those under the Board of Social Work, the June 30, 2019 renewal was the last time DHP issued a paper license at renewal. DHP urges all licensees,



employers, and stakeholders to view the status of a license in real time on License Lookup at <https://dhp.virginiainteractive.org/Lookup/Index>. All notification renewals continue to be paperless. Be sure that the Board of Social Work has your correct email address, as this is the communication format the Boards uses to reach applicants and licensees.

NEW WAY FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

As you know, Virginia law requires that all individuals licensed to practice one of the healing arts to immediately report concerns of suspected child abuse and neglect. The Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Division of Family Services (DFS) has developed a new Mandated Reporter Portal, which provides a streamlined and easily accessible way for Mandated Reporters in Virginia to submit reports of suspected abuse and neglect. Data from the Mandated Reporter Portal securely transmits the information to VDSS hotline staff for review. You can access the Portal at <https://vacps.dss.virginia.gov/>. For a quick introduction to the Portal, you can view a brief You Tube video <https://youtu.be/hkbSI4XKvRE> about this new tool. If you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out via virginiaonliniereporting@dss.virginia.gov.

STATISTICS

Current Licenses as of March 15, 2021	
Associate Social Worker	1
Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker	30
Licensed Clinical Social Worker	7,928
Licensed Master's Social Worker	943
LSW Supervision	7
Registered Social Worker	8
Registration of Supervision	2,746
Total for Social Work	11,663

BOARD DECISIONS

You may access the Board's case decisions at www.dhp.virginia.gov (select "License Lookup") or on the Board website under case decisions.

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 Clinical Social Worker Workforce: 2020 at <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/media/dhpweb/docs/hwdc/behsci/0904LCSW2020.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](#).

BOARD RESOURCES

Please visit the Board of Social Work website to find information on many common questions in the various FAQs. You can access handbooks that detail in layman's terms the process and requirements to apply for each profession. We suggest looking there first for answers to any of your questions. If you are unable to find the answer, please contact the Board via email, and let us know. We will answer your question, and then do our best, to provide that information in a more accessible manner on the website.

CURRENT GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

140-1 [Board guidance on use of confidential consent agreements, reaffirmed September 21, 2018](#) (PDF)

140-2 [Impact of Criminal Convictions, Impairment, and Past History on Social Work licensure in Virginia, revised September 20, 2019](#) (Word)

140-3 [Guidance on Technology-Assisted Therapy and the Use of Social Media, revised December 7, 2018](#) (PDF)

140-4-2: [Possible disciplinary or alternative actions for non-compliance with continuing education, revised September 21, 2018](#) (PDF)

140-5 [Board guidance for process of delegation of informal fact-finding to an agency subordinate, re-adopted June 15, 2018](#) (Word)

140-7 [Virginia Board of Social Work By-Laws, revised June 15, 2018](#) (Word)

140-8 [Sanctioning Reference Manual, revised January 2016](#) (PDF)



Virginia Department of
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Board of Social Work

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Email:
socialwork@dhp.virginia.gov
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140-9 [Content for Training on Supervision for Clinical Social Work, effective May 13, 2020](#) (PDF)

140-10 [Supervised experience for clinical social work licensure, revised February 2, 2018](#) (Word)

140-11 [Disposition of disciplinary cases involving practicing on an expired license, revised September 20, 2019](#) (Word)

140-12 [Guidance Document on the Practice of Conversion Therapy, effective June 15, 2019](#) (PDF)

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](#).