

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING
BRIEF
June 2017**

Questions regarding this information may be directed to coun@dhp.virginia.gov

BOARD MEMBERS

**Kevin Doyle, Ed.D, LPC,
LSATP, Chair**

**Sandra Malawer, LPC, LMFT
Vice-Chair**

**Johnston Brendel, Ed.D, LPC,
LMFT**
Board Member

Cinda Caiella, LMFT
Board Member

Jane Engelken, LPC, LSATP
Board Member

**Charles “Rick” Gressard,
Ph.D., LPC, LMFT, LSATP**
Board Member

Danielle Hunt, LPC
Board Member

Bev-Freda Jackson, Ph.D., MA
Citizen Member

**Phyllis Pugh, LPC, LMFT,
CSAC**
Board Member

Vivian Sanchez-Jones
Citizen Member

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

Holly Tracy, LPC, LMFT
Board Member

STAFF

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

June 30, 2017 will end the terms of many of our Board members. We thank Sandra Malawer, Cinda Caiella, Rick Gressard, and, Phyllis Pugh for their committed service to the Board and to the Commonwealth. We will continue to benefit from their valuable contributions, and wish them well in all of their future endeavors.

We also want to welcome the new board members who will begin their terms on July 1, 2017: Barry J. Alvarez, MS, LMFT, AAMFT; Natalie F. Harris, LPC, LMFT, CAADC, NCC, CCMHC; Maria S. Stransky, LPC, CSOTP, CSAC; and, Tiffinee Yancey, Ph.D, LPC, ACS, HS-BCP. And, of course, we congratulate the reappointments of Kevin Doyle and Jane Engelken.

RECENT BOARD MEETING

The Board of Counseling recently held a full board meeting on May 19, 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 August 18, 2017, and is open to the public.

2017 RENEWAL REMINDER

All Board of Counseling licenses and certifications, except for Certified Rehabilitation Providers, must be renewed by June 30, 2017. 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. **Renewal applications** require your attestation of the required continuing education activities since the last renewal.

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](#).

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 requires the Board of Counseling to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this legislation within 280 days. As such, the Board will vote on these regulations at its August 18, 2017 meeting. For more information, please visit the [Board of Counseling website](#) and sign up for alerts on [Virginia's Regulatory Town Hall](#).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jaime Hoyle, J.D.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer Lang

LICENSING MANAGER

Charlotte Lenart

E-MAIL

coun@dhp.virginia.gov

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ADDRESS

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Henrico, VA 23233

CHANGES TO THE REGULATIONSFee Increase – Effective February 8, 2017

Effective February 8, 2017, application and renewal fees increased for the Practice of Professional Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioners, Certification of Rehabilitation Providers and Substance Abuse Counselors and Substance Abuse Counseling Assistants. [Click here for fee increase details](#)

Continuing Education Credit for Volunteer Services – Effective March 9, 2017

The Board adopted regulations to allow licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, and substance abuse treatment practitioners to count up to two hours of the 20 hours required for annual renewal to be satisfied through delivery of mental health or substance abuse treatment services, without compensation, to low-income individuals receiving health services through a local health department or a free clinic organized in whole or primarily for the delivery of those services. One hour of continuing education may be credited for three hours of providing such volunteer services, as documented by the health department or free clinic.

Requirement for CACREP accreditation for educational programs

The Board of Counseling has regulations at the proposed stage 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.

The public comment period is currently open and will remain open through July 14, 2017. To provide comment or to follow the regulatory activity, please sign up and register on [Virginia's Regulatory Town Hall](#).

Updating and 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.

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.

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 including a meetings calendar and board minutes. You may also participate in online forums or sign up to receive email alerts.

VIRGINIA'S OPIOID CRISIS DECLARED A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

On November 21, 2016 Governor McAuliffe issued a [News Release](#) stating that State Health Commissioner Marissa Levine has declared Virginia's opioid abuse crisis a Public Health Emergency in the Commonwealth.

Visit the [Virginia Department of Health](#) for more information. [Download Commissioner Levine's message](#) to healthcare practitioners on dispensing Naloxone.

Effective April 1, 2017, the Department of Medical Assistance Services implemented an enhanced substance use disorder benefit. The Addiction & Recovery Treatment Services (ARTS) expands access to a comprehensive continuum of addiction treatment services. Part of this effort allows for reimbursement of peer recovery specialists, who will be required to register with the Board of Counseling. The Board of Counseling is currently in the process of developing emergency regulations for that purpose, and will vote on these emergency regulations at its August 18, 2017 meeting. For more information on ARTS, please [click here](#) for the DMAS website. For more information on the Board of Counseling regulations, please sign up for alerts on [Virginia's Regulatory Town Hall](#).