



**VIRGINIA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
BOARD BRIEF
January 2021**

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

BOARD MEMBERS

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Welcome to the newly appointed Board members Dr. Aliya Chapman and Stephanie Valentine. Also, thank you to the valuable contributions to the Board and the Commonwealth of Virginia of outgoing Board Member, Dr. Rebecca Vauter.

RECENT BOARD MEETING

The Board of Psychology recently held a full Board meeting on October 27, 2020. 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, 2021. All meetings are open to the public, but the Board will 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 generally posts agendas materials on the website and Virginia Regulatory Townhall approximately one week before the scheduled meeting date, but the law requires staff to post these items 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.

CHANGES TO THE REGULATIONS THAT BECAME EFFECTIVE IN THE LAST 90 DAYS

Implementation of Psychology Interstate Compact

Chapter 1162 of the 2020 Acts of the Assembly mandates membership of the Commonwealth of the Virginia in the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) and requires the Board to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of the act to be effective within 28 days of enactment. Amendments add definitions consistent with the Compact and revise the standards of practice and the grounds for disciplinary action to ensure that they cover persons practicing with an E.Passport or temporary authorization to practice in Virginia through the Compact.

In July 2020, the Board submitted the Emergency Regulations and a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to make the Regulations permanent. The Governor approved the Emergency Regulations on 1/1/2021, which became



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effective on 1/3/2021 and will expire on 7/2/2022. Additionally, the Governor approved the NOIRA on 1/1/2021 and it will be published in the Virginia Register of Regulations on 2/1/2021. At that time, a public comment forum will open and remain open through 3/3/2021. You can submit written public comment via the Virginia Regulatory Townhall, or directly to Elaine Yeatts, DHP Sr. Policy Analyst/Regulatory Compliance Manager at Elaine.yeatts@dhp.virginia.gov.

To find out more information on PSYPACT, or submit an application, please visit [HTTPS://PSYPACT.ORG/](https://psypact.org/)

As part of the CARES ACT funding that ASPPB received during 2020, and in hopes of increasing access to mental health care services via telepsychology, ASPPB is extending the E. Passport application fee (\$400) waiver until January 31, 2021. Please note that you only need to have initiated the E.Passport application by January 31, 2021 to take advantage of the \$400.00 fee waiver. You do not have to have your application submitted or completed by that date. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about starting your application to practice telepsychology under PSYPACT.

REGULATORY ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Unprofessional conduct/conversion therapy

The Board intends to specify in section 150 that the standard of practice requiring licensed psychologists to “avoid harming patients or clients, research participants, students and others for whom they provide professional services and minimize harm when it is foreseeable and unavoidable” includes the provision of conversion therapy and to define 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. The provision bans conversion therapy on minors.

The Board will vote on Final Regulations at its February 9, 2021 meeting.

Periodic Review of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Psychology

The Board completed a Periodic Review of its Regulations Governing the Practice of Psychology. The Board recommended aspects of the Regulations to repeal and/or amend to provide consistency and clarity, reduce the regulatory hurdle for licensure by endorsement, increase the opportunities for continuing education credits, specify a timeframe within which an applicant must have passed the national examination, and simplify the requirement for individual supervision within a residency. The Board also recommended accreditation by the American Psychology Association (APA) and the Canadian Psychology Association (CPA), or an accrediting body acceptable to the Board, be a requirement for all psychology doctoral degree programs within seven years of the regulatory changes becoming final. Finally, the Board recommended revamping the standards of practice to emphasize rules for professionalism, confidentiality, client records, and prohibitions on dual relationships.

The Regulations are at the Final Stage and under review by the Office of the Governor.



Periodic Review of the Regulations Governing the Certification of Sex Offender Treatment Providers

As a result of a periodic review, the Board made amendments by:

- 1) Clarifying and updating requirements and language consistent with current practice;
- 2) Eliminating the need for reference letters with an application, and substituting a report from the National Practitioner Data Bank and verification of any licenses issued by other Boards;
- 3) Providing for acceptance of supervised experience obtained in another state;
- 4) Adding an allowance for exceptions or exemptions for continuing education requirements; and,
- 5) Expanding the standards of practice and grounds for disciplinary action for consistency with other Boards and professions.

The Department of Planning and Budget is currently reviewing these regulations for Fast-Track Authorization.

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 all licensees. The Board requires licensees to complete the 2020 CE requirements as well as the 2021 requirements by the June 30, 2021 renewal.

Please note that regardless of the COVID-19 actions, not all continuing education courses must be face-to-face. At least six of the required hours must be earned in face-to-face or real-time interactive educational experiences. Real-time interactive includes a course in which the learner has the opportunity to interact with the presenter during the time of the presentation. The Board considers Zoom, WebEx, or any video conferencing platforms real-time interactive educational experience.

Pursuant to Governor Northam's Executive Order 57, the Board issued accelerated temporary licenses to clinical psychologists with an active license issued by another state. The Board issued 577 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 if the Governor rescinds Executive Order 57, they must apply for full licensure in Virginia. If you are a Virginia licensee and want to provide clinical services to clients in another state, please check with the state in which the client resides to determine if that state allows you practice without a license.



COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccinations, and when the vaccinations 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 toward 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 professions under the Board of Psychology, 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 Psychology has your correct email address, as this is the communication format the Board uses to reach applicants and licensees.

EXAMINATION FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN PSYCHOLOGY (EPPP) Part 2

Our mission includes ensuring safe and competent patient care. As you may be aware, the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) has administered the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) for many years. This examination is designed to measure the foundational knowledge needed for entry-level licensure in psychology. All jurisdictions in North America utilize the EPPP. At the request of member jurisdictions, ASPPB has more recently developed the EPPP (Part 2-Skills) to provide a valid, reliable, and legally defensible measure of a universal set of skills needed for entry-level licensure. A component of the EPPP, this is a computer based examination that assesses those skills, and it will become available in January 2021. Going forward, the knowledge exam will be known as the EPPP (Part 1 – Knowledge). More detail on the composition of and rationale for the new exam is available on [ASPPB's website](#).

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/hkbSI4XKVRt> about this new tool. If you have any questions or



feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out via virginiaonlinereporting@dss.virginia.gov.

BOARD RESOURCES

Please visit the Board of Psychology website to find information on many common questions. If you are unable to find the answer, please contact the Board via email, and let us know. Staff will answer your question, and then do our best to provide that information in a more accessible manner on the website.

The Board staff has updated the Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider (CSOTP) applications and forms. Additionally, the Board now requires that a CSOTP trainee provide a supervisory contract prior to the Board approving the applicant to begin the supervision.

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.

2020 STATISTICS

Current Licenses	
Applied Psychologist	29
Clinical Psychologist	4,044
Resident in School Psychology	10
Resident in Training	371
School Psychologist	98
School Psychologist-Limited	633
Sex Offender Treatment Provider	442
SOTP Trainee	131
Total for Psychology	5758

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 Psychologist Workforce: 2020 at <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/media/dhpweb/docs/hwdc/behsci/0810CP2020.pdf>.

Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program (HPMP)

The Virginia Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program (HPMP) is an alternative to disciplinary action for qualified healthcare practitioners with a substance use diagnosis, a mental health or physical diagnosis that may alter their ability to



practice their profession safely. HPMP refers healthcare professionals for appropriate treatment and provides ongoing monitoring of treatment progress.

The goal for each participant is to assist and support the recovery process, including achieving and maintaining optimal physical, mental, and emotional health. The HPMP team has the expertise to help practitioners skillfully navigate their return to safe and productive clinical practice.

The Department of Health Professions (DHP) contracts with Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Department of Psychiatry to provide services including: Intake to determine program eligibility; Referrals to providers for clinical assessment and treatment; Monitoring of treatment progress and clinical practice; and, Alcohol and drug toxicology screens when indicated.

Participation in the program is voluntary. A practitioner may avoid disciplinary action and, in the absence of criminal behavioral or Board action, avoid the generation of a public record. For those participants with Board involvement, our team provides support including participant preparation for hearings and providing the Board with documentation or testimony of monitoring compliance.

HPMP services are available to anyone who:

- holds a current, active license, certification or registration by a health regulatory board in Virginia,
- Holds a multi-state licensure privilege,
- Is an applicant for initial or reinstatement of licensure, certification, or registration for up to one year from the date of receipt of the application.

The experienced team is available to confidentially answer your questions and receive referrals, including self-referrals.

Contact HPMP

Call: 1-866-206-4747

Email: vahpmp@vcuhealth.org

Fax: 804-828-5386

CURRENT GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

The Code of Virginia requires annual publication of lists of guidance documents from state agencies. A guidance document is defined as "...any document developed by a state agency or staff that provides information or guidance of general applicability to the staff or public to interpret or implement statutes or the agency's rules or regulations..." Agencies are required to maintain a complete, current list of all guidance documents and make the full text of such documents available to the public.

125-2 [Impact of Criminal Convictions, Impairment, and Past History on Licensure or Certification, revised July 10, 2018](#)



125-3.1 [Submission of Evidence of Completion of Graduate Work, reaffirmed July 10, 2018](#)

125-3.2 [Official Beginning of a Residency, revised July 10, 2018](#)

125-3.8 [Flowchart and narrative explanation for guidance on conduct of an informal conference by an agency subordinate, revised July 10, 2018](#)

125-3.9 [Policy on the use of confidential consent agreements in lieu of disciplinary action by the Board, revised July 10, 2018](#)

125-5.1 [Board guidance on possible disciplinary action for non-compliance with continuing education requirements, reaffirmed July 10, 2018](#)

125-5.2 [Behavioral Sciences Boards' Sanctioning Reference Points Instruction Manual](#) (PDF)

125-6 [Bylaws, effective April 16, 2020](#) (PDF)

125-7 [Electronic Communication and Telepsychology, adopted October 30, 2018](#)

125-8 [Use of Assessment Titles and Signatures, adopted October 30, 2018](#)

125-9 [Guidance document on the practice of conversion therapy, effective May 2, 2019](#)

STAY CURRENT

Please ensure 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](#).