



**VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING
NEWSLETTER
January 2021**

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](#)

BOARD MEMBERS

Johnston Brendel,
Ed.D, LPC, LMFT
Chair

Danielle Hunt, LPC
Vice-Chair

Barry J. Alvarez,
MS, LMFT
Board Member

Kevin Doyle, Ed.D,
LPC, LSATP
Board Member

Jane Engelken, LPC,
LSATP
Board Member

Natalie F. Harris,
LPC, LMFT
Board Member

Bev-Freda Jackson,
Ph.D.
Citizen Member

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

RECENT BOARD MEETING

The Board of Counseling held a full board meeting on November 6, 2020. Please visit the [Calendar of Events](#) to view the meeting minutes and stay up-to-date with Board activities. The Board holds its next meeting on February 5, 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 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.

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

Registration of Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHP) - Trainees

The Board adopted regulations to implement registration of persons who are in training to become a qualified mental health professional – adult (QMHP-A) or qualified mental health professional – child (QMHP-C). Amendments for registration as a trainee specify the same education requirement to register as a QMHP – A or QMHP – C.

This regulation became effective on 10/29/2020.

REGULATORY ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Unprofessional Conduct – Conversion Therapy



Vivian Sanchez-Jones
Citizen Member

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

Holly Tracy, LPC, LMFT
Regulatory Committee Chair

Tiffanee Yancey, Ph.D., LPC
Board Member

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

The Board intends to specify in regulations that the standard of practice requiring licensed, certified, or registered by the Board to include conversion therapy. The Board will adopt final regulations at the February 5, 2021 meeting.

Resident License

The Board adopted Emergency Regulations to implement the statutory mandate for issuance of a temporary license for a residency in counseling, marriage and family therapy, and substance abuse treatment. At the same time, the board initiated rulemaking to make these regulations permanent. The amendments set fees for initial and renewal or a resident license, qualifications for the issuance of a license and for its renewal, limitations on the number of times a resident may renew the temporary license, and a time limit for passage of the licensing examination.

The Board will adopt final regulations at the February 5, 2021 meeting.

Periodic Review of the Regulations Governing the Certification of Rehabilitation Providers

The Board conducted a periodic review and recommended changes. The intent of the amendments resulting from the periodic review is to update regulations, clarify language, and achieve some consistency among standards of practice and renewal requirements for certified and registered professions. The Board will consider whether the addition of some hours of continuing education are necessary to ensure continued competency and will also add grounds for disciplinary actions that are found in all other chapters.

The Board will adopt final regulations resulting from the periodic review at the February 5, 2021 meeting.

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 the Board should repeal, amend, or retain in its current form.

The Board submitted a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) in February 2019 that included changes to the Regulations based on the Periodic Review. These Regulations are now at the Proposed stage.

The Office of the Governor is currently reviewing the Proposed Regulations resulting from the Periodic Review.

Regulations Governing the Licensure of Art Therapists

Chapter 301 of the 2020 General Assembly requires the Board to promulgate regulations governing the practice of art therapy. The Code specifies the credential the Board will consider as qualification for licensure as an art therapist and as an art therapy associate. The Board will adopt additional requirements similar to other licensed professions for a fee structure, renewal or reinstatement, continuing competency, supervision of persons in training, and standards of practice.



Deputy Executive Director, Licensing
Charlotte Lenart

Discipline Case & Compliance Manager
Christy Evans

BOARD OF COUNSELING STAFF

Licensing Program Managers
Brenda Maida
Sandie Cotman

Licensing Specialist
Victoria Cunningham

Administrative Assistants
Shannon Brogan
Dalyce Logan
Jared McDonough

The Board adopted the NOIRA at its November 6, 2020 meeting. The Office of the Governor is currently reviewing the NOIRA.

Please note the regulatory process can take 18 to 24 months to complete. As such, it will be awhile before the Board begins issuing licenses to art therapists. Please keep informed by registering on Townhall and visiting the Board of Counseling website for updates.

NEWLY APPOINTED ADVISORY BOARD ON ART THERAPY

The Governor appointed the following persons to the Advisor Board on Art Therapy, that falls under the Board of Counseling:

- Brenda Bonuccelli, LCSW
- Gretchen Graves, MS, ATR-BC, CDATA, *Chair*
- Elizabeth Anne Mills, LPC, ATR-BC, *Vice-Chair*
- Lelia Saadeh, LPC, ATR-BC
- Holly Zajur

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 Professional Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Substance Abuse Practitioners, as well as Certified Substance Abuse Counselors and Qualified Mental Health Professionals. The Board requires licensees and residents to complete the 2020 CE requirements as well as the 2021 requirements by the June 30, 2021 renewal.

Pursuant to Governor Northam’s Executive Order 57, the Board issued accelerated temporary licenses to professional counselors and marriage and family therapists with an active license issued by another state. The Board issued 638 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 Executive Order 57 is rescinded, they must apply for full licensure in Virginia.

Pursuant to Governor Northam’s Executive Order 51, the Board waived the regulations regarding internship hours for the Practice of Professional Counseling, the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy, and the Practice of Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioners as indicated below:

Licensed Professional Counselor
18VAC115-20-52(A)(2). Residency Requirements.

For students who have successfully completed their required graduate degree and successfully completed the coursework requirements, including satisfactorily passing the internship requirement to graduate from the program, the specific internship hours specified in 18VAC115-20-51 shall be waived if a minimum of 240 hours were completed and the deficient hours occurred during the effective period of Executive Order No. 51.



Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
18VAC115-50-60(A)(2) Residency Requirements.

For students who have successfully completed their required graduate degree and successfully completed the coursework requirements, including satisfactorily passing the internship requirement to graduate from the program, the specific internship hours specified in 18VAC115-50-55 shall be waived if a minimum of 240 hours were completed and the deficient hours occurred during the effective period of Executive Order No. 51.

Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Provider
18VAC115-60-80(A)(2). Residency Requirements.

For students who have successfully completed their graduate degree and satisfactorily passed the internship requirement to successfully graduate from the program, the specific internship hours specified in 18VAC115-60-70 shall be waived if a minimum of 240 hours were completed and the deficient hours occurred during the effective period of Executive Order No. 51.

These waivers expired on June 10, 2020.

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 Counseling, the December 31, 2019 (for Certified Rehabilitation Providers) and the June 30, 2019 renewal for all other professions 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 Counseling has your correct email address, as this is the communication format the Boards uses to reach applicants and licensees.

Resident License Renewal Information

Please note that the Board requires those that the Board initially approved for residency prior to 1/1/2020 to renew on 1/31/2021 and complete continuing education.

Additionally, the Board has developed a chart and FAQ for to help assist residents and their supervisors identify the changes and the requirements for a Licensed Resident in Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy and Substance Abuse Treatment.

Links to the comparison chart and FAQs are below:
[Resident in Counseling comparison chart and FAQs](#)



[Resident in Marriage and Family comparison chart and FAQs](#)
[Resident in Substance Abuse Treatment comparison chart and FAQs](#)

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.

2020 STATISTICS

Current Licenses as of December 31, 2020	
Profession	Current Licensees
<i>Certified Substance Abuse Counselor</i>	1913
<i>Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist</i>	932
<i>Licensed Professional Counselor</i>	6894
<i>Certified Rehab Counselor</i>	198
<i>Qualified Mental Health Prof-Adult</i>	7403
<i>Qualified Mental Health Prof-Child</i>	5929
<i>Registered Peer Recovery Specialist</i>	310
<i>Resident In Counseling</i>	4227
<i>Resident in Marriage and Family Therapy</i>	234
<i>Resident in Substance Abuse Treatment</i>	11
<i>Substance Abuse Counseling Assistant</i>	265
<i>Substance Abuse Trainee</i>	1959
<i>Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner</i>	317
<i>Trainee for Qualified Mental Health Prof</i>	4589
Total for Counseling	35,181

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 Professional Counselor Workforce: 2020 at <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/media/dhpweb/docs/hwdc/behsci/0701LPC2020.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 Counseling 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

115-1.1, [Possible Disciplinary or Alternative Actions for Non-Compliance with Continuing Education Requirements, revised July 25, 2019](#)

115-1.2, [Bylaws, revised July 25, 2019](#)

115-1.4, [Guidance on Technology-Assisted Counseling and Technology-Assisted Supervision, effective October 15, 2020](#)

115-1.5, [Sanctioning Reference Points, revised January 2016](#) (pdf)

115-1.8, [Examinations approved by the Board for Certification as a Rehabilitation Counselor, reaffirmed November 22, 2019](#)



115-1.9, [National Certifications approved by the Board for Certification as a Substance Abuse Counselor by endorsement, revised February 9, 2018](#)

115-2, [Impact of Criminal Convictions, Impairment and Past History on Licensure or Certification, revised February 9, 2018](#)

115-2.1, [Guidance on Use of Hypnosis and Hypnotherapy, revised May 18, 2018](#)

115-3, [Credential Appeals FAQ's, July 25, 2019](#)

115-4.1, [Evidence of clinical practice for licensure by endorsement, revised May 18, 2018](#)

115-4.3, [Hours in an internship applied towards residency, adopted February 19, 2010, Reaffirmed November 3, 2016](#)

115-4.11, [Board guidance on use of confidential consent agreements, revised May 18, 2018](#)

115-5, [Guidance for Conduct of an Informal Conference by an Agency Subordinate of a Health Regulatory Board at the Department of Health Professions, revised May 18, 2018](#)

115-6 [Guidance on Emotional Support Animals, effective April 2, 2020](#)

115-7, [Supervised Experience Requirements for the Delivery of Clinical Services for Professional Counselor Licensure, effective October 15, 2020](#)

115-8, [Approved Degrees in Human Services and Related Fields for QMHP Registration, revised February 9, 2018](#)

115-9, [Recognition of Entity for Licensure by Endorsement, adopted November 1, 2018](#)

115-10, [Guidance Document on the Practice of Conversion Therapy, effective June 30, 2019](#)

115-11, [Scope of Practice for Persons Regulated by the Board to provide Substance Abuse Treatment](#), effective January 23, 2020 (pdf)

115-12, [Acceptance of Disaster Mental Health Worker for continuing competency requirements](#), effective January 23, 2020 (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](#).



Virginia Department of
Health Professions
Board of Counseling

9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, VA 23233-1463
www.dhp.virginia.gov/counseling

Email: coun@dhp.virginia.gov
(804) 367-4610 (Tel)
(804) 527-4435 (Fax)