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Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Board of Medicine, Department of Health Professions
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation	18VAC85-150-10 et seq.
Regulation title	Regulations Governing the Practice of Behavior Analysis
Action title	New regulations for licensure of behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts
Date this document prepared	12/27/13

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Orders 14 (2010) and 58 (1999), and the Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual.

Brief summary

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 2 short paragraphs) of the proposed new regulation, proposed amendments to the existing regulation, or the regulation proposed to be repealed. Alert the reader to all substantive matters or changes. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation. Also, please include a brief description of changes to the regulation from publication of the proposed regulation to the final regulation.

Chapter 3 (House Bill 1106) of the 2012 Acts of the Assembly mandated that the Board of Medicine promulgate regulations to implement the licensure of behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts. The Board has established criteria for licensure and requirements for fees and applications, standards of practice, procedures for the supervision of assistant behavior analysts and criteria for supervision of unlicensed individuals who assist in the provision of applied behavior analysis. In its final adoption, the Board made no changes to the regulation from publication of the proposed regulation.

Statement of final agency action

Please provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including (1) the date the action was taken, (2) the name of the agency or board taking the action, and (3) the title of the regulation.

On December 27, 2013, the Board of Medicine adopted final regulations for 18VAC85-150-10 et seq., Regulations Governing the Practice of Behavior Analysis.

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Legal basis

Please identify the state and/or federal legal authority to promulgate this proposed regulation, including (1) the most relevant citations to the Code of Virginia or General Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable, and (2) promulgating entity, i.e., agency, board, or person. Your citation should include a specific provision authorizing the promulgating entity to regulate this specific subject or program, as well as a reference to the agency/board/person's overall regulatory authority.

Regulations are promulgated under the general authority of Chapter 24 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia. Section 54.1-2400, which provides the Board of Medicine the authority to promulgate regulations to administer the regulatory system:

§ 54.1-2400 -General powers and duties of health regulatory boards

The general powers and duties of health regulatory boards shall be:

...

6. To promulgate regulations in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.) which are reasonable and necessary to administer effectively the regulatory system. Such regulations shall not conflict with the purposes and intent of this chapter or of Chapter 1 (§ 54.1-100 et seq.) and Chapter 25 (§ 54.1-2500 et seq.) of this title. ...

In § 54.1-2957.16, the Board of Medicine is mandated to promulgate regulations for the licensure of behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts:

§ 54.1-2957.16. Licensure of behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts; requirements; powers of the Board.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to practice or to hold himself out as practicing as a behavior analyst or to use the title "Licensed Behavior Analyst" unless he holds a license as a behavior analyst issued by the Board. It shall be unlawful for any person to practice or to hold himself out as practicing as an assistant behavior analyst or to use the title "Licensed Assistant Behavior Analyst" unless he holds a license as an assistant behavior analyst issued by the Board. The Board shall issue licenses to practice as a behavior analyst or an assistant behavior analyst to applicants for licensure who meet the requirements of this chapter and the Board's regulations.
- B. The Board shall establish criteria for licensure as a behavior analyst, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- 1. Documentation that the applicant is currently certified as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board or any other entity that is nationally accredited to certify practitioners of behavior analysis;
- 2. Documentation that the applicant conducts his professional practice in accordance with the Behavior Analyst Certification Board Guidelines for Responsible Conduct and Professional Ethical and Disciplinary Standards and any other accepted professional and ethical standards the Board deems necessary; and

3. Documentation that the applicant for licensure has not had his license or certification as a behavior analyst or as an assistant behavior analyst suspended or revoked and is not the subject of any disciplinary proceedings by the certifying board or in another jurisdiction.

Form: TH-03

- C. The Board shall establish criteria for licensure as an assistant behavior analyst, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- 1. Documentation that the applicant is currently certified as a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board or any other entity that is nationally accredited to certify practitioners of behavior analysis;
- 2. Documentation that the applicant conducts his professional practice in accordance with the Behavior Analyst Certification Board Guidelines for Responsible Conduct and Professional Ethical and Disciplinary Standards and any other accepted professional and ethical standards the Board deems necessary;
- 3. Documentation that the applicant for licensure has not had his license or certification as an assistant behavior analyst suspended or revoked and is not the subject of any disciplinary proceedings by the certifying board or in another jurisdiction; and
- 4. Documentation that the applicant's work is supervised by a licensed behavior analyst in accordance with the supervision requirements and procedures established by the Board. D. The Board shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this chapter related to (i) application for and issuance of licenses to behavior analysts or assistant behavior analysts, (ii) requirements for licensure as a behavior analyst or an assistant behavior analyst, (iii) standards of practice for licensed behavior analysts or licensed assistant behavior analysts, (iv) requirements and procedures for the supervision of a licensed assistant behavior analyst by a licensed behavior analyst, and (v) requirements and procedures for supervision by licensed behavior analysts and licensed assistant behavior analysts of unlicensed individuals who assist in the provision of applied behavior analysis services.
- E. The Board shall establish a fee, determined in accordance with methods used to establish fees for other health professionals licensed by the Board of Medicine, to be paid by all applicants for licensure as a behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst.

Purpose

Please explain the need for the new or amended regulation. Describe the rationale or justification of the proposed regulatory action. Detail the specific reasons it is essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens. Discuss the goals of the proposal and the problems the proposal is intended to solve.

The intent of the Board of Medicine is to adopt regulations for the licensure of behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts as mandated by legislation passed by the 2012 General Assembly. The purpose of the regulations is to set out criteria for licensure, fees for applicants and licensees, renewal and continuing education requirements, rules for supervision and professional standards of practice. The Board has adopted regulations that are consistent with standards and criteria of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), the professional credentialing body of applied behavior analysis and with rules for other professions currently licensed by the Board of Medicine. It is the intent and goal of the regulation that those who are currently certified by the BACB and who engage in the ethical, professional practice of applied behavior analysis be

able to continue providing services to those children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, as licensees of the Board of Medicine

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Since behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts seeking licensure are providing services to a very vulnerable population (including children with autistic spectrum disorder), the Board has adopted regulations for ethical practice and supervisory responsibilities that may protect the health and safety of those clients. Specific criteria for supervision by behavior analysts and standards of professional conduct for both types of licensee will provide a framework for ethical, responsible practice in which the welfare of the client is foremost.

Substance

Please identify and explain the new substantive provisions, the substantive changes to existing sections, or both where appropriate. A more detailed discussion is required under the "All changes made in this regulatory action" section.

The Board has established criteria for licensure and requirements for fees and applications, provisions for renewal and reinstatement of licensure, standards of practice, procedures for the supervision of assistant behavior analysts and criteria for supervision of unlicensed individuals who assist in the provision of applied behavior analysis.

Issues

Please identify the issues associated with the proposed regulatory action, including:

- 1) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the public, such as individual private citizens or businesses, of implementing the new or amended provisions;
- 2) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the agency or the Commonwealth; and
- 3) other pertinent matters of interest to the regulated community, government officials, and the public. If there are no disadvantages to the public or the Commonwealth, please indicate.
- 1) The primary advantage to the public is a regulatory standard by which to judge minimal competency to practice behavior analysis. Additionally, third party payers are required to cover BA services for children with autism, so there is a financial benefit to licensure. During the development of regulations, the autism community expressed concern that Board regulations may restrict the use of unlicensed person acting under supervision of a licensed behavior analyst. The Board has reiterated that it believes certain tasks may be delegated within the provisions of law and regulation to persons who are appropriately trained and supervised. Public comment seems to indicate that the autism community believes the current regulations have been effective.
- 2) There are no particular advantages or disadvantages to the agency or the Commonwealth.
- 3) There are no other pertinent matters of interest.

Changes made since the proposed stage

Form: TH-03

Please describe all changes made to the text of the proposed regulation since the publication of the proposed stage. For the Registrar's office, please put an asterisk next to any substantive changes.

There have been no changes made to the text of the proposed regulation since publication of the proposed stage.

Public comment

Please summarize all comments received during the public comment period following the publication of the proposed stage, and provide the agency response. If no comment was received, please so indicate.

The public comment period was from October 7, 2013 to December 6, 2013. A public hearing was conducted by the Board on October 24, 2013. The following comments were received:

Hearing		Board response
ations a Ea a ps s 2 a a s a a h 3 po n 4 s	Outlined four issues with the applied behavior analysis (ABA) services delivered in VA: 1) Oversight and supervision of licensed assistant behavior analysts. Limited levels of training and skills have almost independent clinical practice with almost no on-site supervision and no limit to the number of assistants that a licensed BA can supervise. Board should impose a maximum of 5 assistants for supervision by a BA and require at least 2 hours of face-to-face time with each patient. Licensed BA and licensed ABA should be on site or in the office suite with services are provided. 2) Oversight and supervision of unlicensed assistants implementing ABA. Unlicensed assistants implementing ABA. Unlicensed assistance are provided direct, on-site supervision by the licensed behavior analyst and/or licensed assistant behavior analyst or at minimum be on-site in the office suite or home at the time service is delivered. 3) Supervision, use and billing practices for persons certified or being trained in ABA. The only services that should be billable are those rendered by a licensed professional. 4) Composition of an advisory panel for ABA should include a licensed clinical psychologist.	1) Since there are varying levels of client care and expertise required in different situations, the Board does not recommend a limit on the number of assistants that can be supervised or any additional, mandated face-to-face time with each patient. Regulations specify that the licensed BA is fully accountable for services and the welfare of the patient. 2) A requirement for the licensed person to be on site whenever services are being provided would eliminate almost all in-home services and severely affect the effectiveness of behavior analysis for autistic children. 3) The Board does not regulate billing practices and reimbursement by third party payors. 4) The composition of an advisory board or panel would be determined by the General Assembly through legislation. Response same as above.
	Regulations should be amended to: 1) limit the number of assistants that may be	

Psychologists (VACP)	supervised by a licensed behavior analyst (BA); 2) require licensed BA to have at least 2 hours of face-to-face time with each patient; 3) require BA and assistant behavior analyst (ABA) to be "on site" or "in the office suite" at the time services are delivered; 4) require only ABA services provided by a licensee to be billable as billing of services by poorly trained individuals is misleading to the public. The Board should seek legislation to form an Advisory Panel with seats for licensed clinical psychologists	
James Morris	1) The practice of behavior analysis does not appropriately fall under the Board of Medicine; should be regulated by the Dept. of Education. 2) The Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) has no university or professional association affiliations. 3) The scope of practice of a profession is typically defined in the Code, not in regulation; the regulation does not have details about actual behaviors or interventions that the individual can perform. There is no definition of the term "environmental modifications" as used in the scope of practice. 4) There is no scope of practice for assistant behavior analysts; the domains of competency are not listed in regulation and no requirement for an assistant to demonstrate competencies. 5) The language on supervision of unlicensed personnel appears to allow the BA to delegate any and all professional activities to unlicensed persons, in opposition to the law. 6) Proposed regulations are less clearly defined than for other health professions.	1) Legislation for regulation of the profession authorized the Board of Medicine; a bill in the General Assembly would be required to change that authorization. 2) The BACB is the recognized accrediting body for graduate programs in behavior analysis. Professional credentialing bodies are not typically affiliated with a university. 3) The scope of practice is defined in the Code in the definition of the "practice of behavior analysis." Professional licensure regulations do not typically specify the details of the practice and the interventions that may be performed. 4) Assistant behavior analysts do have competencies that must be attained and a certification examination that must be passed for licensure. 5) The language in Code and regulation does not allow the BA to delegate any and all professional activities to unlicensed persons. 6) Regulations for behavior analysts closely follow, in content and format, regulations for other professions under the Board of Medicine.

Commenters in writing or on-line	Comment	Board response
Christy Evanko	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
David Mittermaier	Regulations are working well; families in need of services receiving them from qualified professionals	Final regulations are identical to those currently written

Kriatia Halaaraan	Current regulations represent the fields well	Final regulations are identical to
Kristin Helgerson	Current regulations represent the fields well and have enabled the continued delivery of quality services by licensed professionals. Regulations should remain as written. An advisory board should be created.	Final regulations are identical to those currently written; creation of an advisory board requires a Code change
Laura Stacey- McKane	Same as above	Final regulations are identical to those currently written; creation of an advisory board requires a Code change
Chris Hudson	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Lisa Bragg	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Carmel Soergel	Support the regulations as currently written; BACB certification and an advisory board are recommended	Final regulations are identical to those currently written; creation of an advisory board requires a Code change
Jessica Philips	Current (emergency) regulations have supported licensed BCBA's practice and are working.	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
John Prickett	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Christina Eppnk	Support the regulations as currently written; BACB certification should remain as requirement for BA's providing services in VA.	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Lisa Falke	Support the regulations as currently written; provide access to staff highly trained and educated in behavior analysis to clients	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Matthew Osborne	Current regulations are sufficient; have enabled thousands of children and adolescents to overcome the challenges associated with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Proposed changes (from psychologists) will negatively impact the current services delivery model.	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Sara Mamsila	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Stephanie Miller	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Kate Lewis	Current regulations represent the fields well and have enabled the continued delivery of quality services by licensed professionals. Regulations should remain as written. An advisory board should be created.	Final regulations are identical to those currently written; creation of an advisory board requires a Code change
Maria Soldatenkov	Support the regulations as currently written; BACB certification should remain as requirement for BA's providing services in VA. An advisory board should be created.	Final regulations are identical to those currently written; creation of an advisory board requires a Code change
Kristina Zaccaria	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Michelle VanSetten	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Anna Quigley	Applied Behavior Analysis is scientifically proved to help those that have autism; we need to be proactive.	Final regulations are identical to those currently written

Tania Gonzalez	Command was relations are affective but DACD	Final vanulations are identical to
rania Gonzalez	Current regulations are effective but BACB	Final regulations are identical to those currently written; creation of
	certification should be requirement for licensure and standard for profession.	an advisory board requires a Code
	Regulations should remain as written. An	change
	advisory board should be created.	Change
Karin Koga	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
Nami Noga	Support the regulations as currently written	those currently written
Brittany Frey	Support the regulations as currently written;	Final regulations are identical to
Difficulty 1 Toy	BACB certification should remain as	those currently written; creation of
	requirement for BA's providing services in VA.	an advisory board requires a Code
	An advisory board should be created.	change
Eli Newcomb	On behalf of the Faison Center, supports the	Final regulations are identical to
	regulations as currently written; commends	those currently written
	the Board for promulgating regulations that	,
	have led to many positive outcomes for	
	recipients of behavior analytic services.	
Spring Dolbec	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
		those currently written
Kelly Smith	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
		those currently written
Heather Weston	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
		those currently written
Miguel Macaspac	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
		those currently written
Suzanna Myers	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
T. D. I.		those currently written
Thomas Budd	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
Carol Woodall	Company the amount of the amou	those currently written
Carol woodall	Support the regulations as currently written;	Final regulations are identical to
	changes proposed threaten the delivery of these services to those diagnosed with	those currently written
	autism	
Dave O'Brien	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
		those currently written
Prasanna	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
Pasyavala		those currently written
James Parker	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
		those currently written
Sheryl Eppink	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
		those currently written
Fred Baumberger	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
A III:	Our and the growth for the control of the control o	those currently written
Allison	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
Nathan Habel	Cupport the regulations as surrently written.	those currently written
Ivaliiaii Habel	Support the regulations as currently written; as a practicing BA, have seen children benefit	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
	from services as outlined in regulations	uiose currently writter
Officers of the	Current regulations are enabling licensed	Final regulations are identical to
Virginia Association	BA's to practice; concerned about the	those currently written; see
for Behavior	comment made at the public hearing. Believe	response to comment below
Analysis	the emergency regulations are working but	Table to common bolow
-	are supportive of comment from Association	
	of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA)	
Association of	Require current BACB certification for	1 and 2) Issue discussed at length
Professional		,

Behavior Analysts (APBA)	renewal, reactivation or reinstatement of licensure; regulations will not have to be revised each time the BACB changes its requirements. 2) Delete continuing education requirements since maintenance of BACB certification requires CE. 3) Add language from the BACB's description of scope of practice 4) Add language to require supervision activities to comply with the BACB Policy on Supervision and other BACB standards, requirements and guidelines pertaining to supervision. 5) Consider specifying the number of ABA's that a BA can supervise concurrently. 6) Revise supervision of unlicensed personnel to clarify that supervision is required. Strike last sentence to allow licensed BA's and ABA's to delegate ABA assessment and treatment activities to unlicensed personnel. Add supervision activities must comply with BACB Guidelines for Responsible Conduct of Behavior Analysts 7) Add to the unprofessional conduct section a requirement that licensees must comply with Guidelines for Responsible Conduct The APBA also provided detailed suggested responses to the comments made at the public hearing conducted on October 24, 2013.	in development of proposed regulations; the Board is satisfied with continuing education requirements for maintenance of licensure, so there is no need to require maintenance of a professional certification. 3) The scope of practice is defined in the Code of Virginia. 4 and 5) Supervisory responsibilities are delineated in regulation; specificity about the number of ABA's that can be supervised was not supported because there are varying levels of care and competencies required. 6) The Code does not authorize licensed BA's and ABA's to delegate activities that require a license for practice. 7) Grounds for unprofessional conduct are set forth in the Code and regulations of the Board and may be cited in a disciplinary proceeding. It is not necessary to rely on the BACB Guidelines.
Shantel Pugliese	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
James Santoyo	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Brittney Bolin	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Shonnet Brand	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Kara Hartman	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Nicole Morris	Support the regulations as currently written; currently completing M.Ed. and being supervised by a BA to work with clients. Ability to collaborate and receive support from a licensed BA influential in allowing me to continue my education while building practical experience.	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Jada Ikekwe	Support for ABA but should not be limited to services for children age 7 and under. African-American children are often diagnosed later than Caucasian children.	Final regulations are identical to those currently written; the age limit on mandated coverage by insurance is specified in Code
Katherine Robinson	Support the regulations as currently written;	Final regulations are identical to

	proven to be effective	those currently written
Jody Liesfeld	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Amanda Buchmeier	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to
Ethan Long	Support the regulations as currently written	those currently written Final regulations are identical to
		those currently written
Cresse Morrell	Support the regulations as currently written; immense benefit to children with autism	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Scott Sparrow	Support the regulations as currently written; as written, provide necessary and impactful services for the families affected by autism	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Ashley Mackall	Strongly support as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Laura Lindsay	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Joyce Collins	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Gary Fletcher	Support the regulations as currently written; son has benefitted from an ABA-based curriculum	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Adrian	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Richard Kuhlbars	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Daniel Lambdin	Support the regulations as currently written; protects an important public service for families with autistic children	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Amy Belzile	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Charles Hudson	Support the regulations as currently written; law should require coverage beyond age seven.	Final regulations are identical to those currently written; the age limit on mandated coverage by insurance is specified in Code
Laura Carter	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Tyler Proulx	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Kate Rawles	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Julie Patterson	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Catherine Hogan	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Peggy Halliday	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Jessica St. Clair	Support the regulations as currently written; progress with ABA therapy has been incredible	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Megan Atthowe	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Jennifer Wade	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Nikia Dower	Support the regulations as currently written;	Final regulations are identical to

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Elizabeth Gilmore Support the regulations as currently written Final regulations are identical to
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Courtney Keegan Support the regulations as currently written Final regulations are identical to
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Amelia DuMond Support the regulations as currently written; Final regulations are identical to
recommends composition of an advisory those currently written; creation
board an advisory board requires a C
change
Katherine Support the regulations as currently written Final regulations are identical to
Klarenbach those currently written
Jackie Shaw Support the regulations as currently written Final regulations are identical to
those currently written
Peninsula School Support the regulations as currently written Final regulations are identical to
for Autism those currently written
Brittney Paye Support the regulations as currently written Final regulations are identical to
those currently written

Megan Miller	Support the regulations as currently written; have provided access to services. Should have an advisory board. Suggests amendments: 1) require BACB certification for renewal; 2) Add supervision activities must comply with BACB Guidelines; 3) newly certified persons and those moving into Va. should be allowed a "grace period" to practice without a license until application is approved.	Final regulations are identical to those currently written; creation of an advisory board requires a Code change. In the development of proposed regulations, the Committee and the Board discussed the issues of BACB certification for renewal and supervisory activities. There was no recommendation for amendments at the final stage. Those practicing behavior analysis have been given one year to come into compliance with the licensure law; there is no provision in the Code for a "grace period" for practice without a license.
Hiroko Evans	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Vania O'Keefe	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Brandi Acosta	Support the regulations as currently written; changes in ABA services would negatively impact lives	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Angela Kahler	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Angela McCord	Support the regulations as currently written	Final regulations are identical to those currently written
Jessica Andrews	Support the regulations as currently written; BACB certification test is very challenging and a good basis of quality provider; comment on advisory board	Final regulations are identical to those currently written; creation of an advisory board requires a Code change

All changes made in this regulatory action

Please list all changes that are being proposed and the consequences of the proposed changes. Describe new provisions and/or all changes to existing sections.

Currently, the professions are licensed and regulated under <u>emergency regulations</u> which became effective September 19, 2012. The <u>final</u> regulations are <u>identical to the emergency and proposed</u> regulations adopted by the Board.

Section number	Proposed requirements	Other regulations and law that apply	Intent and likely impact of proposed requirements
10	A. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to them in § 54.1-2900 of the Code of Virginia: Board	§ 54.1-2900	The intent is clarification of terms and acronyms used in the regulation.

	Practice of behavior analysis		
	B. The following words and terms when used		
	in this chapter shall have the following		
	meanings unless the context clearly indicates		
	otherwise:		
	BACB means the Behavior Analyst		
	Certification Board, Inc.		
	BCBA® means a Board Certified Behavior		
	Analyst®.		
	BCaBA® means a Board Certified Assistant		
	Behavior Analyst®.		
20	A separate board regulation, 18VAC85-10-10	18VAC85-10-	The intent is consistency with other
	et seq., provides for involvement of the public	10 et seq.	regulations promulgated by the
	in the development of all regulations of the	•	Board.
	Virginia Board of Medicine.		
30	Each licensee shall furnish the board his		The intent is consistency with other
	current name and address of record. All notices		regulations promulgated by the
	required by law or by this chapter to be given		Board and to ensure that licensees
	by the board to any such licensee shall be		maintain a current name and
	validly given when mailed to the latest address		
			address.
	of record provided or served to the licensee.		
	Any change of name or change in the address		
	of record or public address, if different from		
	the address of record, shall be furnished to the		
	board within 30 days of such change.		
40	A. The following fees have been established by	§ § 54.1-2400	The intent is consistency with other
	the board:	(5) and 54.1-	regulations promulgated by the
	1. The initial fee for the behavior analyst	2957.16 (E)	Board and to have sufficient revenue
	license shall be \$130; for the assistant behavior		to cover the licensure and
	analyst, it shall be \$70.		disciplinary processes associated
	2. The fee for reinstatement of the behavior		with regulation of these professions.
	analyst license that has been lapsed for two		Applicants and licensees will have
	years or more shall be \$180; for the assistant		additional costs for obtaining and
	behavior analyst, it shall be \$90.		maintaining licensure for the
	3. The fee for active license renewal for a		practice of their professions.
			practice of their professions.
	behavior analyst shall be \$135; for any		
	assistant behavior analyst, it shall be \$70. The		
	fees for inactive license renewal shall be \$70		
	for a behavior analyst and \$35 for an assistant		
	behavior analyst. Renewals shall be due in the		
	birth month of the licensee in each odd-		
	numbered year.		
	4. The additional fee for processing a late		
	renewal application within one renewal cycle		
	shall be \$50 for a behavior analyst and \$30 for		
	an assistant behavior analyst.		
	5. The fee for a letter of good standing or		
	verification to another state for a license shall		
	be \$10.		
	6 The fee for reinstatement of licensure		
	6. The fee for reinstatement of licensure		
	pursuant to §54.1-2408.2 of the Code of		
	pursuant to §54.1-2408.2 of the Code of Virginia shall be \$2,000.		
	pursuant to \$54.1-2408.2 of the Code of Virginia shall be \$2,000. 7. The fee for a returned check shall be \$35.		
	pursuant to §54.1-2408.2 of the Code of Virginia shall be \$2,000.		

	be \$15.		
	9. The fee for an application or for the biennial		
	renewal of a restricted volunteer license shall		
	be \$35, due in the licensee's birth month. An		
	additional fee for late renewal of licensure		
	shall be \$15 for each renewal cycle.		
	B. Unless otherwise provided, fees established		
	by the board shall not be refundable.		
50	An applicant for licensure shall submit the	§§ 54.1-2915	The intent is consistency with other
	following on forms provided by the board:	and 54.1-	regulations promulgated by the
	1. A completed application and a fee as	2957.16	Board and to provide sufficient
	prescribed in 18VAC85-150-40.		information to determine whether
	2. Verification of certification as required in		there may be cause to deny licensure
	18VAC85-150-60.		under the provisions of § 54.1-2915.
	3. Verification of practice as required on the		
	application form.		
	4. If licensed or certified in any other		
	jurisdiction, verification that there has been no		
	disciplinary action taken or pending in that		
	jurisdiction.		
	5. Verification from the BACB on disciplinary		
	action taken or pending by that body.		
60	An applicant for a license to practice as a	§54.1- 2957.16	Current certification by the
	behavior analyst or an assistant behavior		Behavior Analyst Certification
	analyst shall hold current certification as a		Board is a requirement of statute for
	BCBA® or a BCaBA® obtained by meeting		licensure by the Board of Medicine.
	qualifications and passage of the examination		-
	required certification as a BCBA® or a		
	BCaBA® by the BACB.		
70	A. Every behavior analyst or assistant behavior	§§ 54.1-2400	For consistency with other
	analyst who intends to maintain an active	(4), 54.1-	regulations and professions under
	license shall biennially renew his license each	2912.1 and	the board, the renewal cycle is
	odd-numbered year during his birth month and	54.1- 2957.16	biennial and the licensee is allowed
	shall:		to renew for up to two years by
	1. Submit the prescribed renewal fee;		payment of a late fee and
	2. Attest to having met the continuing		documentation of compliance with
	education requirements of 18VAC85-150-100.		CE requirements.
	B. The license of a behavior analyst or		
	assistant behavior analyst which has not been		
	renewed by the first day of the month		
	following the month in which renewal is		
	required is lapsed. Practice with a lapsed		
	license may be grounds for disciplinary action.		
	A license that is lapsed for two years or less		
	may be renewed by payment of the renewal		
	fee, a late fee as prescribed in 18VAC85-150-		
	40, and documentation of compliance with		
	continuing education requirements.		
80	A behavior analyst or assistant behavior	§ 54.1-2400	The intent is consistency with other
	analyst who holds a current, unrestricted	(12)	regulations promulgated by the
	license in Virginia shall, upon a request on the		Board and with powers and duties of
	renewal application and submission of the		health regulatory boards.
	. 10 1 . 1	1	
	required fee, be issued an inactive license. The		
	holder of an inactive license shall not be entitled to perform any act requiring a license		

	to practice as a behavior analyst or assistant		
00	behavior analyst in Virginia.	0.54.1.0400	The intent is a section. Id. of
90	A. To reactivate an inactive license or to	§ 54.1-2400	The intent is consistency with other
	reinstate a license that has been lapsed for	(12)	regulations promulgated by the
	more than two years, a behavior analyst or		Board.
	assistant behavior analyst shall submit		Reactivation or reinstatement requires some evidence of
	evidence of competency to return to active		
	practice to include one of the following:		competency to return to active
	1. Information on continued practice in another		practice in Virginia. If an individual
	jurisdiction as a licensed behavior analyst or a		has continued to practice in another
	licensed assistant behavior analyst or with		jurisdiction or has maintained
	certification as a BCBA® or the BCaBA®		BACB certification, the Board will
	during the period in which the license has been		accept such evidence. If not,
	inactive or lapsed;		continuing education or
	2. Twelve hours of continuing education for		recertification will be required.
	each year in which the license has been		
	inactive or lapsed, not to exceed three years; or		
	3. Recertification by passage of the BCBA® or		
	the BCaBA® certification examination from		
	the BACB.		
	B. To reactivate an inactive license, a behavior		
	analyst or assistant behavior analyst shall pay a		
	fee equal to the difference between the current		
	renewal fee for inactive licensure and the		
	renewal fee for active licensure.		
	C. To reinstate a license which has been lapsed		
	for more than two years, a behavior analyst or		
	assistant behavior analyst shall file an		
	application for reinstatement and pay the fee		
	for reinstatement of his licensure as prescribed in 18VAC85, 150, 40. The board may specify		
	in 18VAC85-150-40. The board may specify		
	additional requirements for reinstatement of a license so lapsed to include education,		
	experience or reexamination.		
	D. A behavior analyst or assistant behavior		
	analyst whose licensure has been revoked by		
	the board and who wishes to be reinstated shall		
	make a new application to the board, fulfill		
	additional requirements as specified in the		
	order from the board and make payment of the		
	fee for reinstatement of his licensure as		
	prescribed in 18VAC85-150-40 pursuant to §		
	54.1-2408.2 of the Code of Virginia.		
	E. The board reserves the right to deny a		
	request for reactivation or reinstatement to any		
	licensee who has been determined to have		
	committed an act in violation of § 54.1-2915 of		
	the Code of Virginia or any provisions of this		
100	A. In order to renew an active license, a	§54.1-2912.1	The Code (854.1.2012.1) mandatas
100		834.1-2912.1	The Code (§54.1-2912.1) mandates
	behavior analyst shall attest to having		the Board to prescribe by regulation
	completed 24 hours of continuing education		requirements to ensure continued
	and an assistant behavior analyst shall attest to		competence which may include
	having completed 16 hours of continuing education as approved and documented by a		continuing education. The requirement for 24 hours within two

	sponsor recognized by the BACB within the last biennium. B. A practitioner shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements for the first biennial renewal following the date of initial licensure in Virginia. C. The practitioner shall retain in his records the completed form with all supporting documentation for a period of four years following the renewal of an active license. B. The board shall periodically conduct a random audit of its active licensees to determine compliance. The practitioners selected for the audit shall provide all supporting documentation within 30 days of receiving notification of the audit. C. Failure to comply with these requirements may subject the licensee to disciplinary action by the board. D. The board may grant an extension of the deadline for continuing competency requirements, for up to one year, for good cause shown upon a written request from the licensee prior to the renewal date. F. The board may grant an exemption for all or part of the requirements for circumstances beyond the control of the licensee, such as temporary disability, mandatory military		years for the BCBA or 16 hours for the BCaBA is consistent with the maintenance of certification by the BACB (36 hours/3 years for BCBA and 24 hours/3 years for BCaBA). Therefore, if a licensee chooses to remain board-certified, he will fulfill the CE requirement for renewal of licensure.
110	service, or officially declared disasters. Scope of practice. The practice of a behavior analyst includes: 1. Design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications using the principles and methods of behavior analysis to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including the use of direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relationship between	§§54.1-2900 and 54.1- 2957.16	The scope of practice is consistent with the definition of practice of behavior analysis found in the Code.
	environment and behavior; and 2. Supervision of licensed assistant behavior analysts and unlicensed personnel.		
120	A. The licensed behavior analyst is ultimately responsible and accountable for client care and outcomes under his clinical supervision. B. There shall be a written supervisory agreement between the licensed behavior analyst and the licensed assistant behavior analyst that shall address: 1. The domains of competency within which services may be provided by the licensed assistant behavior analyst; and 2. The nature and frequency of the supervision	§ 54.1-2957.16 (D)	The Code requires promulgation of regulations for the "requirements and procedures for the supervision of a licensed assistant behavior analyst by a licensed behavior analyst." The regulations adopted are consistent with the standard of the BACB which requires that the BCaBA demonstrate competency with the procedures involved under the direct supervision of a BCBA
	of the practice of the licensed assistant behavior analyst by the licensed behavior analyst.		and that an assistant practice under the supervision of a BCBA. The specific requirements for

	A copy of the written supervisory agreement		supervisory activities were
	shall be maintained by the licensed behavior		recommended by a BCBA member
	analyst and the licensed assistant behavior		of the Workgroup and are
	analyst and made available to the board upon		considered to be minimal standards
	request.		for adequate supervision.
	C. Delegation shall only be made if, in the		for adequate supervision.
	judgment of the licensed behavior analyst, the		
	task or procedures can be properly and safely		
	performed by an appropriately trained assistant		
	behavior analyst or other person, and the		
	delegation does not jeopardize the health or		
	safety of the client.		
	D. Supervision activities by the licensed		
	behavior analyst include:		
	1. Direct, real-time observation of the		
	supervisee implementing behavior analytic		
	assessment and intervention procedures with		
	clients in natural environments and/or training		
	others to implement them, with feedback from		
	the supervisor.		
	2. One-to-one real-time interactions between		
	supervisor and supervisee to review and		
	discuss assessment and treatment plans and		
	procedures, client assessment and progress		
	data and reports, published research, ethical		
	and professional standards and guidelines,		
	professional development needs and		
	opportunities, and relevant laws, regulations,		
	and policies.		
	3. Real-time interactions between a supervisor		
	and a group of supervisees to review and		
	discuss assessment and treatment plans and		
	procedures, client assessment and progress		
	data and reports, published research, ethical		
	and professional standards and guidelines,		
	professional development needs and		
	opportunities, and relevant laws, regulations,		
	and policies.		
	4. Informal interactions between supervisors		
	and supervisees via telephone, electronic mail,		
	and other written communication are		
	encouraged but may not be considered formal		
	supervision.		
	For the purposes of this subsection, "real-time"		
	shall mean live and person-to-person.		
	E. The frequency and nature of supervision		
	interactions are determined by the		
	individualized assessment or treatment plans of		
	the clients served by the licensed behavior		
	analyst and the assistant behavior analyst, but		
	shall occur not less than once every four		
	weeks, with each supervision session lasting		
	no less than one hour.		
130	A. Unlicensed personnel may be supervised by	§§54.1-2901	§54.1-2901 specifies exemptions
	a licensed behavior analyst or an assistant	and 54.1-	licensure under the Board of

	L behavior analyst	2057.17	Madiaina NIl C - 11
	behavior analyst. B. Unlicensed personnel may be utilized to perform: 1. Nonclient-related tasks including, but not limited to, clerical and maintenance activities and the preparation of the work area and equipment; and 2. Certain routine client-related tasks that, in the opinion of and under the supervision of a licensed behavior analyst, have no potential to adversely impact the client or the client's treatment plan and do not constitute the practice of behavior analysis.	2957.16	Medicine. Number 6 allows a "practitioner licensed or certified by the Board from delegating to personnel supervised by him, such activities or functions as are nondiscretionary and do not require the exercise of professional judgment for their performance and which are usually or customarily delegated to such persons by practitioners of the healing arts, if such activities or functions are authorized by and performed for such practitioners of the healing arts and responsibility for such activities or functions is assumed by such practitioners of the healing arts." Consistent with the statutory exemption for delegation to unlicensed persons, the Board has adopted regulations that permit delegation of client-related tasks that do not constitute the practice of behavior analysis. Unlicensed persons may assist in the provision of services provided those tasks do not require the exercise of professional judgment and are usually delegated to unlicensed persons.
140	A practitioner shall not willfully or negligently breach the confidentiality between a practitioner and a client. A breach of confidentiality that is required or permitted by applicable law or beyond the control of the practitioner shall not be considered negligent or willful.		The Standards of Professional Conduct in Part V are identical to all professions under the Board of Medicine. The intent is consistency with other regulations promulgated by the Board and to provide standards for practice to protect public health and safety.
150	A. Practitioners shall comply with the provisions of § 32.1-127.1:03 of the Code of Virginia related to the confidentiality and disclosure of client records. B. Practitioners shall provide client records to another practitioner or to the client or his personal representative in a timely manner in accordance with provisions of § 32.1-127.1:03 of the Code of Virginia. C. Practitioners shall properly manage and keep timely, accurate, legible and complete client records. D. Practitioners who are employed by a health care institution, educational institution, school system or other entity in which the individual		The intent is consistency with other regulations promulgated by the Board and to provide standards for practice to protect public health and safety.

	practitioner does not own or maintain his own	
	records shall maintain client records in	
	accordance with the policies and procedures of	
	the employing entity.	
	E. Practitioners who are self-employed or	
	employed by an entity in which the individual	
	practitioner owns and is responsible for client	
	records shall:	
	1. Maintain a client record for a minimum of	
	six years following the last client encounter	
	with the following exceptions:	
	a. Records of a minor child shall be maintained	
	until the child reaches the age of 18 or	
	becomes emancipated, with a minimum time	
	for record retention of six years from the last	
	client encounter regardless of the age of the	
	child;	
	b. Records that have previously been	
	transferred to another practitioner or health care provider or provided to the client or his	
	legally authorized representative; or	
	c. Records that are required by contractual	
	obligation or federal law may need to be	
	maintained for a longer period of time.	
	2. Post information or in some manner inform	
	all clients concerning the time frame for record	
	retention and destruction. Client records shall	
	only be destroyed in a manner that protects	
	client confidentiality, such as by incineration	
	or shredding.	
	3. When closing, selling or relocating his	
	practice, meet the requirements of § 54.1-2405	
	of the Code of Virginia for giving notice that	
	copies of records can be sent to any like-	
	regulated provider of the client's choice or	
	provided to the client or legally authorized	
	representative.	
160	A. Communication with clients.	The intent is consistency with other
	1. Except as provided in § 32.1-127.1:03 F of	regulations promulgated by the
	the Code of Virginia, a practitioner shall	Board and to provide standards for
	accurately present information to a client or his	practice to protect public health and
	legally authorized representative in	safety.
	understandable terms and encourage	
	participation in decisions regarding the client's	
	care.	
	2. A practitioner shall not deliberately make a	
	false or misleading statement regarding the	
	practitioner's skill or the efficacy or value of a	
	treatment or procedure provided or directed by	
	the practitioner.	
	3. Before an initial assessment or intervention	
	is performed, informed consent shall be	
	obtained from the client or his legally	
	authorized representative. Practitioners shall	
	inform clients or their legally authorized	

	representative of the risks, benefits, and	
	alternatives of the recommended procedure	
	that a reasonably prudent practitioner would	
	tell a client.	
	a. Informed consent shall also be obtained if	
	there is a significant change to a therapeutic	
	procedure or intervention performed on a client	
	that is not part of routine, general care and	
	which is more restrictive on the continuum of	
	care.	
	b. In the instance of a minor or a client who is	
	incapable of making an informed decision on	
	his own behalf or is incapable of	
	communicating such a decision due to a	
	physical or mental disorder, the legally	
	authorized person available to give consent	
	shall be informed and the consent documented.	
	c. An exception to the requirement for consent	
	prior to performance of a procedure or	
	intervention may be made in an emergency	
	situation when a delay in obtaining consent	
	would likely result in imminent harm to the	
	client.	
	4. Practitioners shall adhere to requirements of	
	§ 32.1-162.18 of the Code of Virginia for	
	obtaining informed consent from clients prior	
	to involving them as subjects in human	
	research with the exception of retrospective	
	chart reviews.	
	B. Termination of the practitioner/client	
	relationship.	
	1. The practitioner or the client may terminate	
	the relationship. In either case, the practitioner	
	shall make the client record available, except	
	in situations where denial of access is allowed	
	by law.	
	2. A practitioner shall not terminate the	
	relationship or make his services unavailable	
	without documented notice to the client that	
	allows for a reasonable time to obtain the	
	services of another practitioner.	
170	A. A practitioner shall not:	The intent is consistency with other
	1. Perform procedures or techniques that are	regulations promulgated by the
	outside the scope of his practice or for which	Board and to provide standards for
	he is not trained and individually competent;	practice to protect public health and
	2. Knowingly allow subordinates to jeopardize	safety.
	client safety or provide client care outside of	
	the subordinate's scope of practice or area of	
	responsibility. Practitioners shall delegate	
	client care only to subordinates who are	
	properly trained and supervised;	
	3. Engage in an egregious pattern of disruptive	
	behavior or interaction in a health care setting	
	that interferes with client care or could	
	reasonably be expected to adversely impact the	

	quality of care rendered to a client; or	
	4. Exploit the practitioner/client relationship	
	for personal gain.	
	B. Advocating for client safety or	
	improvement in client care within a health care	
	entity shall not constitute disruptive behavior	
	provided the practitioner does not engage in	
	behavior prohibited in subdivision A 3 of this	
	section.	
180	A practitioner shall not knowingly and	The intent is consistency with other
100	willfully solicit or receive any remuneration,	regulations promulgated by the
	directly or indirectly, in return for referring an	Board and to provide standards for
	individual to a facility or institution as defined	practice to protect public health and
	in § 37.2-100 of the Code of Virginia or	safety.
	hospital as defined in § 32.1-123 of the Code	
	of Virginia.	
	Remuneration shall be defined as	
	compensation, received in cash or in kind, but	
	shall not include any payments, business	
	arrangements, or payment practices allowed by	
	42 USC § 1320 a-7b(b), as amended, or any	
	regulations promulgated thereto.	
190	A. For purposes of § 54.1-2915 A 12 and A 19	The intent is consistency with other
	of the Code of Virginia and this section, sexual	regulations promulgated by the
	contact includes, but is not limited to, sexual	Board and to provide standards for
	behavior or verbal or physical behavior that:	practice to protect public health and
	1. May reasonably be interpreted as intended	safety.
	for the sexual arousal or gratification of the	
	practitioner, the client, or both; or	
	2. May reasonably be interpreted as romantic	
	involvement with a client regardless of	
	whether such involvement occurs in the	
	professional setting or outside of it.	
	B. Sexual contact with a client.	
	The determination of when a person is a	
	client for purposes of § 54.1-2915 A 19 of the	
	Code of Virginia is made on a case-by-case	
	basis with consideration given to the nature,	
	extent, and context of the professional	
	relationship between the practitioner and the	
	person. The fact that a person is not actively	
	receiving treatment or professional services	
	from a practitioner is not determinative of this	
	issue. A person is presumed to remain a client	
	until the client-practitioner relationship is	
	terminated.	
	2. The consent to, initiation of, or participation	
	in sexual behavior or involvement with a	
	practitioner by a client does not change the	
	nature of the conduct nor negate the statutory	
	prohibition.	
	C. Sexual contact between a practitioner and a	
	former client after termination of the	
	practitioner-client relationship may still	
	constitute unprofessional conduct if the sexual	

	contact is a result of the exploitation of trust,	
	knowledge, or influence of emotions derived	
	from the professional relationship.	
	D. Sexual contact between a practitioner and a	
	key third party shall constitute unprofessional	
	conduct if the sexual contact is a result of the	
	exploitation of trust, knowledge or influence	
	derived from the professional relationship or if	
	the contact has had or is likely to have an	
	adverse effect on client care. For purposes of	
	this section, key third party of a client means	
	spouse or partner, parent or child, guardian, or	
	legal representative of the client.	
	E. Sexual contact between a supervisor	
	and a trainee shall constitute unprofessional	
	conduct if the sexual contact is a result of the	
	exploitation of trust, knowledge or influence	
	derived from the professional relationship or if	
	the contact has had or is likely to have an	
	adverse effect on client care.	
200	A practitioner shall not willfully refuse to	The intent is consistency with other
	provide information or records as requested or	regulations promulgated by the
	required by the board or its representative	Board and to provide standards for
	pursuant to an investigation or to the	practice to protect public health and
	enforcement of a statute or regulation.	safety.