

**THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 5, 2019**

The Regulatory Committee of the Virginia Board of Social Work ("Committee") convened a meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico Virginia, in Board Room 1.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Joseph Walsh, L.C.S.W., Ph.D., Committee Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Maria Eugenia del Villar, L.C.S.W.
Dolores Paulson, L.C.S.W., Ph.D.
John Salay, L.C.S.W.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Hayter, L.C.S.W.
Gloria Manns, L.C.S.W.

BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Latasha Austin, Licensing Manager
Jaime Hoyle, Executive Director
Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director- Discipline
Charlotte Lenart, Deputy Executive Director- Licensing

OTHERS PRESENT: Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Health Professions
Barbara Allison-Bryan, M.D., Deputy Director, Department of Health Professions

IN THE AUDIENCE: None

CALL TO ORDER:
Dr. Walsh called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:
Dr. Walsh requested a roll call. Ms. Austin announced that four members of the Committee were present; therefore, a quorum was established.

MISSION STATEMENT:
Dr. Walsh read the mission statement of the Department of Health Professions, which is also the mission statement of the Committee and Board.

EMERGENCY EGRESS:
Dr. Walsh announced the Emergency Egress procedures.

ADOPTIONS OF AGENDA:
Upon a motion by Mr. Salay, which was properly seconded by Dr. Paulson, the Committee unanimously adopted the agenda with the following two additions added to New Business:

1. Unlawful Practice
2. Adding & Registering a Supervisor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Dr. Paulson, which was properly seconded by Ms. Eugenia del Villar, the meeting minutes from the Regulatory Committee Meeting held on September 19, 2019 were approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Debra Riggs, Executive Director, Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) provided written public comment. (**Attachment 1**)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **LMSW Discussion**

The Committee discussed issues related to the new LMSW license. The Committee discussed concerns that LMSWs in Virginia are practicing clinical social work services without being under Board-approved supervision or licensed as LCSWs. Additionally, the Committee discussed the portability of the Virginia LMSW license, its scope of practice, and the need for the LMSW license to be in line with the ASWB Model Law. The Committee also discussed if the LMSW license should be required as a prerequisite to the LCSW license or if a LMSW should be given its own scope of practice to include clinical work under supervision or strictly be a generalist (non-clinical) license.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Salay, which was properly seconded by Dr. Walsh, to draft language to recommend to the full board to make it unlawful to call yourself a Social Worker as defined in the model law for a LBSW, LMSW or LCSW or to use the designation of LBSW, LMSW or LCSW one must be licensed by the Board.

For clarification, Ms. Yeatts posed the question to the Committee if they were recommending to change the unlawful title protection law (§ 54.1-3709) as written which states; "*It shall be unlawful for any person not licensed under this chapter to use the title "Social Worker" in writing or in advertising in connection with his practice unless he simultaneously uses clarifying initials that signify receiving a baccalaureate or master's degree in social work from an accredited social work school or program approved by the Council on Social Work Education or a doctorate in social work.*"

Withdrawal of Motion: Mr. Salay withdrew his motion following Ms. Yeatts request for clarification of the motion.

- **Update on Board of Counseling Licensed Resident in Counseling**

Ms. Hoyle and Ms. Lenart provided the Committee with updates on the Resident in Counseling License indicating that there were no major changes to the residency (supervision) requirements; however, there are several changes to the process. A Resident in Counseling license can be renewed up to 5 (five) times and the resident must continue to be under appropriate supervision until they are licensed as a License Professional Counselor (LPC).

- **Supervisor Registry**

The Committee re-visited a motion from a previous meeting held on December 6, 2018 for a supervisory registry to be created and maintained by the Board since supervisors are still required to complete professional training in supervision every 5 (five) years. The main concern is the difficulty to maintain such a registry.

Motion: Upon a motion by Dr. Walsh, which was properly seconded by Dr. Paulson, the motion for a supervisory registry was withdrawn.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Expanding upon the Board's Standards of Practice

The Committee discussed the Board's Standards of Practice and the need for clarification and expansion to what could be considered boundary issues and violations. Dr. Walsh informed the Committee that he and Dr. Paulson have worked on suggested changes which will be presented at the next meeting. Ms. Yeatts suggested that the Committee look at Section 223 of the Nursing Regulations as a guided resource.

- Content for Training on Supervision for Clinical Social Work

The Committee discussed the content of the supervision training supervisors are receiving to meet the requirement to be a Board approved supervisor. Committee members were concerned that the information being provided in the trainings are outdated and are not referring to the current Virginia Laws and Regulations Governing the Practice in Social Work. The Committee discussed providing supervision training. Staff suggested that if the Board wanted to provide training, staff look into the possibility of offering online or webinar training for supervisors.

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Walsh, which was properly seconded by Dr. Paulson, to add language from the ASWB Supervision for Social Work licensure document to the Board's Guidance Document regarding Content for Training on Supervision for Clinical Social Work (Guidance Document 140-9) for draft at the next Regulatory Meeting. Ms. Hoyle will draft the document for the next Regulatory Meeting.

- Adding & Registering a Supervisor


The Committee discussed concerns regarding the process to change or add a new supervisor or location. Board staff will look into the process for adding or changed a supervisor or locations to see how the process could be streamlined for faster processing.

NEXT MEETING:

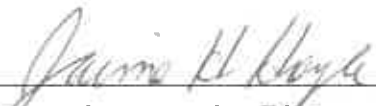
Dr. Walsh announced that the next Regulatory Committee Meeting would occur on March 12, 2020 at 1:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Walsh adjourned the December 5, 2019 Regulatory Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m.



Joseph Walsh, L.C.S.W., Ph.D., Committee Chair



Jaime Hoyle, Executive Director



Virginia Board of Social Work
Re: Public comments
Board of Social Work Meeting- Friday, December 6, 2019

December 6, 2019

On behalf of NASW Virginia, thank you for the opportunity for public comments.

The chapter has been informed that the Board has expressed interest in reviewing and possibly updating and clarifying the scope of practice for the LBSW and the LMSW, as defined in the ASWB Model Law. It is NASW's position and support of this effort, as it will support future efforts in licensing social workers in the Commonwealth. This is a very important policy goal, and I wish to express our strong support for this effort.

As a starting point, we urge this Board and the General Assembly to rely on the ASWB Model Practice Act. The scopes of practice in the model law have been thoroughly vetted, and they are the most current reflection of MSW and BSW practice in the United States. We are hopeful that this first step, will help Virginia to be consistent with our other states and definition of licensed professionals, so that portability for social workers will help ease the workforce issues the Commonwealth is experiencing. NASW is eager to work with the Board on this issue, and we stand ready to assist in any way we can.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comment

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra A Riggs

Debra Riggs, CAE

Executive Director, NASWVA

National Association of Social Workers, Virginia Chapter