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Fast-Track Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation(s)	12 VAC35-105
Regulation title(s)	Rules and Regulations For Licensing Providers by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services ("Licensing Regulations")
Action title	Adding Licensed Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner to the Definition of Licensed Mental Health Professional
Date this document prepared	June 29, 2018

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Orders 17 (2014) and 58 (1999), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*.

Brief summary

Please provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 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of the proposed new regulation, proposed amendments to the existing regulation, or the regulation proposed to be repealed.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.

This regulatory action adds 'licensed psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner' in the definition of licensed mental health professional (LMHPs). There are no projected costs to these changes. This change is made at the request of the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to create alignment between that agency's regulations and these DBHDS regulations for all staff qualifications for reimbursement purposes. The current Licensing Regulations will be amended as follows:

"Licensed mental health professional (LMHP)" means a physician, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner,

licensed marriage and family therapist, or certified psychiatric clinical nurse specialist, or licensed psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner.

Acronyms and Definitions

Please define all acronyms used in the Agency Background Document. Also, please define any technical terms that are used in the document that are not also defined in the “Definition” section of the regulations.

DBHDS – Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
LMHP – Licensed Mental Health Professional
PMHNP – Licensed Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
State Board – State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

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 taking the action; and 3) the title of the regulation.

The amendment to the Licensing Regulations was approved at the July 11, 2018, meeting of the State Board as a fast track action.

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.

Sections 37.2-203 and 37.2-304 of the Code of Virginia authorize the Board to adopt regulations that may be necessary to carry out the provisions of Title 37.2 and other laws of the Commonwealth administered by the Commissioner and the Department.

Purpose

Please explain the need for the new or amended regulation. Describe the rationale or justification of the proposed regulatory action. Describe the specific reasons the regulation 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.

This change is made at the request of the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to create alignment between that agency’s regulations and these DBHDS regulations for all staff qualifications for reimbursement purposes.

Psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioners work with mental health patients of all ages, and may specialize in a specific age population. PMHNPs can practice in a variety of locations including, but not limited to, in-patient psychiatric facilities, state psychiatric facilities, correctional facilities, mental health

centers, home health locations and schools. By adding this profession to the definition of who can be considered an LMHP, it facilitates more trained professionals are available to provide services.

Rationale for using fast-track process

Please explain the rationale for using the fast-track process in promulgating this regulation. Why do you expect this rulemaking to be noncontroversial?

These amendments are noncontroversial. One nursing category is already included in the definition (certified psychiatric clinical nurse specialist); this newly added category is similar but distinct from the nurse specialist. The Medicaid funding stream for reimbursement of services is available to both.

Substance

Please briefly identify and explain the new substantive provisions, the substantive changes to existing sections, or both. A more detailed discussion is provided in the "Detail of changes" section below.

The current Licensing Regulations will be amended as follows:

"Licensed mental health professional (LMHP)" means a physician, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner, licensed marriage and family therapist, ~~or certified psychiatric clinical nurse specialist, licensed~~ psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner.

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.

There are no identified disadvantages to the public or the Commonwealth in making this change. By adding this profession to the definition of who can be considered an LMHP, it facilitates more trained professionals are available to provide services. This is an advantage to PMHNPs and individuals in need of services because it opens the Medicaid funding stream for reimbursement of services.

Requirements more restrictive than federal

Please identify and describe any requirement of the proposal which is more restrictive than applicable federal requirements. Include a rationale for the need for the more restrictive requirements. If there are no applicable federal requirements or no requirements that exceed applicable federal requirements, include a statement to that effect.

This is not more restrictive than applicable federal standards.

Localities particularly affected

Please identify any locality particularly affected by the proposed regulation. Locality particularly affected means any locality which bears any identified disproportionate material impact which would not be experienced by other localities.

No locality is particularly affected by this action.

Regulatory flexibility analysis

Pursuant to § 2.2-4007.1B of the Code of Virginia, please describe the agency’s analysis of alternative regulatory methods, consistent with health, safety, environmental, and economic welfare, that will accomplish the objectives of applicable law while minimizing the adverse impact on small business. Alternative regulatory methods include, at a minimum: 1) the establishment of less stringent compliance or reporting requirements; 2) the establishment of less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements; 3) the consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements; 4) the establishment of performance standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the proposed regulation; and 5) the exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the proposed regulation.

This will facilitate having more professionals available in the system to provide services for individuals.

Economic impact

Please identify the anticipated economic impact of the proposed new regulations or amendments to the existing regulation. When describing a particular economic impact, please specify which new requirement or change in requirement creates the anticipated economic impact.

<p>Projected cost to the state to implement and enforce the proposed regulation, including: a) fund source / fund detail; and b) a delineation of one-time versus on-going expenditures</p>	<p>There is no additional cost to implement and enforce the amendment.</p>
<p>Projected cost of the new regulations or changes to existing regulations on localities.</p>	<p>There is no additional cost on localities as a result of these changes.</p>
<p>Description of the individuals, businesses, or other entities likely to be affected by the new regulations or changes to existing regulations.</p>	<p>Individuals receiving or needing services and their families; providers licensed by DBHDS; licensed psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioners; LMHPs.</p>
<p>Agency’s best estimate of the number of such entities that will be affected. Please include an estimate of the number of small businesses affected. Small business means a business entity, including its affiliates, that: a) is independently owned and operated and; b) employs fewer than 500 full-time employees or</p>	<p>Currently, the number of licensed nurse practitioner’s (LNPs) in the psychiatric/mental health specialty category is 363, according to the Board of Nursing (DHP). It is not possible to estimate the number of individuals that will be affected by this regulation.</p>

has gross annual sales of less than \$6 million.	DBHDS licenses approximately 1,300 service providers. While some of these providers use LMHPs, others do not use any.
All projected costs of the new regulations or changes to existing regulations for affected individuals, businesses, or other entities. Please be specific and include all costs including: a) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for compliance by small businesses; and b) specify any costs related to the development of real estate for commercial or residential purposes that are a consequence of the proposed regulatory changes or new regulations.	There is no additional administrative cost for individuals, businesses or other entities.
Beneficial impact the regulation is designed to produce.	There will be more LMHPs to provide services.

Alternatives

Please describe any viable alternatives to the proposal considered and the rationale used by the agency to select the least burdensome or intrusive alternative that meets the essential purpose of the action. Also, include discussion of less intrusive or less costly alternatives for small businesses, as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia, of achieving the purpose of the regulation.

There is no other alternative to the regulatory action.

Public participation notice

If an objection to the use of the fast-track process is received within the 30-day public comment period from 10 or more persons, any member of the applicable standing committee of either house of the General Assembly or of the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules, the agency shall: 1) file notice of the objections with the Registrar of Regulations for publication in the Virginia Register; and 2) proceed with the normal promulgation process with the initial publication of the fast-track regulation serving as the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action.

Periodic review and small business impact review report of findings

If this fast-track is the result of a periodic review/small business impact review, use this form to report the agency's findings. Please (1) summarize all comments received during the public comment period following the publication of the Notice of Periodic Review and (2) indicate whether the regulation meets the criteria set out in Executive Order 17 (2014), e.g., is necessary for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, and is clearly written and easily understandable. In addition, as required by 2.2-4007.1 E and F, please include a discussion of the agency's consideration of: (1) the continued need for the regulation; (2) the nature of complaints or comments received concerning the regulation from the public; (3) the complexity of the regulation; (4) the extent to which the regulation overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with federal or state law or regulation; and (5) the length of time since the regulation has been

evaluated or the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the regulation.

This action is not the result of a periodic or small business impact review.

Family impact

Please assess the impact of this regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability including to what extent the regulatory action will: 1) strengthen or erode the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourage or discourage economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one's spouse, and one's children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthen or erode the marital commitment; and 4) increase or decrease disposable family income.

This amendment will have a positive impact on families because those family members with disabilities in need of services will receive services more promptly as more PMHNPs are available to provide the LMHP services.

Detail of changes

Please list all changes that are being proposed and the consequences of the proposed changes; explain the new requirements and what they mean rather than merely quoting the proposed text of the regulation. If the proposed regulation is a new chapter, describe the intent of the language and the expected impact. Please describe the difference between existing regulation(s) and/or agency practice(s) and what is being proposed in this regulatory action. If the proposed regulation is intended to replace an emergency regulation, please follow the instructions in the text following the three chart templates below.

For changes to existing regulation(s), please use the following chart:

Current section number	Proposed new section number, if applicable	Current requirement	Proposed change, intent, rationale, and likely impact of proposed requirements
12VAC35-105-20. Definitions.		"Licensed mental health professional (LMHP)" means a physician, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner, licensed marriage and family therapist, or certified psychiatric clinical nurse specialist.	To ensure alignment between DMAS' regulations and these DBHDS regulations for all staff qualifications for reimbursement purposes, this action will add language to this definition: '... or certified psychiatric clinical nurse specialist, <u>or licensed psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner.</u>