



Virginia Department of
Health Professions
Board of Social Work

Virginia Board of Social Work
Regulatory Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233
Board Room 3

PRESIDING OFFICER: Elke Cox, MSW, LCSW

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Purgold, MSW, LCSW
Sherwood Randolph, Jr., MSW, LCSW
Teresa Reynold, MSW, LCSW

BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Krystal Blanton, Discipline & Compliance Case Specialist
Jennifer Lang, Acting Executive Director
Charlotte Lenart, Deputy Executive Director
Sharniece Vaughan, Licensing & Operations Supervisor
Rebecca Walker, Licensing Specialist

DHP STAFF PRESENT: Matt Novak, Agency Regulatory Coordinator, Department of Health Professions

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: John Richardson-Lauve, LCSW
Mark Smith, Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work (GWSCSW),
Virginia Society of Clinical Social Work (VSCSW)

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Cox called the Regulatory Committee meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: Four members of the regulatory committee were present; therefore, a quorum was established.

MISSION STATEMENT: Ms. Cox read the mission statement of the Department of Health Professions, which was also the mission statement of the Board.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Action Item:
Mr. Sherwood from the Ad Hoc Committee requested the Committee address exam alternatives at the next meeting in May.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was provided.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The meeting minutes from September 12, 2025, were approved as presented.

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY REPORT: **Discussion on LMSWs and Supervisee in Social Work Conversion**

Mr. Novak provided an overview of HB1897 from the 2025 General Assembly session, which requires the Board to amend its regulations to allow master's-level social workers to engage in clinical services under supervision. He noted that the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) submitted in September 2025 reflects the Board's intent to consolidate the requirements and credentials for the Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and the Supervisee in Social Work registration. This initiative is intended to create a clearer and more streamlined pathway to licensure. He further stated that this process may require several Regulatory Committee meetings to address issues related to establishing new

requirements and combining the two credentials.

Ms. Lang provided an overview of the changes to the scope of practice and informed the Committee that she and Ms. Lenart had drafted preliminary regulatory amendments to support the consolidation of the two credentials. Ms. Lenart outlined several key assumptions, including requiring LMSWs to hold an MSW with a clinical course of study, requiring individuals providing clinical services to practice under Board-approved supervision, and allowing LMSWs to practice indefinitely, amending timeframes for completing supervised hours or passing the examination.

The Committee discussed the need to address LMSWs who are currently licensed but did not complete a clinical course of study, including whether they should be permitted to provide clinical services under supervision and whether they should be grandfathered into the new structure with the requirement to complete a clinical course of study prior to applying for Licensed Clinical Social Work (LCSW) licensure.

Ms. Lang also raised questions regarding whether LMSWs who remain under ongoing supervision must be supervised specifically by LCSWs. She further inquired about the level of detail the Board should provide in defining the parameters for ongoing supervision when an LMSW is not pursuing, nor intending to pursue, LCSW licensure.

Review of NOIRA and Proposed Regulatory Revisions

Mr. Novak directed the Committee's attention to the NOIRA and the proposed regulatory changes included in the agenda packet. He highlighted revisions and deletions proposed under 18VAC140-20-10, including updates to the definition of "supervisee" and the removal of the term "ancillary services." In response, Ms. Lenart recommended retaining the term "ancillary services," noting that its removal could create confusion.

Ms. Lang emphasized that certain definitions should remain in place, as their removal could affect the future implementation of the social work compact. She also recommended updating the definition of "supervisee" to specify that the individual holds a current, active LMSW license, has entered into a supervisory contract with a Board-approved LCSW supervisor, and provides clinical social work services under supervision.

Ms. Lenart further suggested incorporating the statutory definition of LMSW into the regulatory definition to ensure consistency between the Code and the regulations.

Mr. Randolph inquired whether obtaining the LMSW credential would be required in order to receive clinical supervision. She explained that individuals holding the LMSW would be authorized to provide non-clinical generalist services without supervision, would be required to practice under supervision when delivering clinical social work services, and would not be obligated to pursue or apply for LCSW licensure. This framework would allow LMSW-credentialed practitioners to continue practicing without seeking the LCSW credential.

Mr. Randolph asked whether candidates seeking the LCSW would be required to take two examinations, the master's examination and the clinical examination, and expressed concern about creating additional barriers for individuals entering the profession. Ms. Reynolds then inquired whether the Board could consider allowing the master's level examination to be taken prior to receiving the MSW degree,

noting that this matter might be appropriate to raise with CSWE. She also stated her support for permitting candidates to take the clinical examination earlier and at any point during their supervision period. Examination scheduling will need to be discussed with ASWB to determine whether this request can be accommodated, and Board staff will need to develop new processes to support such changes.

Ms. Purgold noted that the examination instructs candidates to answer questions as if they had just graduated and asked whether the Board could obtain visuals or infographics to illustrate the differences between the competencies assessed in the two exams. Ms. Lenart stated that she will email ASWB to have them provide this information to the Board.

The Committee then discussed whether the LBSW credential is necessary and whether maintaining the credential is meeting current workforce needs. Mr. Novak explained that removing the LBSW from the Code would require legislative action by the General Assembly.

Discussion on Generalist Services, Supervision and Reporting

Mr. Novak reviewed several proposed regulatory changes. First, he stressed the importance of revising the definition of “generalist services,” noting that the Board will need to implement these changes during the final stage of the regulatory process.

Under 18VAC140-20-40 of the regulations, the Committee discussed several proposed modifications to this section, which will consolidate the LCSW and LMSW examination requirements into a single section.

The Committee discussed the current requirements and the proposed amendments to 18VAC140-20-50, noting several changes under consideration related to the experience requirements for LCSW licensure.

Specifically, LMSW’s working toward LCSW licensure must:

- Maintain an active LMSW license. Hours accrued with an inactive or expired license, would not be accepted toward licensure.
- Be supervised by an LCSW listed on the Board’s supervisor registry.
- Complete 3,000 hours, a minimum of 1,380 must be in direct, face-to-face client-contact providing clinical services.
- Complete a minimum of 100 hours must of face-to-face supervision with an approved supervisor, completing a minimum of one and a maximum of 4 hours per 40 hours of work experience.
 - No more than 50 hours of the required 100 may occur in group supervision.
 - Group supervision must comprise no more than six supervisees per session.
- Complete supervised experience in no less than two years.
- Complete at least 500 hours of face-to-face client contact and 35 hours of supervision within four years immediately prior to submitting an application for LCSW licensure.
- Post-master’s experience completed outside Virginia must include evidence that the supervision met the jurisdiction’s requirements where it was completed.
- LMSWs must comply with renewal requirements to maintain active an active license.
- The term supervisory “agreement” will be changed to “contract” to align with current definition.
- Clarify and amend responsibilities of supervisors, including:

- Ensure that supervisees only practice within the scope of the supervisee's education and training.
 - Maintain a copy of the supervisory contract and supervision documentation for five years post-supervision.
 - Complete evaluation forms to be given to the supervisee at the end of each six-month period.
 - Document the hours of experience completed and an evaluation of the supervisee's competency on board approved form. If the supervision is terminated due to safety of practice concerns, the supervisor must notify the board withing 60 days of termination of the supervision.
- Clarify and amend responsibilities of supervisee, including:
 - During the supervised experience, supervisee must use their names and initial s of their degree and LMSW in all written communications
 - Maintain a copy of their supervisory contracts and supervision documentation.

Sections 18VAC140-20-51 and 18VAC140-20-60 of the regulations will have LMSW-specific requirements removed, as these sections will be incorporated into 18VAC140-20-40. Additionally, a change to section 18VAC140-20-70 of the regulations related to the examination requirements will be tabled until the next Committee meeting.

Action Items to be discussed at the next Committee meeting:

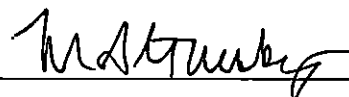
- 1) Current LMSWs with Macro Degrees
- 2) Exam Alternatives
- 3) Ongoing Supervision
- 4) Transition from Supervisee in Social Work to LMSW Process

NEXT MEETING DATES:

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 22, 2026, at 10:00a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Cox adjourned the Regulatory Committee meeting held on February 6, 2026.



Maria Stransky, LPC, CSAC, CSOTP, Executive Director