



DRAFT
Virginia Board of Social Work
Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 2, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233
Board Room 2

- PRESIDING OFFICER:** Teresa Reynolds, MSW, LCSW, Board Chairperson
- BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jessica Carty, MSW, LCSW (*arrived at 10:02am*)
Kimberly Jackson, Citizen Member (*arrived at 10:13am*)
Joan Landolt, MSW, LCSW
Ami Lynch, MSW, Ph.D., LCSW
Martha Meadows, MA, LCSW
Marshall Pattie, Ph.D., Citizen Member
- BOARD STAFF PRESENT:** Krystal Blanton, Discipline & Compliance Case Specialist
Joshua Boggan, LMSW, Deputy Executive Director
Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director
Maria Stransky, LPC, CSAC, CSOTP, Executive Director
Sharniece Vaughan, Licensing & Operations Supervisor
- DHP STAFF PRESENT:** David E. Brown, D.C., Agency Director, Department of Health Professions (DHP)
Barbara Hodgdon, Ph.D., Deputy Executive Director, Healthcare Workforce Data Center
Yetty Shobo, Ph.D., Executive Director, Healthcare Workforce Data Center
- BOARD COUNSEL PRESENT:** Brent Saunders, JD, Senior Assistant Attorney General
- PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** Elke Cox, MSW, LCSW
John Richardson-Lauve, LCSW, Senior Director of Community Outreach and Trauma-Informed Care Specialist, St. Joseph's Villa
Mark Smith, Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work (GWSCSW), Virginia Society of Clinical Social Work (VSCSW)
Ophelia Von Ludwig, LCSW, VSCSW
- CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Reynolds called the Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:** All Board members and staff were introduced. With five members present at roll call, a quorum was established.
- MISSION STATEMENT:** Ms. Reynolds read the mission statement of the Department of Health Professions, which was also the mission statement of the Board.
- ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The Board reviewed the agenda for the October 2, 2026, meeting.
- Motion:** Dr. Pattie moved that the Board adopt the agenda as presented, with the modification to have Dr. Hodgdon present earlier in the meeting. The motion was properly seconded by Ms. Meadows and passed unanimously
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Board reviewed the minutes from the meeting held on July 10, 2026. Ms. Meadows advised the Board that her name had been omitted from the list of attending Board members, despite her presence at the meeting.
- Motion:** Dr. Pattie moved to approve the minutes from July 10, 2026, with the

amendment to include Ms. Meadows as an attendee. The motion was properly seconded by Ms. Landolt and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

AGENCY DIRECTOR REPORT:

Dr. Brown began by thanking Dr. Lynch for joining the Board. He stated that the Board serves as a peer to the Executive Branch, which supports the Governor, and emphasized that Board members represent the Governor's positions. He noted that this is a working Board and that the more effort members invest, the more they will benefit. He also highlighted that many Board members are active in their professions and must remain focused on what is best for the public. He reminded members that individual Board members do not speak for the entire Board. Dr. Brown further stated that Board staff possess extensive knowledge of relevant processes.

He provided an overview of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), explaining that two Board members may discuss Board-related matters, but discussions involving three or more members constitute a meeting. He also reminded members that emails and text messages may be subject to FOIA requests.

Dr. Brown discussed the Rural World Health Transformation Project, noting that it serves as a response to Medicaid funding reductions resulting from the Big Beautiful Bill. He reported that the initiative introduces a series of health programs over the next five years, with funding committed as of October 1, 2026.

He also reviewed new initiatives within the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, including "Grow Here, Stay Here," which aims to strengthen career pathways and identify barriers to participation in the field.

Additionally, Dr. Brown noted that the Board is part of an emerging compact designed to support full practice authority in Virginia. This compact encompasses discussions on preparing for future needs, including artificial intelligence, telehealth, and data sharing.

Ms. Landolt asked about the funding for these initiatives and what actions are currently underway. Dr. Brown responded that the Board is supported through licensing application fees.

CHAIR REPORT:

Ms. Reynolds welcomed Dr. Lynch, one of the three newest Board members.

BOARD COUNSEL REPORT:

Mr. Saunders announced that Mr. Rutkowski has accepted a new position with the Office of the Attorney General as Section Chief. He further noted that Erin Weaver, former Deputy Executive Director for the Board of Dentistry, will be serving as his replacement, and expressed his enthusiasm for having her join the team.

LEGISLATION & REGULATORY REPORT:

In the absence of Mr. Novak and Ms. Barrett, Ms. Stransky delivered the legislative report. She noted that there have been no recent changes; however, new flowcharts are now available outlining the regulatory process.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Stransky introduced Mr. Boggan to the Board as the newest Deputy Executive Director. She noted that he holds a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) credential and previously served in Enforcement. She encouraged Board members to take the opportunity to get to know him. She also informed the Board of recent membership changes, noting that Ms. Cox, Ms. Purgold, and Mr. Randolph are no longer serving on the Board.

Ms. Stransky then opened the floor for Ms. Cox, one of the previous Board members, to offer remarks. Ms. Cox introduced herself as an LCSW from Lynchburg, Virginia, and as the BSW Program Director at Liberty University. She expressed her appreciation to the licensing and discipline staff and her fellow Board members, noting how much she learned about the behind-the-scenes operations of the Board. She congratulated the new Board members and encouraged the Board to continue upholding high standards.

Ms. Stransky also read a closing statement from Mr. Randolph, in which he expressed that it had been an honor to serve on the Board. He noted that the past four years had been intense and extended his best wishes to the Board moving forward.

Ms. Stransky stated that ASWB is requesting Board members' contact information and asked members to confirm whether they consent to have their information provided. She requested that anyone with concerns or objections notify her accordingly.

DISCIPLINE REPORT:

Ms. Lang noted that the formal hearing scheduled for September was canceled, and that rescheduling may require two days—preferably two consecutive Fridays or a Thursday and Friday. She stated that the Board has only three disciplinary staff supporting all three behavioral sciences boards. She reported that there are currently 704 open cases this year, 169 of which pertain to the Board of Social Work. Of those 169 cases, 138 remain open. There are currently 549 closed cases. She indicated that she may reach out to Board members in the future for assistance with reviewing case files.

LICENSING REPORT:

Mr. Boggan reported that he began his role on August 10, 2026, and is progressing well in learning the licensing operations. He noted that the Board is fortunate to have Ms. Vaughan and identified two ongoing challenges: staffing shortages and an increased volume of applications. He stated that in 2025, the Board averaged approximately 318 applications per month, while in 2026 the average increased to approximately 352 applications per month. He further noted an approximate 15 percent increase in Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) applications, no change in Registration of Supervision (ROS) applications, and a 5 percent increase in Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) applications.

He further reported that the Board has recently hired two part-time employees and that two full-time Senior Licensing Specialist positions have been posted.

NEW BUSINESS:

2026 LCSW Survey Results

Dr. Hodgdon began by presenting key findings regarding the Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) workforce. She stated that Virginia currently has approximately 9,000 practicing LCSWs, the majority of whom are female, and that the number has steadily increased over time. She noted an increase in full-time employment and a decrease in average age within the workforce.

Dr. Hodgdon then discussed trends related to education and debt. She reported that the majority of practitioners hold a master's degree and that approximately two out of five practitioners carry educational debt. She noted that the percentage of practitioners under age 40 with debt has remained relatively stable since 2020. Median income has increased, while median educational debt has remained stable since 2024; currently, median income exceeds median educational debt.

Dr. Hodgdon reported an increase in solo and group private practice settings and a

decrease in LCSWs working in outpatient mental health facilities, community services boards, and hospitals. She noted that the majority of practitioners now provide telehealth services within the state and that there has been an overall increase in all practice via telehealth.

2026 LMSW Survey Results

Dr. Hodgdon presented workforce data on Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSWs) in Virginia. She reported an overall increase in LMSWs in the workforce, along with growth in full-time employment. The median age for LMSWs is 39, with the majority under the age of 40. She noted that 95 percent of LMSWs are located in metropolitan areas, while Southwest and Southside Virginia have the lowest concentrations of full-time practitioners. Several counties across the state have no full-time LMSW employees, particularly in rural regions, and most counties have fewer than five full-time LMSWs.

Dr. Lynch asked whether there were any theories explaining the notable gaps in underserved counties. Dr. Hodgdon responded that a significant portion of these gaps can be attributed to individuals who are licensed in Virginia but do not actively practice within the state.

Dr. Shobo added that there are numerous factors contributing to gaps in practitioner participation within the state. She noted that many individuals work in military settings, while others may lack long-term ties to Virginia—some come to the state for education and licensure and later choose to practice in their home states. Dr. Hodgdon further reported that approximately 25 percent of licensees work in Washington, D.C., or in a bordering state.

BYLAWS UPDATE:

Ms. Lang first discussed the proposal to convert Guidance Document 140-7 into a policy document. She recommended repealing Guidance Document 140-7 and subsequently adopting it as a policy document.

Mr. Saunders noted that converting the document into a policy would allow the change to take effect immediately, without requiring action through the regulatory process. He stated that this approach would make future updates more efficient.

Motion: Dr. Pattie motioned to convert Guidance Documents 140-7 to a policy document. The motion was properly seconded by Ms. Meadows. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Landolt expressed concern regarding how nominations would be conducted following the removal of the nomination committee. Ms. Lang responded that most boards utilize nominations from the full Board. Ms. Stransky added that Board members should consider participating in the nomination process.

Motion: Ms. Landolt motioned to approve changes to the bylaws as presented. The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Pattie. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD ELECTION:

The Board conducted an election for the position of vice-chairperson.

Motion: Dr. Pattie motioned to nominate himself as vice-chairperson. The motion was properly seconded by Ms. Meadows. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 11, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Maria Stransky, LPC, CSAC, CSOTP, Executive Director

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