



Virginia Department of
Health Professions
Board of Social Work

Virginia Board of Social Work
Regulatory Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, VA 23233
Training Room 2

PRESIDING OFFICER: Elke Cox, MSW, LCSW

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Teresa Reynold, MSW, LCSW

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Denise Purgold, MSW, LCSW

BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Krystal Blanton, Discipline & Compliance Case Specialist
Jaime Hoyle, JD, Executive Director
Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director- Discipline
Sharniece Vaughan, Licensing & Operations Supervisor

DHP STAFF PRESENT: Erin Barrett, JD, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Department of Health Professions (*joined at 11:00am*)
Matt Novak, Policy & Economic Analyst, Department of Health Professions
Arne Owens, Agency Director, Department of Health Professions (*joined at 10:40am*)

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: None

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Cox called the Regulatory Committee meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: Two 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was provided.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Board reviewed the minutes from the meeting held on June 2, 2022. As the previous Regulatory Committee Members were no longer serving on the Board and therefore unavailable to verify the accuracy of the minutes, the minutes were accepted as presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: Ms. Hoyle informed the Board that this meeting would serve as an organizational and level-setting meeting and encouraged the Committee and staff to brainstorm and discuss potential actions the Board can take at future meetings.

Bylaws
The Board discussed the purpose of the Regulatory Committee and addressed issues surrounding LMSWs and LBSWs, noting that this is an opportunity to move forward thoughtfully. Ms. Hoyle stated that there is no deadline for implementing changes.

She explained that legislation can initiate the regulatory process and cited House Bill 1897 as recent example.

Regulatory Process

Mr. Novak provided a detailed explanation of the legislative and regulatory process, including Petitions for Rulemaking, Periodic Reviews, Guidance Documents, and Policy Documents. He highlighted the distinction between Guidance Documents and Policy Documents, noting that Policy Documents can be adopted solely by the Board and become effective immediately.

He outlined four regulatory pathways: standard, fast-track, emergency, and exempt. The fast-track process is a one-step procedure designed to expedite changes and address controversial issues; multiple changes can be proposed at once, followed by a 60-day public comment period after the proposal stage.

Emergency regulations, which require no discretion, are limited to a duration of 18 months. They follow a single-step process and are reviewed only by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM).

Mr. Novak also noted that there are currently five regulatory actions in the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) stage. During this stage, the Board may choose to repeal, amend, or retain the regulation as is. These discussions take place during Regulatory Committee meetings.

House Bill 1897

Ms. Barrett stated that the Board is unable to discuss HB1897 until the next Regulatory Committee meeting in September, as it is not yet law and no action can be taken at this time.

Mr. Novak encouraged committee members to review the petition submitted in December 2024.

The Board held a brief discussion regarding the possibility of extending supervision for individuals who begin late in their approval period, as well as potential alternatives to the licensing exam. It was noted that the Ad Hoc Committee is currently conducting a survey on exam alternatives.

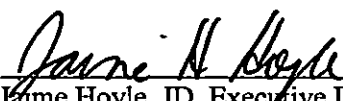
NEXT MEETING DATES:

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Cox adjourned the Regulatory Committee meeting held on May 16, 2025, at 12:02 p.m.


Elke Cox, MSW, LCSW


Jaime Hoyle, JD, Executive Director