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## ADVISORY BOARD ON BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

### Minutes

June 9, 2025

The Advisory Board on Behavior Analysis met on Monday, June 9, 2025, at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Christina Giuliano, LBA Chair  
John Harrington, MD  
Mark Llobell, Citizen

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Emily Wilson, LBA

**STAFF PRESENT:** Arne Owens, Director, Department of Health Professions  
William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director  
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Executive Director - Licensure  
Jennifer Deschenes, Deputy Executive Director – Discipline  
Colanthia M. Opher, Deputy Executive Director – Medical  
Licensure and Administration  
Kathleen LaMotte, Board Administrator  
Matthew Novak, DHP Policy and Economic Analyst  
Roslyn Nickens, Licensing Supervisor  
Joshlynn Jones, Licensing Specialist  
Sonya Armstead, Licensing Specialist

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Christina Evanko, VABA

#### Call to Order

Christina Giuliano called the meeting to order @ 10:11 a.m.

#### Emergency Egress Procedures

Kathleen LaMotte announced the emergency egress instructions.

#### Roll Call

Ms. LaMotte called the roll; a quorum was declared.

#### Introduction of Members

Ms. Giuliano asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Llobel moved to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2024 meeting. Ms. Giuliano seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Adoption of Agenda**

Dr. Harrington moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Llobel and passed unanimously.

## **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

None received.

## **New Business**

### **1. Legislative Report**

Matthew Novak reviewed items pertaining to the Board of Medicine from the 2025 General Assembly (GA) session. This included two vetoed bills supporting unconscious bias training, a new reporting system for threats made against healthcare professionals, a study to be completed by the DHP regarding the scope of practice of physician assistants, a new license type for anesthesiologist assistants, a faster regulatory pathway to allow for licensure by endorsement for professions that do not currently have one, a recommendation for further education for licensees to be communicated by the DHP regarding communication with children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and the elimination of the Board of Health Professions and the absorption of the Board's duties by the DHP.

### **2. Report on Status of Regulatory /Policy Actions**

Matthew Novak reviewed the status of the Advisory Board's regulatory actions. Only one regulation impacts this Advisory Board, the periodic review changes recommended in October of 2022. The changes will become effective July 3 and will eliminate some unnecessary requirements. This report was for informational purposes only.

### **3. Recommendation of draft amendments for licensure by endorsement**

The Advisory Board was asked to review draft regulatory changes for licensure by endorsement to create a separate path to licensure in Virginia when people are licensed in other states. This will allow a slightly easier process for these applicants to enter Virginia. This Advisory's recommendation will be sent to the full Board of Medicine to consider adoption of an exempt regulatory action to amend the regulations.

After the agenda package was released to the Advisory Board, the language stricken in 150.51 was re-inserted. There are some professions that do not use the National

Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) and the language requiring verification of no disciplinary action is re-inserted.

Mr. Novak reported that under section 51, there are four items for an applicant seeking to be licensed in Virginia by endorsement shall submit. Included are evidence of a current, active license in a United States jurisdiction or Canada that is substantially similar and in good standing, a completed application and fee, verification of certification as required in 18VAC85-150-60; and a current report from the National Practitioner Data Bank.

The Advisory discussed concerns that a practitioner from another state may not have had the training required by the Virginia Board of Medicine and is would not be comfortable with an individual practicing that doesn't meet the same quality of care. The language of "substantially similar" was thought to be ambiguous. DHP staff advised that standards could be set by Board staff, and an applicant could appeal to the Board when a different credential is submitted.

The Advisory further discussed the requirement of Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) certification would serve as a backstop to ensure applicants are properly qualified for Virginia licensure.

The language "substantially similar" was removed from the draft recommendations to be presented to the full Board.

**MOTION: Mr. Llobel moved to recommend to the full Board the adoption of an exempt regulatory action to amend regulations as amended pursuant to SB1438. Dr. Harrington seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.**

## **Licensing Report**

Joshlynn Jones provided the following licensing statistics for behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts:

Total Licensed in Commonwealth of Virginia  
Behavior Analyst - 3,479  
Assistant Behavior Analyst- 255

Total Licenses Issued from January 1, 2025 to June 9, 2025  
Behavior Analyst- 346  
Assistant Behavior Analyst- 21

Current Application Processing Days- 16 days

Clearance Rate- 84%

## **Announcements**

### Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, October 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Sobowale advised that at future meetings, there will be no paper agenda packet, and Advisory members will have their items pre-loaded on a laptop. The agenda will also be projected in the room for guests to see. Agency staff will continue to send out notice of the meeting by email ahead of time.

### **Adjournment**

Christina Giuliano, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

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William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director

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