

THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
Friday, October 15, 2010

The Regulatory Committee of the Virginia Board of Social Work ("Board") convened at 9:10 a.m. on Friday, October 15, 2010 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Wayne Martin called the meeting to order.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Charles R. Chambers, Jr.
Willie T. Greene, Sr.
Susan Horne-Quatannens
Wayne Martin

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ABSENT:

None

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT:

David Boehm
Patricia Smith-Solan

STAFF PRESENT:

Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director
Howard Casway, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Catherine Chappell, Deputy Executive Director
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst

ORDERING OF AGENDA

Mr. Martin opened the floor to any changes in the order of the Agenda. The Agenda was accepted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Horne-Quatannens moved that the minutes from the July 16, 2010 Regulatory Committee be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Ms. Yeatts presented draft proposed regulations to address issues relating to licensure by examination, licensure by endorsement, and reinstatement of lapsed licensure.

With respect to requirements for licensure by examination as clinical social workers for candidates who had passed the examination but were never licensed, a definition of “active practice” was added to the regulations. Additionally, 18VAC140-20-40.3 was added to provide that “an applicant for licensure by examination shall provide evidence of passage of the examination prescribed in 18VAC140-20-70. If the examination was not passed within five years preceding application for licensure, the applicant may qualify by documentation of providing clinical social work services in an exempt setting for at least 360 hours per year for two of the past five years.”

A related provision was drafted for licensure by examination as a social worker in Regulation 18VAC140-20-51, wherein “an applicant for licensure by examination shall provide evidence of passage of the examination prescribed in 18VAC140-20-70. If the examination was not passed with five years preceding application for licensure, the applicant may qualify by documentation of providing social work services in an exempt setting for at least 360 hours per year for two of the past five years.” Ms. Horne-Quatannens moved that the Regulatory Committee recommend that the Board adopt these changes to application by examination for both clinical social workers and social workers. The motion was seconded.

With respect to requirements for licensure by endorsement for candidates unable to document 36 out of past 60 months of active practice, Regulation 18VAC140-20-45 was revised to require applicants to provide “documentation of social work licensure in good standing obtained by standards required for licensure in another jurisdiction as verified by the out-of-state licensing agency on a board-approved form. Licensure in the other jurisdiction shall be of the same type as the licensure which the applicant is seeking in Virginia.” Additionally, the proposed amendment provides that verification of a passing score as established by the board on a board approved national exam is required “at the level for which the applicant is seeking licensure in Virginia.” The requirement for official transcript was deleted. Lastly, the requirement for verification of active practice in another jurisdiction was revised to allow applicants unable to document active practice for 36 out of the past 60 months to provide “evidence of supervised experience requirements substantially equivalent to those outlined in 18VAC140-20-50 and 18VAC140-20-60.” Mr. Boehm moved that the Regulatory Committee recommend that the Board adopt these changes to endorsement provisions. The motion was seconded.

With respect to requirements for applicants for reinstatement who are unable to document active practice in recent years, the Committee discussed how to document competency to practice social work after a lapse of licensure. Mr. Boehm discussed proposed changes to Regulation 18VAC140-20-110 to require that applicants for reinstatement must document evidence of continued competency by demonstrating active practice in another jurisdiction, by practicing in an exempt setting, by practicing under supervision for one year, or by retaking the licensing examination at the level for which the applicant is seeking licensure in Virginia. However the Committee agreed to table the discussion pending consideration by the full Board.

PROPOSED FEE INCREASE

Ms. Yeatts reminded the Committee that a NOIRA had been adopted at the last meeting to contemplate fee and renewal changes in response to projected cash shortfalls in the Board's budget. She requested that the proposed amendments in this regard be deferred to the full Board for action. The Committee agreed to table the discussion.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CE REQUIREMENTS

Ms. Horne-Quatannens previously requested that the Committee consider implementing a face-to-face meeting requirement for a portion of the continuing education hours towards licensure renewal. She specifically requested that the Committee consider requiring face-to-face training for the ethics requirement. Discussion followed as to how many online courses would be allowed towards the required CE for renewal. The Committee agreed to table the discussion to a later meeting.

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT TO CLARIFY "CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES"

Ms. Brown commented that a guidance document was needed to assist staff in evaluation of supervision contracts and clinical settings. She asked that the discussion be deferred to the full Board for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Martin appointed Mr. Boehm as chair of the Regulatory Committee. Mr. Boehm agreed to the appointment.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Martin requested that the next meeting of the Regulatory Committee be scheduled for Friday, January 21, at 9:00 a.m., with the Board Meeting following immediately thereafter. Mr. Martin thanked the Committee for their work in defining the rules of practice.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Regulatory Committee Meeting, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Wayne Martin, Chair

Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director