

# Update on Registration of Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHPs)

April 2018

# Background

# Virginia Department of Health Professions (DHP)

Our mission is to provide and safe and competent patient care, by licensing health professionals, enforcing standards of practice, and providing information to health practitioners and the public.

# Umbrella Agency



- DHP accomplishes its mission through the licensure, regulation and discipline of 13 health regulatory boards and the Board of Health Professions.
- This includes over 350,000 health practitioners across 82 professions.

# Overview

Counseling Board composed of 12 members:

LPCs – 6

LMFTs - 3

LSATP – 1

Citizen Members - 2

- Appointed by the Governor for 4 year terms
- Terms are staggered – allows for new ideas and new faces each year



# Board Members

<p><b>Barry Alvarez, LMFT</b> First Term: 7/1/2017- 6/30/2021</p>	<p><b>Danielle Hunt, LPC</b> First Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2019</p>	<p><b>Tiffinee Yancey, Ph.D., LPC, ACS, HS-BCP</b> First Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2021</p>
<p><b>Johnston Brendel, Ed.D, LPC, LMFT</b> First Term: 7/1/2015- 6/30/2019</p>	<p><b>Bev-Freda Jackson, Ph.D, MA</b> First Term: 7/1/2016-6/30/2020 <b>CITIZEN MEMBER</b></p>	<p><b>Vivian Sanchez-Jones</b> First Term: 7/1/2014 -6/30/2018 <b>CITIZEN MEMBER</b></p>
<p><b>Kevin Doyle, Ed.D, LPC, LSATP</b> First Term: 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2017 2<sup>nd</sup> Term: 7/1/2017 – 6/30/2021 <b>(Chairperson 8/2017 - )</b></p>	<p><b>Maria Stransky, LPC, CSAC, CSOTP</b> First Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2021</p>	<p><b>Terry Tinsley, PhD, LPC, LMFT, NCC, CSOTP</b> First Term: 7/1/2015 - 6/30/2018 <b>(Completing Unexpired Term)</b></p>
<p><b>Natalie Harris, LPC, LMFT, CADC, NCC, CCMHC</b> First Term: 7/1/2017 - 6/30/2021</p>	<p><b>Jane Engelken, LPC, LSATP</b> First Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2017 2<sup>nd</sup> Term: 7/1/2017- 6/30/2021 <b>(Vice Chairperson 8/2017 - )</b></p>	<p><b>Holly Tracy, LPC, LMFT</b> First Term: 7/1/2014 – 6/30/2018</p>

# Meet the Staff

<b>Jaime Hoyle, Esquire – Executive Director</b>	<b>Jennifer Lang – Deputy Executive Director</b>
Charlotte Lenart – Licensing Manager	Victoria Prosser – Administrative Assistant
Tracey Arrington-Edmonds – Licensing Specialist	Dalyce Logan – QMHP Administrative Assistant
Brenda Maida – Licensing Specialist	Shawntae Turner – QMHP Administrative Assistant
Christy Evans – Discipline Case Specialist/Compliance Case Manager	Linda Young – QMHP Administrative Assistant
Natalie Unmusing – Administrative Assistant	Vacant – Administrative Assistant

# Behavioral Sciences Unit

## Board of Counseling

- ✓ Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC)
- ✓ Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioners (LSATP)
- ✓ Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT)
- ✓ Certified Substance Abuse Counselors (CSAC)
- ✓ Certified Substance Abuse Counselors Assistants (CSAC-A)
- ✓ Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC)
- ✓ Qualified Mental Health Professional – Adult (QMHP-A)
- ✓ Qualified Mental Health Professional – Children (QMHP-C)
- ✓ Qualified Mental Health Professional – Trainees (QMHP-Trainee)
- ✓ Peer Recovery Specialists (RPRS)

## Board of Psychology

- ✓ Clinical Psychologists (LCP)
- ✓ School Psychologists
- ✓ Applied Psychologists
- ✓ Sex Offender Treatment Providers
- ✓ School Psychologists –Limited

## Board of Social Work

- ✓ Social Workers (LSW)
- ✓ Clinical Social (LCSW)



Governed by Law and Regulation



- Chapter 35 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia governs Professional Counseling and establishes the Board, the Board's duties, and the professions regulated under the Board of Counseling.
- A regulation is a general rule governing people's rights or conduct that is promulgated by a state agency and has the force of law.
- A Guidance Document is defined as "...any document developed by a state agency or staff that provides information or guidance of general applicability to the staff or public to interpret or implement statutes or the agency's rules or regulations..."
- Access information regarding laws, regulations, and guidance documents on the Board's website, as well as updated meeting minutes and proposed Regulations.  
<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Default.htm>
- Consider registering with Virginia Town Hall to receive notification of regulatory actions and meetings at <http://townhall.virginia.gov/>.

# QMHP and Peer Regulations

- Grandfather period of 12 months
- Must be registered with the Board of Counseling to receive reimbursement for services
- Provides accountability and transparency
- License Look-up

# Pathways to QMHP-A Registration

**In order to qualify, you must provide evidence of ONE of the following:**

- Master's degree in psychology, social work, counseling, substance abuse, or marriage and family therapy from an accredited college or university, you need:
  - To submit a transcript
  - Evidence you have had an intern or practicum of at least 500 hours of experience with persons who have a mental illness. (verification of internship form)
- Minimum of bachelor's degree in a human services or related field from an accredited college, you need:
  - To submit a transcript
  - Evidence of 1,500 hours of supervised experience (verification of supervised experience form)
- Bachelor's from an accredited college in an unrelated field, you need:
  - To submit a transcript
  - 15 semester credits or 22 quarter hours in a human services field
  - 3,000 hours of supervised experience (verification of supervised experience form)
- License as a registered nurse in Virginia, you need:
  - 1,500 hours of supervised experience (verification of supervised experience form)
- License as an occupational therapist in Virginia, you need:
  - 1,500 hours of supervised experience (verification of supervised experience form)

***\*All supervised experience must be obtained within a 5-year period immediately preceding the application for registration\****



# Guidance Document on Approved QMHP Degrees

- Art Therapy
- Behavioral Sciences
- Child Development
- Child and Family Studies/Services
- Cognitive Sciences
- Community Mental Health
- Counseling (Mental health, Vocational, Pastoral, etc.)
- Counselor Education
- Early Childhood Development
- Education (with a focus in psychology and/or special education)
- Educational Psychology
- Family Development/Relations
- Gerontology
- Health and Human Services
- Human Development
- Human Services
- Marriage and Family Therapy
- Music Therapy
- Nursing
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation
- Psychology
- Rehabilitation Counseling
- School Counseling
- Social Work
- Special Education
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Sociology – (accepted until May 31, 2021)

## Supervised Experience Requirements for QMHP-A

- Direct services to individuals as part of a population of adults with mental illness in a setting where mental health treatment, practice, observation or diagnosis occurs.
- Services provided shall be appropriate to the practice of a QMHP-A.
- Must be under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional or a person under supervision approved by a board as a pre-requisite for licensure under the Boards of Counseling, Psychology, or Social Work. (Currently, non-Virginia supervisor's cannot be considered)
- Consist of face-to-face training until supervisor determines competency in the provision of QMHP-A services, then supervision may be indirect (the supervisor is either on-site or immediately available for consultation with the person being trained).
- A person receiving supervised training in order to qualify as a QMHP-A may register with the Board.

# Pathways to QMHP-C Registration

## In order to qualify, you must provide evidence of ONE of the following:

- Master's degree in psychology, social work, counseling, substance abuse, or marriage and family therapy from an accredited college or university, you need:
  - To submit a transcript
  - Evidence you have had an intern or practicum of at least 500 hours of experience with children or adolescents who have a mental illness. (verification of internship form)
- Minimum of bachelor's degree in a human services or in special education from an accredited college, you need:
  - To submit a transcript
  - Evidence of 1,500 hours of supervised experience (verification of supervised experience form)
- License as a registered nurse in Virginia, you need:
  - 1,500 hours of supervised experience (verification of supervised experience form)
- License as an occupational therapist in Virginia, you need:
  - 1,500 hours of supervised experience (verification of supervised experience form)

***\*All supervised experience must be obtained within a 5-year period immediately preceding the application for registration\****

## Supervised Experience Requirements for QMHP-C

- Direct services to individuals as part of a population of children or adolescents with mental illness in a setting where mental health treatment, practice, observation or diagnosis occurs.
- Services provided shall be appropriate to the practice of a QMHP-C.
- Must be under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional or a person under supervision approved by a board as a pre-requisite for licensure under the Boards of Counseling, Psychology, or Social Work. (Currently, non-Virginia supervisor's cannot be considered)
- Consist of face-to-face training until supervisor determines competency in the provision of QMHP-C services, then supervision may be indirect (the supervisor is either on-site or immediately available for consultation with the person being trained).
- A person receiving supervised training in order to qualify as a QMHP-C may register with the Board.



## Grandfathering for QMHP-A and QMHP-C

The Board **MAY** consider applicants by grandfather, if they met DBHDS requirements and were employed as a QMHP-A or QMHP-C in Virginia prior to December 31, 2017.

### What does this mean?

- **The attestation form asked if I had a variance. What is a variance?**

Individuals hired as a QMHP prior to September 1, 2010 without a bachelor's degree but who had a least four years of experience in providing behavior health services were given the opportunity to request a variance from DMAS. The Variance request were submitted to DMAS and evaluated with consultation from DBHDS. Variance were granted based on the type and years of experience, agency licensure status, continuing education and the ability of the provider to provide clinical and administrative supervision. According to DMAS, variance can remain in effect as long as the individual remains in the same job with the same employer. If you were approved for a variance, the Board requires the DMAS Variance approval email for consideration.

## Supervised Trainee for QMHP-A or QMHP-C

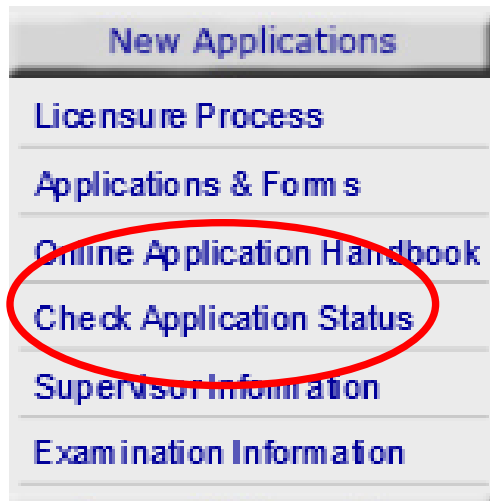
- Individuals that are currently in the process of accruing experience toward QMHP-A or QMHP-C registration eligibility may apply to be a supervised trainee.
- Individuals just starting the process to become eligible for QMHP-A or QMHP-C registration may submit an application to be a supervised trainee.
- Applying to become a supervised trainee is not required within the Proposed Regulations.
- In 2019, the QMHP-Trainee trainee status will allow providers/employers to receive reimbursement from DMAS while a person is gaining the necessary experience to become a QMHP-A or QMHP-C.

# Common Mistakes

- Apply by submitting a paper application. (Only online applications are accepted)
- Submitting form(s) that do not have an original signature
- Incomplete Attestation
  - Examples
    - Not checking variance question
    - Checking “yes” when you did not have a variance
    - Not indicating the name of the agency as listed on the DHBDS license provider search website
- Submitting the incorrect online application
  - Example: submitting an QMHP-A initial application instead of a QMHP-A grandfather application
- Omitting education information on the online application
- Not indicating that you hold a DHP license, certification or registration or mental health license, certificate or registration in another jurisdiction.
- Using an old version of the attestation form (11/2017 version is not accepted)
- Not submitting conviction information
- Not using your legal name

## Application Status

- Complete applications will be processed within 30 days.
- The Board cannot give status to anyone other than the applicant.



Example:

### License Requirements

Item	Fee	Amount Due	Status	Complete Date
Application			Unchecked	
Application Fee			Unchecked	
Transcripts			Unchecked	
Internship Verification			Unchecked	
Verification of Supervised Experience			Unchecked	
Verification of Licensure/Certification			Unchecked	
Name Change Documentation			Unchecked	

- Calling or sending an email prior to 30 days slows down the process.

# Where to find helpful information

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu on the left and an announcement section on the right. Red arrows highlight specific areas:

- Navigation Menu:**
  - An arrow points to the **General Information** category.
  - An arrow points to the **Applications & Forms** sub-category.
  - An arrow points to the **Online Application Handbook** link.
  - An arrow points to the **Check Application Status** link.
- Announcements:**
  - An arrow points to the **Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) and Registered Peer Recovery Specialist (RPRS) Information** section.
  - Another arrow points to the text within this section, specifically to the phrase "Paper applications will not be accepted."
  - A third arrow points to the **Emergency Regulations Governing the Registration of Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHP)** and **Emergency Regulations Governing the Registration of Peer Recovery Specialists (RPRS)** links.
- Other Announcements:**
  - An arrow points to the **Opioid Addiction Crisis Declared a Public Health Emergency in Virginia** section.
  - Another arrow points to the **Download Commissioner Levine's message** link.

# Board/Committee Meetings

- Upcoming Meetings:
  - May 17, 2018 (Regulatory)
  - May 18, 2018 (Quarterly)

Meetings are open to the public!



# How to Contact Us



**Department of Health  
Professions Website:**  
[www.dhp.virginia.gov](http://www.dhp.virginia.gov)

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