

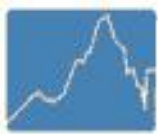
VIRGINIA

Department of Health Professions



Update on Registration of QMHPs and Peer Recovery Specialists

October 17, 2017



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Department of Health Professions



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.



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- 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/counseling/>.
- Consider registering with Virginia Town Hall to receive notification of regulatory actions and meetings at <http://townhall.virginia.gov/>.



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New Proposed Regulations regarding Qualified Mental Health Professionals and Registered Peer Recovery Specialists



2017 Legislation (House Bill 2095)

- Passed during the 2017 General Assembly authorized the Board of Counseling to register QMHPs and Peer Recovery Specialists.
 - Board of Counseling to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this legislation within 280 days.
 - Board approved the emergency regulations on August 19, 2017 and issued a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to make these regulations permanent.
 - These regulations are currently moving through the Regulatory Process and are under review by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
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QMHP and Peer Regulations

- Anticipated Effective date of January 1, 2018
 - 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
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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****



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.
 - 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.
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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)
- 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****



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.
 - 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.
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Grandfathering for QMHP-A and QMHP-C

Employers will attest that the applicant has been employed as a QMHP-A or QMHP-C in Virginia prior to December 31, 2017 and met the qualifications for QMHP-A or QMHP-C during the time of employment as defined by DBHDS.



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.
 - Supervised 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.
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Pathways to Certification and Registration as a Peer Recovery Specialist

- Certification as a Peer Recovery Specialist in Virginia is voluntary.
 - Beginning April 1, 2018 an individual must be registered with the Board in order for their services to be billed to Medicaid.
 - To qualify to register with the Board of Counseling individuals must submit evidence of:
 - Peer Support Certification in good standing with the Virginia Certification Board, a nationally recognized organization, another state, or the Veteran's Administration; and,
 - Completion of the DBHDS Peer Recovery Specialist Training
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How to Contact Us



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