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**UPDATE ON VBSW CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
CHANGES FROM 2 HOURS TO 6 HOURS REQUIRED IN "ETHICS"
AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2019**

"Ethics hours"

LCSW's usually refer to this CE requirement as "ethics hours." However, the regulations actually allow three topics within this category. They are:

1. Ethics,
2. The standards of practice for the behavioral health professions
3. Laws governing the practice of social work in Virginia.

1. On June 14, 2019 the VBSW passed a motion to adopt as final the amendment to the regulations that increases the number of "ethics" hours from 2 to 6 hours.

THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Friday, June 14, 2019 The Virginia Board of Social Work ("Board") meeting convened at 10:00 a.m.
on Friday, June 14, 2019 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive,
Henrico, Virginia in Board Room 1.

Final Action on Regulation

Ms. Yeatts updated the Board on the proposed regulations to increase the continuing education hours pertaining to ethics to a minimum of (6) for LCSWs and a minimum of (3) for LSWs. Ms. Yeatts reported that the public comment period closed March 8, 2019 and there was no public comment.

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Walsh and properly seconded by Mr. Canek to adopt the final amendments to these proposed regulations as included in the agenda package. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

2. After the VBSW passed this motion then they sent the new regulations to the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall. The amended regulations do not become final until they are published in the Virginia Register of Regulations. The amended regulations will be published on **October 14, 2019.**

Final Text

Action:

Hours of ethics for continuing education

Stage: Final

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18VAC140-20-105

18VAC140-20-105. Continued competency requirements for renewal of an active license.

A. Licensed clinical social workers shall be required to have completed a minimum of 30 contact hours of continuing education. LBSWs and LMSWs shall be required to have completed a minimum of 15 contact hours of continuing education prior to licensure renewal in even years. Courses or activities shall be directly related to the practice of social work or another behavioral health field. A minimum of ~~two six~~ six of those hours for licensed clinical social workers and a minimum of three of those hours for licensed social workers must pertain to ethics or the standards of practice for the behavioral health professions or to laws governing the practice of social work in Virginia. Up to two continuing education hours required for renewal may be satisfied through delivery of social work services, without compensation, to low-income individuals receiving health services through a local health department or a free clinic organized in whole or primarily for the delivery of those services, as verified by the department or clinic. Three hours of volunteer service is required for one hour of continuing education credit.

Virginia Registrar

Submitted on 9/24/2019

[The Virginia Register of Regulations](#)

Will be published on 10/14/2019 Volume: 36 Issue: 4

3. The VBSW may not place on their website the amended regulations until they are published on October 14, 2019. When they do publish the regulations on their website the continuing education requirements are very likely to look like the below table where the "minimum of 2 hours of ethics" will change to "minimum of 6 hours of ethics" (see highlighted below).

	2019 Renewal Renewal: June 30, 2019		2020 Renewal Renewal: June 30, 2020	
	FEE	CE	FEE	CE
Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)	\$90.00	No CE required to renew license	\$90.00	30 hours of CE from 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2020 with a minimum of 6 hours of ethics , standards of practice or laws governing the practice of social work in Virginia.