

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services  
Office of Licensing

**QMHP/QMRP/QPPMH DEFINITIONS:**

**"Qualified Mental Health Professional-Adult (QMHP-A)"** means a person in the human services field who is trained and experienced in providing psychiatric or mental health services to individuals who have a mental illness; including:

- (i) a doctor of medicine or osteopathy licensed in Virginia;
- (ii) a doctor of medicine or osteopathy, specializing in psychiatry and licensed in Virginia;
- (iii) an individual with a master's degree in psychology from an accredited college or university with at least one year of clinical experience;
- (iv) a social worker: an individual with at least a bachelor's degree in human services or related field (social work, psychology, psychiatric rehabilitation, sociology, counseling, vocational rehabilitation, human services counseling or other degree deemed equivalent to those described) from an accredited college and with at least one year of clinical experience providing direct services to individuals with a diagnosis of mental illness;
- (v) a person with at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college in an unrelated field that includes at least 15 semester credits (or equivalent) in a human services field and who has at least three years of clinical experience;
- (vi) a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Provider (CPRP) registered with the United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (USPRA); (vii) a registered nurse licensed in Virginia with at least one year of clinical experience; or
- (viii) any other licensed mental health professional.

**"Qualified Mental Health Professional-Child (QMHP-C)"** means a person in the human services field who is trained and experienced in providing psychiatric or mental health services to children who have a mental illness.

To qualify as a QMHP-C, the individual must have the designated clinical experience and must either:

- (i) be a doctor of medicine or osteopathy licensed in Virginia;
- (ii) have a master's degree in psychology from an accredited college or university with at least one year of clinical experience with children and adolescents;
- (iii) have a social work bachelor's or master's degree from an accredited college or university with at least one year of documented clinical experience with children or adolescents;
- (iv) be a registered nurse with at least one year of clinical experience with children and adolescents;
- (v) have at least a bachelor's degree in a human services field or in special education from an accredited college with at least one year of clinical experience with children and adolescents, or
- (vi) be a licensed mental health professional.

**"Qualified Mental Health Professional-Eligible (QMHP-E)"** means a person who has:

- (i) at least a bachelor's degree in a human service field or special education from an accredited college without one year of clinical experience or
- (ii) at least a bachelor's degree in a nonrelated field and is enrolled in a master's or doctoral clinical program, taking the equivalent of at least three credit hours per semester and is employed by a provider that has a triennial license issued by the department and has a department and DMAS-approved supervision training program.

**"Qualified Mental Retardation Professional (QMRP)"** means a person who possesses at least one year of documented experience working directly with individuals who have mental retardation (intellectual disability) or other developmental disabilities and one of the following credentials:

- (i) a doctor of medicine or osteopathy licensed in Virginia,
- (ii) a registered nurse licensed in Virginia, or
- (iii) completion of at least a bachelor's degree in a human services field, including, but not limited to sociology, social work, special education, rehabilitation counseling, or psychology.

**"Qualified Paraprofessional in Mental Health (QPPMH)"** means a person who must, at a minimum, meet one of the following criteria:

- (i) registered with the United States Psychiatric Association (USPRA) as an Associate Psychiatric Rehabilitation Provider (APRP);
- (ii) has an associate's degree in a related field (social work, psychology, psychiatric rehabilitation, sociology, counseling, vocational rehabilitation, human services counseling) and at least one year of experience providing direct services to individuals with a diagnosis of mental illness; or
- (iii) has a minimum of 90 hours classroom training and 12 weeks of experience under the direct personal supervision of a QMHP-Adult providing services to individuals with mental illness and at least one year of experience (including the 12 weeks of supervised experience).

**QMRPs** must have at least one year of documented experience providing direct services (*developing, conducting, and approving assessments and individual service plans*) with individuals with a diagnosis of an intellectual disability (mental retardation) or other developmental disabilities.

## QMRP Guidance:

The QMRP position provides direction, development and implementation, direct supervision and monitoring (observation and evaluation of staff implementing care, service plans & interacting with clients) to the service provided. This position has responsibility for approving assessments and individual service plans or treatment plans to ensure that appropriate services are provided to meet the needs of the individuals serviced. The QMRP must have documented experience **developing, conducting, and approving assessments and individual service plans treatment plans.**

**12 VAC 35-105-590** states an individual could meet the requirements for a QMRP if he has "equivalent experience."

**Equivalent Experience** is defined as ***five years of paid experience*** in providing direction, development and implementation, direct supervision and monitoring (observation and evaluation of staff implementing care, service plans & interacting with clients) to the service provided. This position has responsibility for approving assessments and individual service plans or treatment plans to ensure that appropriate services are provided to meet the needs of the individuals serviced. The QMRP ***must have documented experience developing, conducting, and approving assessments and individual service plans or treatment plans.***

**The QMRP POSITIONS ARE NOT INTENDED FOR INDIVIDUALS WHOSE EXPERIENCE IS LIMITED TO IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING PLANS, ATTENDING IEP OR TEAM MEETINGS ONLY.**