BOARD OF
REHABILITATIVE THERAPIES

Issue #1

Summer-Winter 2026

Message from the Executive Director, District of Columbia Board of Rehabilitative Therapies

The District of Columbia Board of Professional Counseling remains dedicated to protecting the public by upholding the highest standards of professional practice and supporting excellence across the various professions represented by this board. On behalf of myself and the board staff, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the many professionals who serve the District with compassion, integrity, and expertise. Your commitment to serving the residents of the District of Columbia, and our communities, plays a vital role in strengthening the support systems that residents rely on every day. Thank you for your continued dedication to promoting overall emotional wellness, personal growth, healing and advocating for the individuals and families of the District. You matter and your work makes a difference!

— **LaTrice Herndon, MS Executive Director**

DC HEALTH
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Welcome & Introduction

The **Health Systems and Preparedness Administration (HSPA) at the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health)** is committed to ensuring that all licensed health professionals meet the highest standards of competence, ethics, and public safety.

This newsletter serves as a communication bridge between DC Health, the professional boards, and licensees. Each issue highlights important regulatory updates, continuing education opportunities, public health initiatives, and professional achievements.

Through collaboration, transparency, and accountability, DC Health continues to advance our mission of protecting, promoting, and improving the health of all District residents.

About DC Health | HSPA

The Health Systems and Preparedness Administration (HSPA) is one of five administrations within DC Health. Within HSPA, the Office of Health Professional Licensure (OHPL) oversees the regulatory operations of 15 professional licensing boards, the Investigations Division, and the Pharmaceutical Control Division.

Each respective board under OHPL ensures that all health professionals practice safely and effectively through:

- Licensing and renewals for health professionals
- Policy development and enforcement of laws and regulations
- Board support for disciplinary actions, rulemaking, and continuing education
- Public-health partnerships promoting safe, ethical, and quality care

Each professional board is composed of members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the DC Council, representing both professional expertise and public interests. Together, these boards uphold DC Health's core values: **integrity, excellence, accountability, and service.**

About the Board

The Board of Rehabilitative Therapies has the responsibility to regulate the practice of Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Recreational Thearpy, in the District of Columbia. Its mission is to provide oversight to licensed professionals and ensure the health and safety of citizens and visitors in the District of Columbia through the provision of health care services.

The Board currently by statute is composed of seven members appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council:

- 3 physical therapists or physical therapist assistants
- 2 occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants
- 2 audiologists or speech-language pathologists
- 1 recreational therapist
- 1 member licensed or registered under this Board (audiologist, audiology assistant, physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, recreational therapist, speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant)
- 2 consumer members

Currently there are 7 Board vacancies for 1 physical therapist or physical therapist assistant, 1 occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant, 1 audiologist or speech-language pathologist, 1 recreational therapist, and 1 member of any profession licensed under this board. For additional information regarding vacancies and how to join the Board, please visit the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA) at: https://motaboards.applytojob.com/apply/Q5hFa3Tu79/Board-Of-Rehabilitative-Therapies-BORT

Mailing address:
2201 Shannon Pl SE, Washington, DC 20020
All Board inquiries can be sent to:

- **dcboaud@dc.gov** for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
- **dcboot@dc.gov** for Occupational Therapy and Dance Therapy
- **dcbopt@dc.gov** for Physical Therapy

Board Members

- **Dr. Angela Grice, SLP**
- **Dr. Bernardine Evans, DPT**
- **Ms. Rayona Hagona-Wordie, PT**
- **Dr. Gillian Rai, OT**

Board Updates & Priorities

We are pleased to share updates from the Board of Rehabilitative Therapies as we continue building a stronger, more unified regulatory home for our professions. The Board is now comprised of the former Boards of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, the Board of Occupational Therapy, and the Board of Physical Therapy, bringing together a wide range of rehabilitative expertise under one collaborative body. The Board consists of 11 members, and we currently have vacancies. If you are interested in serving, we encourage you to contact the Mayor's Office on Talent and Appointments (MOTA) at https://mota.dc.gov

As part of aligning the work of the former boards, we are actively updating regulations to ensure consistency, clarity, and responsiveness to the needs of each profession.

We are currently finalizing updates for audiologists, audiology assistants, speech-language pathologists, speech-language pathology assistants, and speech-language pathology clinical fellows. Once these are complete, we will move forward with updates to regulations for Physical Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants, followed by Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapists Assistants and Recreational Therapists.

A key focus of our board discussions has been how to inspire more young people to pursue careers across the rehabilitative therapy professions. We are eager to connect with practitioners, organizations, and educators who share this mission.

We warmly welcome your ideas, collaboration, and participation as we work together to grow and strengthen these essential professions. Your voice and expertise truly make a difference.

Board Chair Corner

As we look ahead, I want to speak directly to something I believe deeply: our professions… audiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, recreational therapy, and speech-language pathology, are stronger when we work together.

Each of our disciplines brings a distinct lens to patient care, but we share a common goal: treating the whole patient, not just a diagnosis or a set of symptoms. As we move forward, I want to encourage all of us, across every profession represented on this Board, to continue building bridges between our fields, sharing knowledge, and advocating for integrated, patient-centered approaches to rehabilitative care. When we collaborate across disciplines, our patients are the ones who benefit most.

I also want to take a moment to reflect on a loss our Board experienced this year. In February, we said goodbye to one of our own, Mr. Charles Bond. Charles brought unmatched care and dedication to the recreational therapy space, and his presence on this Board made us better and more thoughtful, more patient-centered, and more committed to the work. He will be deeply missed, and his contributions to our professions and to the people he served will not be forgotten.

Thank you for the work you do every day for the residents of the District. Let's continue moving forward, together!

Warmly,
-Dr. Angela Grice
Chair, DC Board of Rehabilitative Therapies

Upcoming Meetings

The Board meets on the third Friday of every month at 10:00 a.m., unless otherwise indicated by the board webpage. Additional information and meeting links can be found on the Board of Rehabilitative Therapies webpage.

2026 meeting dates:

- June 10, 2026
- July 8, 2026
- September 9, 2026 (Rescheduled to September 17, 2026)
- October 14, 2026
- November TBD
- December 9, 2026

Closing Note

DC Health thanks all licensed professionals for their service and commitment to public health. Together, we advance to a stronger, healthier, and more resilient District. Board of Rehabilitative Therapies Webpage

Emergency Informational Alert - Ongoing Scam Targeting DC Health Licensees

Dear Licensee:

DC Health continues to receive reports of fraudulent communications in which scammers impersonate DC Health representatives, law enforcement officers, or other government officials. These individuals contact licensees by phone, email, or fax, often using "spoofed" numbers to appear legitimate, and falsely claim the licensee is under investigation.

Recent Activity:

A District licensee reported repeated scam calls from individuals identifying themselves as "Carlos Rivero" and "Ben Martin," using the number **202-442-8955**, which is a spoofed version of a DC Health main line. Similar tactics have been reported in previous cases and mirror national fraud patterns targeting health professionals.

What Scammers Are Doing

- Impersonating DC Health or federal officials
- Claiming the licensee is under investigation or legally required to respond
- Requesting money, personal information, or immediate action
- Using spoofing technology so calls appear to come from DC Health numbers
- Sending follow-up emails or faxes to appear official

IMPORTANT: Please be advised that **DC Health representatives will never contact you with a request for money**. Any legitimate payment or fee will only be associated with a license application, an official Board order or consent agreement, or a formal civil infraction citation. DC Health only accepts payments via check or money order. Additionally, any check or money order payment made to DC Health must always be made payable to DC TREASURER. Any request to make payment to an individual or entity other than DC TREASURER is not valid.

Immediate Actions If You Are Contacted by a Scammer

1. Do not provide personal information or payment under any circumstances.
2. Do not return calls or respond to emails/faxes from the suspected scammer.
3. Verify the communication directly with DC Health:
    - **Email:** ohplb@dc.gov
    - **Phone:** (202) 724-8800
4. Report the scam attempt: Licensees should send any details; including names used, phone numbers, email addresses, fax numbers, documents, or screenshots to ohplb@dc.gov. This information helps us identify patterns, understand how licensees are being targeted, and strengthen protective advisories.
5. File a police report: If you were contacted or threatened by scammers, filing a report ensures documentation and allows law enforcement to investigate.

How DC Health Contacts Licensees

To protect your information, please remember: DC Health does not demand immediate payments by phone.

- Staff do not request personal documents through phone calls or unsecured email.
- Official messages come only from an @dc.gov email addresses.
- Payments are submitted through secure DC government systems, never to an individual.

Stay Informed and Vigilant

For more information on avoiding government impersonator scams, visit the Federal Trade Commission: https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-government-impersonator-scam . DC Health will continue to monitor scam activity and update licensees as new patterns emerge. By sharing this information proactively, we aim to help ensure that no other licensee experiences the confusion, fear, or delay recently reported.