BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK

Issue #1

Summer-Winter 2026

Message from the Executive Director, District of Columbia Board of Social Work

The District of Columbia Board of Social Work remains dedicated to protecting the public by upholding the highest standards of professional practice and supporting excellence across the social work profession. On behalf of myself and the board staff, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the social work 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 social support systems that residents rely on every day. Thank you for your continued dedication to promoting social justice, human well-being, empowerment 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
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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.**

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About the Board

The **Board of Social Work** has the responsibility to regulate the practice of Social Work 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 five members appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council:

- 3 social workers who are either a licensed graduate social worker (LGSW), licensed independent social worker (LISW), or licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW)
- 1 social worker from any of the four licensing categories under this Board (licensed social work associate (LSWA), licensed graduate social worker (LGSW), licensed independent social worker (LISW), or licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW))
- 1 consumer member

Currently there is one Board vacancy for a Social Worker of any level. 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/ihTtg0KyFu/Board-Of-Social-Work

Mailing address:
2201 Shannon Pl SE, Washington, DC 20020
All Board inquiries can be sent to: dcbosw@dc.gov

Board Members

- **Ms. Wanda Wheeler, MSW** Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, Acting Chairperson,
- **Ms. Tracy Hamilton, MSW** Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker
- **Ms. Angela Hardiman, MSW** Licensed Graduate Social Worker
- **Ms. Selerya Moore,** Consumer Member

Board Updates & Priorities

We are excited to share several important updates as the Board of Social Work continues its efforts to support the profession and strengthen the social work, workforce across the District. DC Health has launched a new pathway for Licensed Graduate Social Workers (LGSWs): Licensure by Education. This pathway allows qualified applicants to obtain an LGSW license without taking the licensing exam, and instead complete 1,500 hours of supervised practice to show competency and renew their license. We are excited about the opportunities this has created for new professionals entering the field.

On April 28, 2026, we proudly hosted the first Social Work Symposium, held in a hybrid format with more than 200 attendees. The event highlighted licensing processes, the new LGSW Education pathway, and featured in-depth discussions on workforce shortages and strategies to attract more individuals to the profession. A CEU credit was offered for attendees who participated in the CEU session, which focused on the critical topic of supervision.

DC Health has transitioned all professional health licenses, certificates, and registrations to a birth-month renewal cycle. Credentials expire on the last day of the holder's birth month, and subsequent future renewals will always fall on the same date.

Board Chair Corner

Welcome! It is an honor t serve as your Acting Chairperson for the Board of Social Work. I am proud of the work this Board continues to do on behalf of the social work profession here in the District.

This has been a season of growth and change for our field, from licensure updates to ongoing implementation of the Health Occupations Revision Act (HORA) and I want to thank each of you for the care and integrity you bring to the practice of Social Work every day. Whether you are newly licensed or have spent decades serving DC residents, you are the backbone of a profession that is built on compassion, advocacy and trust. Always know that our doors are open! I encourage you to attend a board meeting, share your feedback and stay engaged with the Board as we work together to strengthen our profession. Thank you for all that you do!

- Wanda Wheeler, MSW

Upcoming Meetings

The Board meets on the fourth Monday of each 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 Social Work webpage.

2026 meeting dates:

- June 22, 2026
- July 27, 2026
- September 28, 2026
- October 26, 2026
- November 23, 2026
- December 14, 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 Social Work 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.