DC | HEALTH
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Health Systems & Preparedness Administration

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

April 17, 2026
10:00 AM – 2:00 pm

Virtual Meeting Notice
Information on how to access the public portion of the meeting is listed below:
Join by Web https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/j.php?MTID=mb7db2da02f1ac65acba8e248dc72d81a **Join by Phone** Call in Number: 1-650-479-3208 Call-in toll number (US/Canada) 1-202-860-2110 United States Toll (Washington D.C.) Access Code: 475 199 633

Open Session April 17, 2026

Call to Order: 10:05 am

OS-0417-01	**Roll Call:** **Board Members:** Victoria Sherk – Board Chair Rhonda Pope-Brown (absent) Laura Golojuch – Board Member **Board Staff:** LaTrice Herndon – Executive Director Brett Bennett – Board Attorney Ajay Gohill – General Counsel Leonard Howard – Investigator Linda Smith – Health Licensing Specialist Theo Dowe – Health Licensing Specialist Arthur Morgan – Public Jessica Seelinger – AAMFT Angele Moss Baker – Public Katina Palmer - AAPDC Deborah Perry – Public Denise Williams – Public Rachelle Ingram Lawrence, MSW – Public Tracey Lassiter-Butler - Public
OS-0417-02	**Approval of the Agenda** **Board Action**: Consideration of the April 17, 2026, Open Session Agenda. **Motion:** A motion was made by Rhonda Pope Brown to approve the April 17, 2026 Open Session Agenda. Seconded by Laura Golojuch. **Vote:** Laura Golojuch, Rhonda Pope Brown and Victoria Sherk voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
OS-0417-03	**Board and Department Reports**

	1. **Executive Director's Report**: • Operational Status Update: Oversight Hearing Recording can be found on DC Council's webpage or Councilwoman Henderson's YouTube page. There was a recent Round Table Discussion on Cedar Hill which can also be found on Councilwoman Henderson YouTube page. DC Health is getting ready for our Budget Oversight Hearing. • Licensure Census: LPC - 2122 LGPC - 480 CACI - 82 CACII – 170 PAT – 24 LPAT – 6 MFT – 290 Dance – 4 • Legislative Updates - None 2. **Board Attorney's Report –** Ms. Bennett highlighted a recent Supreme Court decision concerning Colorado's ban on conversion therapy for minors. Mr. Gohill mentioned the Interstate Counseling Compact Map was enhanced to display DC more clearly. 3. **Board Chair's Report -** None
OS-0417-04	**<u>Open Session Minutes</u>** **<u>Board Action</u>**: Consideration of the March 20, 2026 Open Session Minutes. **<u>Motion:</u>** A motion was made by Rhonda Pope Brown to approve the March 20, 2026 Open Session Minutes. Seconded by Laura Golojuch. **<u>Vote:</u>** Laura Golojuch, Rhonda Pope Brown and Victoria Sherk voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
OS-0417-05	**<u>Consent Agenda</u>** **<u>Board Action</u>**: Consideration of the applications approved for purposes of review and/or ratification of Board actions taken since the last Board meeting.

	Motion: A motion was made by Rhonda Pope Brown to approve the April 17, 2026 Open Session Consent Agenda. Seconded by Victoria Sherk. **Vote:** Laura Golojuch, Rhonda Pope Brown and Victoria Sherk voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
	Public Comments: • Angele Moss-Baker – inquiring about the progress of the Counseling Compact. Ms Herndon reported that DC Health is currently working on the data sharing agreement with the compact. • Tracey Lassister-Butler – inquired about scholarship opportunity to get a master as an LPC. Ms. Herndon stated that the Board does not provide for any type of scholarship and suggested that Ms. Lassitter-Butler could also contact the Mayor's office to see if there are any grants available. • Katina Palmer – inquired about the location of the meeting minutes. Ms. Herndon stated that the meeting minutes can be found on the DC Health Board of Professional Counseling webpage.
OS-0417-06	**Motion to Temporary Pause the Open Session and Move to the Closed Session** **Board Action**: To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b). **Background:** Pursuant to DC Official Code § 2-575(b), the Board will move into the Closed Executive Session portion of the meeting to discuss the following: 1. To consult with an attorney to obtain legal advice and to preserve the attorney-client privilege between an attorney and a public body, or to approve settlement agreements pursuant to § 2-575(b)(4)(a). 2. Preparation, administration, or grading of scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examinations pursuant to section § 2-575(b)(6). 3. To discuss disciplinary matters pursuant to section § 2- 575(b)(9).

	Roll Call Vote
	This temporarily concludes the Public Open Session of the meeting. The Board will now move into the Closed Executive Session portion of the meeting pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b) for the reasons set forth in the motion. **Motion:** A motion was made by Rhonda Pope Brown to move into the Executive Session Meeting. Seconded by Laura Golojuch. **Vote:** Laura Golojuch, Rhonda Pope Brown and Victoria Sherk voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
	Executive Session Board Report
OS-0417-07	**Board Action:** Board report, as appropriate, of action taken during the Executive Session meeting. • Number of applications approved - 4 • Number of complaints closed - 0 • Number of interviews - 5
OS-0417-08	**Motion to Adjourn at 2:10 pm** **Motion:** A motion was made by Rhonda Pope Brown to close the April 17, 2026 Board of Professional Counseling meeting. Seconded by Laura Golojuch.

THIS SECTION IS FYI ONLY
NO BOARD DECISION OR ACTION IS NEEDED

OS-FY1	**Request for Nominations for 2025 AMFTRB Board of Directors Open Positions** Dear AMFTRB State Delegates and Executive Directors, AMFTRB's Election Committee is seeking nominations for the Board of Directors. The openings for the 2025 election are for President-Elect and Secretary. Both positions begin on January 1, 2026. The position of President Elect is for two years followed by two years as President, and one to two years as Past President. The position of Secretary is for two years. Responsibilities are as follows: A. President. The President shall be the Chief Officer of the Association and of the Board of Directors and shall perform such duties as are customary for presiding officers. Subject to the directives of the Board, the President may represent the Association, appoint committees and perform such other duties as required to carry out the policies and serve the purposes of the Association. The President shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the Elections Committee. B. President-Elect. The President-Elect shall assist the President in the discharge of presidential duties; shall officiate for the President during his or her absence or incapacity or at the President's request; shall perform and be vested with all the powers and duties of the President in the case of disability or absence of the President, either at the President's request or by a two-thirds majority vote of the currently seated Board of Directors. Such a vote may be made through a telephone conference call, mail, facsimile, e-mail ballot, videoconference, meeting or any combination of the foregoing methods. At the time of the decision, a date must be set for review of this decision; shall assume the office of President should a vacancy occur; shall monitor all meetings using the then current edition of Roberts' Rules of Order; shall review the Bylaws and make suggestions for changes (if any) during the second year of his or her

	term; and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board. C. Secretary. The Secretary shall record minutes of all proceedings of the Association and of the Board; shall be responsible, in conjunction with the Executive Director, for maintaining a history of the Association; and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors. The Board hopes to maintain a diverse composition in terms of region, state population, state board membership, education, gender, and ethnicity. Please consider nominating your AMFTRB delegate or alternate delegate. To submit a nomination, either email Lois Paff Bergen at lois@amftrb.org the name and email address of your nominee or your nominee may complete the Candidate Survey. Nominations must be received before March 31st. On behalf of the Elections Committee, Lisa V. Merchant, PhD, LMFT (TX) Chair Elections Committee Elections Committee Members are David Fye (KS) and Chilah Brown (MN) Lois Paff Bergen, PhD, LMFT Executive Director AMFTRB 1843 Austin Bluffs Parkway Colorado Springs, CO 80918 719-388-1615 lois@amftrb.org
OS-FY2	**Re-taking the NCE Exam:** **Board Discussion:** The Board is to discuss how many times an applicant can re-take the NCE without remediation course(s) being required. **Background:** Board staff has noticed several applicants re-taking the NCE exam without study courses or remediation before taking the exam again. The Board staff

	has seen as many as 3-4 re-takes of the exam. The Board is to discuss whether there are remediation or study courses the applicant can take before applying for re-examination. The matter was tabled.

The next open session meeting is in person May 15, 2026 at 10:00 am

This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov