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

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

DECEMBER 19, 2025
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 December 19, 2025

Call to Order:

OS-1219-01	**Roll Call:** **Board Members:** Victoria Sherk – Board Chairperson Rhonda Pope-Brown – Board Member Laura Golojuch – Board Member **Board Staff:** LaTrice Herndon – Executive Director Brett Bennett – Board Attorney Ajay Gohill – Assistant General Counsel Leonard Howard – Investigator Linda Smith – Health Licensing Specialist Jessica Seelinger – AAMFT Robyn Elliott – AAMFT Jocelyn Collins – AAMFT Roger Smith – AAMFT Patricia Barton – AAMFT Audrey Meza – Public (CACII – Applicant)
OS-1219-02	**Approval of the Agenda** **Board Action**: Acceptance of the December 19, 2025, Open Session Agenda **Motion:** A motion was made by Rhonda Pope-Brown to approve the amended December 19, 2025 Open Session Agenda where the "B" has been added to title of the "Board of Professional Counseling". Seconded by Laura Golojuch. **Vote:** Rhonda Pope-Brown, Victoria Sherk and Laura Golojuch voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
OS-1219-03	**Board and Department Reports** 1. **Executive Director's Report**:

	• Operational Status Update: The Executive Director encouraged applicants and licensee to send inquiries and supporting documents to the correct Board email addresses: Licensed Professional Counselor: dclpc@dc.gov Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor: dclgpc@dc.gov Marriage and Family Therapy: dcbomft@dc.gov Professional Art Therapy: dclgpc@dc.gov Licensed Graduate Art Therapy: dclgpc@dc.gov Dance Therapy: dclgpc@dc.gov Addiction Counselor I: dccac@dc.gov Addiction Counselor II: dccac@dc.gov • Licensure Census: LPC - 2044 LGPC - 469 CACI - 84 CACII – 170 PAT – 24 LPAT - 5 MFT – 285 Dance - 5 • Legislative Updates: Legislative Updates will be posted with the Open Session Minutes of the December 19, 2025 Open Session Board Meeting. 2. **Board Attorney's Report** – Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA) have a new application portal for Board Member applications. The Board of Professional Counseling still has several openings for Board Members. Applicant can go to MOTA website to apply or email Executive Director LaTrice Herndon at LaTrice.Herndon@dc.gov for additional information. 3. **Board Chair's Report** - None
OS-1219-04	**Open Session Minutes** **Board Action**: Consideration of the Open Session Minutes of the November 21, 2025, Board Meeting. **Motion:** A motion was made by Rhonda Pope-Brown to accept the November 21,

	2025 Open Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Professional Counseling. Seconded by Laura Golojuch. **Vote:** Victoria Sherk, Rhonda Pope-Brown and Laura Golojuch voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
OS-1219-05	**Consent Agenda** **Board Action**: 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 accept the December 19, 2025, open session consent agenda. Seconded by Laura Golojuch. **Vote:** Victoria Sherk, Rhonda Pope-Brown and Laura Golojuch voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
OS-1219-06	**Updated In-Person Board Meetings for FY26** **Board Action:** The Board is to review the updated in-person meeting dates for FY2026. **Background:** In FY26, the Board is scheduled to meet on the following dates: • September 19, 2025 (in-person) • October 17, 2025 • November 21, 2025 • December 19, 2025 • January 23, 2026 • February 20, 2026 • **March 20, 2026 (in-person Board Meeting)** • April 17, 2026 • May 15, 2026 (in-person Board Meeting) • **June 26, 2026 (in-person Board Meeting)** • July 17, 2026 • September 18, 2026 (in-person Board Meeting)

	Motion: A motion was made by Victoria Sherk to table the updated in-person Board Meeting final schedule. Seconded by Laura Golojuch. **Vote:** Victoria Sherk, Rhonda Pope-Brown and Laura Golojuch voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
OS-1219-07	**LFMT Renewals Continuing Education Credit** **Board Action:** The Board is to determine whether the 50% reduction in CEs for licensees who received a license for less than two (2) years means reducing the live, face-to-face CEs requirements to 50% as well. **Background:** Currently, because of the rolling renewals, some licensees are getting less than 2 years for the license period. Previously, the Board did vote to approve a 50% reduction in CEs for the next renewal period. However, for MFT renewals they require 30 CEs during a two-year period before the license expires with 15 hours of 30 hours live, face-to-face settings. The 50% reduction means the licensee is required to provide 15 CEs instead of the 30 CEs. The Board is to determine if out of the 15 CEs required only 7.5 needs to be in a live, face-to-face setting. **Motion:** A motion was made by Laura Golojuch to approve MFT licensees with less than 2 (two) years on their renewed license to take 7.5 CEs of live and asynchronous CEs of the 15 CEs required for MFT licensees with less than 2 (two) years on their renewed license. Seconded by Laura Golojuch. **Vote:** Victoria Sherk, Rhonda Pope-Brown and Laura Golojuch voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
OS-1219-08	**LMFT Supervising LGPC** **Board Discussion:** The Board is to discuss allowing licensed marriage and family therapists to supervise licensed graduate professional counselors.

	The matter was tabled without discussion.
OS-1219-09	**<u>AAMFT Presentation</u>** **<u>Board Discussion:</u>** The Board is to hear from AAMFT consultants presenting the AAMFT access process. **<u>Background</u>**: Members of the organization wanted to have an opportunity to present the access MFT which regards advancing licensure portability and what the process looks like. Robin Elliot, AAMFT consultant, and Roger Smith, AAMFT consultant, made a presentation on the AAMFT access program process and what it could look like for DC.
OS-1219-10	**<u>Re-taking the NCE Exam:</u>** **<u>Board Discussion:</u>** The Board is to discuss how many times an applicant can re-take the NCE without remediation course(s) being required. **<u>Background:</u>** 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 with discussion.
OS-1219-11	**<u>Supervised Practice Form</u>** **<u>Board Action:</u>** The Board is to discuss the purpose of the supervised practice form and best practices that are expected of the applicant and supervisor when submitting the form. **<u>Background:</u>** A supervised practice form is listed under **section 9105.8** regarding the supervised experience requirement which requires the supervisor(s) to submit the completed form to the Board.

	In addition, **section 9102.2** of the LGPC Regulation specifies the applicant must obtain an LGPC license prior to accruing the supervision hours towards the LPC. > If an applicant for licensure as a professional counselor does not meet the requirements of § 9102.1(a) and the applicant elects to complete his or her supervised practice requirements in the District of Columbia, the applicant shall first obtain licensure as a graduate professional counselor or its equivalent and work under the immediate and direct supervision of a professional counselor, psychologist, psychiatrist, or independent social worker, **who is licensed in the District of Columbia under the Act.** The purpose of the graduate professional counseling license is to allow individuals to practice under supervision of a licensed professional counselor. However, the regulations also indicate a supervisor, or supervisee shall submit a supervised practice form within 2 weeks of commencing supervision. In March 2022, the Board tabled to address the supervised practice form for the subcommittee. **Board Discussion:** The Board discussed the purpose and use of the Supervised Practiced form. The board staff reviewed the requirements for approval with the Board to give them a better understanding of the purpose and best practices regarding the supervised practice form. The matter was tabled with discussion until updates can be made to the supervised practice form.
OS-1219-12	**Proposed Update to LGPC/LPC Regulations** **Board Discussion:** The Board is to review the proposed update to the LGPC/LPC Regulations regarding the supervised practice forms. The matter was tabled with discussion until updates can be made to the proposed updates to the LGPC/LPC regulations.
OS-1219-13	**Key Assessments Used in School-Based Behavioral Health Services to Make Data-Driven Decisions CEU Request for Approval**

	Board Action: The Board is to review the CEU application for OSSE "Key Assessments Used in School-Based Behavioral Health Services to Make Data-Driven Decisions" being co-sponsored by DC Public Schools and Department of Behavioral Health. **Background:** Course organizers submitted a request for the Board to approve the continuing education course for professional counselors. The CEU training is scheduled for January 7, 2026. This is a 1.5 hour continuing education credit providing training to early career school-based mental health clinicians with foundational understanding of the provision of individualized treatment services in a school setting. **Motion:** A motion was made by Rhonda Pope-Brown to approve "Key Assessments Used in School-Based Behavioral Health Services to Make Data-Driven Decisions" CEU for 1.5 CEs. Seconded by Victoria Sherk. **Vote:** Victoria Sherk, Rhonda Pope-Brown and Laura Golojuch voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously
OS-1219-14	**Staff Wellness CEU Request for Approval** **Board Action:** The Board is to review "Staff Wellness" course organized by OSSE. **Background:** Course organizers submitted a request for the Board to approve the continuing education course to provide training for early career school-based mental health clinicians with the foundational understanding of the provision of treatment services in a school setting for professional counselors focusing on ways to support staff wellness. This continuing education course is being offered February 11, 2026, being hosted as an in-person course. The course is 1.5 hours of continuing education credit. The matter was tabled to allow Board Staff to request additional information on the content of representation and how does it relate to mental health.
OS-1219-15	**Motion to Close:**

	Motion: A motion was made by Victoria Sherk to close the December 19, 2025 open session board meeting. Seconded by Rhonda Pope-Brown. **Board Action**: To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b). **Motion:** A motion was made by Rhonda Pope-Brown to close the September 19, 2025, open session board meeting. Seconded by Laura Golojuch. **Vote:** Victoria Sherk, Rhonda Pope-Brown and Laura Golojuch voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously. **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). 4. To plan, discuss, or hear reports concerning ongoing or planned investigation of alleged criminal or civil misconduct or violations of law or regulations, if disclosure to the public would harm the investigation pursuant to section § 2- 575(b) (14).

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

The next open session meeting is virtual January 23, 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

Board of Professional Counseling – OGR Updates
December 19, 2025

Community Health Amendment Act of 2025

- Following emergency and temporary versions, Councilmember Henderson introduced the *Community Health Amendment Act of 2025* (B26-0414) on October 6th.
  - ☐ The legislation authorizes healthcare providers in the District to order and administer immunizations recommended by competent medical and public health organizations designated by the Director of the Department of Health. The legislation will also allow pharmacies to administer the COVID-19 vaccine without a doctor's prescription.
- This legislation received a hearing on October 30th in the Committee on Health. DC Health testified in support of the bill expressing the importance of vaccine availability and access. A markup was held on December 8th and will now go before the Committee of the Whole.

PrEP DC Act of 2025

- Councilmember Parker introduced the *PrEP DC Act of 2025* (B26-0159) on February 28, 2025.
  - ☐ The legislation creates safeguards for equitable and affordable access to HIV prevention treatment by prohibiting health insurers from using prescription information as a condition of eligibility or in premium rates, restricting or imposing setting delays in the distribution of antiretroviral prescription drugs, and from imposing a deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or other cost-sharing requirement for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent HIV and AIDS infection.
- This legislation is in the Committee on Health and received a hearing on October 30th. DC Health testified during this hearing and expressed support for the intent of the legislation to promote affordable access to HIV prevention medication. A markup was held on December 8th and will now go before the Committee of the Whole.

Medical Debt Mitigation Amendment Act

- On October 20th, Councilmember Henderson introduced the *Medical Debt Mitigation Amendment Act of 2025* (B26-0438).
  - ☐ This legislation aims to prevent and mitigate the burden of unpaid medical debt bills on District families, while increasing transparency in medical billing and ensuring fair debt collection. The high-level summary of the bill would be to strengthen large health care facilities financial assistance policies, create protections to mitigate the burden of medical debt, update medical debt collection practices, and establish legal enforcement and oversight.
- This legislation is in the Committee on Health and received a hearing on December 15th. DC Health testified during this hearing and expressed support for the intent of the legislation, emphasizing the public health impacts of medical debt and urging clarifications to ensure consistent implementation, alignment with existing healthcare and Medicaid policies, appropriate facility scope, and protections that reduce finanical harm while maintaining the sustainability of the District's healthcare system.

Council Recess

- Council's winter recess is scheduled to begin on December 23rd and run through January 1st.

AAMFT
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

Access MFTs: Advancing Licensure Portability

aamft.org

Why not a compact?

For MFTS

- Geographic distribution of LMFTs
  - Residency requirement
- Size of profession
- Economies of scale
  - Cost burden

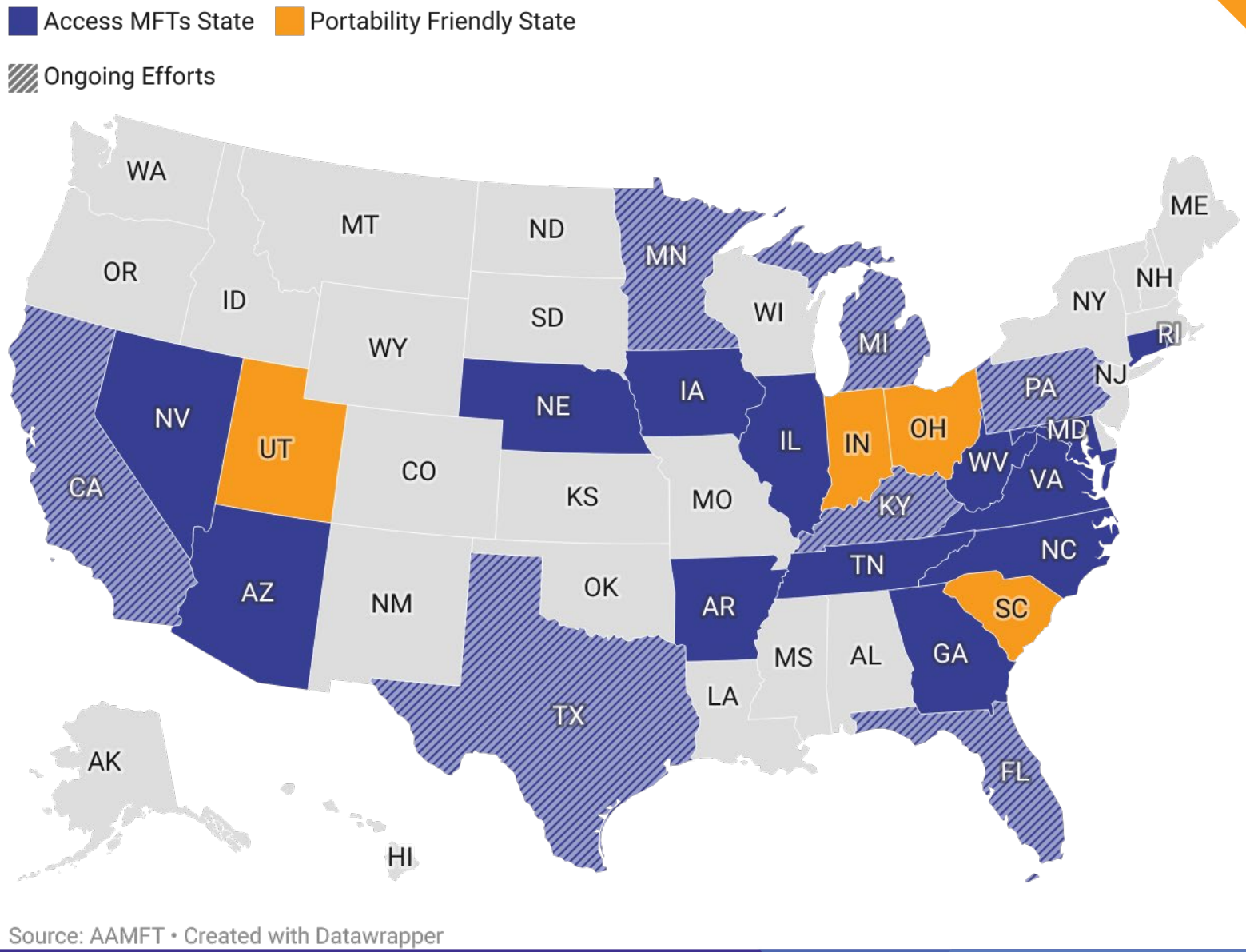
For Boards

- No additional costs to the board
- Works within an existing process
- Immediate impact on workforce shortages
- Maintains current safety and regulatory oversight controls that are established to protect the public

AAMFT
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

- This portability model has already been enacted in jurisdictions surrounding DC
- Virginia has seen significant success with the implementation of this model
- Increases access to care as there will be less of an incentive for experienced MFTs to practice outside of DC
- Portability enhancement establishes professional parity

Access MFTs & Portability Friendly States



Source: AAMFT • Created with Datawrapper

Access MFTs: Model Process

The licensure board shall issue a full and unrestricted license to an applicant to practice as a marriage and family therapist if the applicant:

Has a valid and unrestricted license to practice as a licensed marriage and family therapist in another state or territory; and

Has completed an application for licensure and paid any required fees.

Real Impact: Virginia

- Post-enactment, 221% increase in approval of LMFT applications.
- Increase from an average of 9 MFTs licensed a month to almost 30.

Implementing this process in DC will create uniformity among VA, MD, & DC

This change opens the door for qualified providers to serve DC residents while maintaining complete board oversight of licensees

AAMFT
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

	Current Rules	Access MFTs Model	Compact
Full License	Full License	Full License	Privilege to Practice
Years of Experience	No Additional Years of Experience	No Additional Years of Experience	No Additional Years of Experience
Substantially Equivalent Language	Yes	No	No
Board Oversight	Full Control	Full Control	Subject to Compact Rules