

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 10, 2025

10:00 AM – 2:00PM

Virtual Meeting Notice

Currently, all board meetings will be held virtually during the declared public emergency.

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)

Access Code: 475 199 633

OPEN SESSION January 10, 2025

Call to Order:

OS-0110-01	<p><u>Roll Call:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Sherk - Board Chair • Rhonda Pope-Brown – Board Member <p><u>Board Staff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LaTrice Herndon – Executive Director • Brett Bennett – Board Attorney • Ajay Gohill – Assistant General Counsel • Leonard Howard – Investigator • Linda Smith – Health Licensing Specialist
OS-0110-02	<p><u>Approval of the Agenda</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Acceptance of the January 10, 2025 Open Session Agenda.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> A motion was made by Rhonda Pope-Brown to accept the January 10, 2025 open session agenda. Victoria Sherk seconded the motion.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Victoria Sherk voted in favor of the motion. Rhonda Pope-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
OS-0110-03	<p><u>BOARD/DEPARTMENT’S REPORT</u></p> <p>A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Status Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DC Health will be closed January 20, 2025. • The Board has a new Marriage and Family Therapy Board member who has been sworn in and E.D. Herndon is coordinating with other E.D. to get the new Board member trained in order to get ready for February 2025 board meeting. • Licensure Census: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage and Family Therapy: 228 • Licensed Professional Counseling: 1,790

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed Graduate Professional Counseling: 333 • Professional Art Therapy: 16 • Graduate Art Therapy: 2 • Certified Addiction Counselors I: 72 • Certified Addiction Counselors II: 149 • Legislative Updates: None <p>B. BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Attorney, Brett Bennett wanted the Board to put telehealth policy back on the Board's radar in order review a proposed telehealth policy that was updated to include Professional Counseling language due to the increased telehealth presence in the Professional Counseling community. Victor Sherk, Board Chair commented that in the future the Board should consider requiring continuing education hours for example to make sure tele-health counselors are maintaining HIPPA compliance. • Ajay Gohill commented that MOTA backed date the new board member's appointed to November 2024. • Ajay Gohill commented that the Interstate Compact map has been updated showing D.C. on the map. <p>C. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT - None</p>	
OS-0110-04	<p><u>Open Session Minutes</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Consideration of the Open Session minutes from December 13th 2024, meeting.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> A motion was made by Rhonda Pope-Brown to accept the December 13, 2024 open session minutes as written. Seconded By Victoria Sherk.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Victoria Sherk voted in favor of the motion. Rhonda Pope-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

OS-0110-05	<p><u>EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ENDORSEMENT APPLICATION (MFT)</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> To discuss whether to adopt into policy for MFT applicants who have already taken and passed the nation exam in other jurisdiction in lieu of the AMFTRB National Exams for licensure by endorsement to the District of Columbia. Also, to discuss whether to adopt into policy whether to contact AMFTRB to enquire which other States have Exams that are comparable or equivalent to the AMFTRB National Exams for licensure in DC.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> The current regulation under section 7706 indicates the waiver of examination and educational requirements for licensure. Certain applicants have been licensed in other for a longer duration. For example, over 10 years, and have the required practical experience most often are required to take the AMFTRB National Exams prior to licensure by endorsement in DC. Some states do have the examination</p>	
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waiver requirements for applicants applying by reciprocity provided they might have taken a state exam (example: California State Exams) which might be comparable to the National Exams. The Board to review section 7706 of the current regulations to identify if the requirements could be streamlined to facilitate the administrative, review, and approval process of applicants who fall under this category.

Motion:

A motion was made by Victoria Sherk to table the Examination requirements for endorsement applications in marriage and family therapy until the February 21, 2025, board meeting. Seconded By Rhonda Pope-Brown.

Vote:

Victoria Sherk voted in favor of the motion. Rhonda Pope-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OS-0110-06	<p><u>Consent Agenda:</u></p> <p><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.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> A motion was made by Rhonda Pope-Brown to accept the Open Session Consent Agenda as written. Seconded By Victoria Sherk.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Victoria Sherk voted in favor of the motion. Rhonda Pope-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
OS-0110-07	<p><u>Motion to Close:</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> A motion was made by Rhonda Pope-Brown to close the January 10, 2025 Open Session Agenda. Seconded By Victoria Sherk.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Victoria Sherk voted in favor of the motion. Rhonda Pope-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To consult with an attorney to obtain legal advice and to preserve the attorney-client privilege between an attorney

	<p>and a public body, or to approve settlement agreements pursuant to § 2-575(b)(4)(a).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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). 	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>THIS SECTION IS FYI ONLY</u> <u>NO BOARD DECISION OR ACTION IS NEEDED</u></p>	
OS-FY1	<p><u>Supervised Practice Form</u></p> <p><u>Update:</u> Pending the subcommittee meeting.</p> <p><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. The purpose of the graduate professional counseling license is to allow individual 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.</p>	

The next open session meeting is **February 21, 2025 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.