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

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

JANUARY 23, 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 Minutes January 23, 2026

Call to Order:

OS-0123-01	**Roll Call:** **Board Members:** Victoria Sherk Rhonda Pope-Brown Laura Golojuch – (Absent) **Board Staff:** LaTrice Herndon – Executive Director Brett Bennett – Board Attorney Ajay Gohill – Assistant General Counsel Leonard Howard – Investigator Linda Smith – Health Licensing Specialist Robyn Elliott – AAMFT Public Jocelyn Collins – AAMFT Public Dr. Kamille Green – Public Sheila DePriest Carter – Public WD Allison - Public
OS-0123-02	**Approval of the Agenda** **Board Action**: Acceptance of the January 23, 2026, Open Session Agenda **Motion:** A motion was made by Rhonda Pope-Brown to approve the amended January 23, 2026 Open Session Agenda to correct the year from 2025 to 2026. Seconded by Victoria Sherk. **Vote:** Rhonda Pope-Brown and Victoria Sherk voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
OS-0123-03	**Board and Department Reports** 1. **Executive Director's Report**: • Operational Status Update: Counseling Compact is ready to move forward to the next phase. Currently there are only three

	jurisdictions that are issuing privileges for the counseling compact. Next week will be next week with the counseling compact and determine a timeline as to when the DC will begin issuing privileges. DC Oversight Hearing is scheduled for February. It can be viewed by the public via the DC Council Website or Council member Christina Henderson's YouTube. • Licensure Census: LPC - 2066 LGPC - 477 CACI - 84 CACII – 171 PAT – 24 LPAT - 5 MFT – 288 Dance - 5 • Legislative Updates **–** Notes with be included in Board Minutes. **2. Board Attorney's Report -** None **3. Board Chair's Report –** Board Chair has a prep session for the upcoming February 11, 2026 Oversight Meeting.
OS-0123-04	**<u>Open Session Minutes</u>** **<u>Board Action</u>**: Consideration of the Open Session Minutes of the December 19, 2025, Open Session Board Meeting as amended to include the "B" in Board. **<u>Motion:</u>** A motion was made by Rhonda Pope-Brown to accept the amended December 19, 2025 Open Session Board Meeting. Seconded by Victoria Sherk. **<u>Vote:</u>** Rhonda Pope-Brown and Victoria Sherk voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
OS-0123-05	**<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 Victoria Sherk to accept the January 23, 2026, open session consent agenda. Seconded by Rhonda Pope-Brown. **Vote:** Victoria Sherk and Rhonda Pope-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
OS-0123-06	**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) Victoria Sherk Board Chair indicated that she will not be present at the June 26, 2026 Board Meeting, Rhonda Pope-Brown Board Member indicated that she will not be present at the July 17, 2026 Board Meeting and Brett Bennett Board Attorney indicated that she will not be present at the March 20, 2026 Board Meeting.
OS-0123-07	**LMFT Supervising LGPC** **Board Discussion:** The Board is to discuss allowing licensed marriage and family therapists to supervise licensed graduate professional counselors.

	Public Comment: Executive Director has started a 3-minute timer allowing the Public to comment. Robyn Elliot spoke – she did not have a specific answer was willing to take the question back to AAMFT to get more perspective on this question. The Executive Director will work on a doodle poll that can be sent out to LPC, MFT and LGPC to determine professional opinions. The matter was tabled with discussion until the March 2026 Board Meeting until further research can be completed.
OS-0123-08	**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 for February until the Board staff can do research on how other jurisdictions handle this situation.
OS-0123-09	**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.

	A motion was made to table the matter until the board staff can request additional information on the content of the course and how does it relate to mental health. **Motion:** A motion was made by Victoria Sherk to approve "Staff Wellness" CEU for 1.5 CEs. Seconded by Rhonda Pope-Brown. **Vote:** Victoria Sherk and Rhonda Pope-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously
OS-0123-10	**Proposed Update to LGPC/LPC Regulations** **Board Action:** The Board is to review the proposed update to the LGPC/LPC Regulations and supervise practice. **Motion:** A motion was made by Victoria Sherk to accept the proposed updates to the LGPC/LPC Regulations and supervised practice. Seconded by Rhonda Pope-Brown. **Vote:** Victoria Sherk and Rhonda Pope-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously
OS-0123-11	**Public Comment:** Ms. Shelia Carter commented about CAC and the twelve core functions training is something that I created because of my own experience with regard to the issue of repeated test taking.
OS-0123-12	**Motion to Close:** **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 Victoria Sherk to close the January 23, 2026, open session board meeting. Seconded by Rhonda Pope-Brown.

	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 February 20, 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 Dentistry – OGR Updates
January 21, 2026

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 the bill passed unanimously on both first reading and on final reading on January 6th. It is now under Mayoral review.

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 financial harm while maintaining the sustainability of the District's healthcare system.