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

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

March 6, 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 March 6, 2026

Call to Order: 10:05 am

OS-0306-01	**Roll Call:** **Board Members:** Victoria Sherk Rhonda Pope-Brown Laura Golojuch – (Absent) **Board Staff:** LaTrice Herndon – Executive Director Brett Bennett – Board Attorney Leonard Howard – Investigator Linda Smith – Health Licensing Specialist Sheila DePriest Carter – Public Jessica Seelinger – AAMFT Katina Palmer – Public Angele Moss Baker – Public Chaplain Xavier Justice – Associate Director of Nehemiah Project Terrance Walton – Executive Director NAADAC Mark Attanasi – Executive Director of International Certificates and Reciprocity Consortium
OS-0306-02	**Approval of the Agenda** **Board Action**: Consideration of the March 6, 2026, Open Session Agenda. **Motion:** A motion was made by Rhonda Pope-Brown to approve the March 6, 2026 Open Session Agenda. Seconded by Victoria Sherk. **Vote:** Rhonda Pope-Brown and Victoria Sherk voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
OS-0306-03	**Board and Department Reports** 1. **Executive Director's Report**: • Operational Status Update:

	Ms. Herndon reported that the Board Meeting originally scheduled for February 20, 2026, was rescheduled for today March 6, 2026. The Board will meet on its regular meeting date, March 20, 2026. Ms. Herndon is waiting on the approval of the letter that will be sent to all Certified Addiction Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapist inviting them to apply to serve on the subcommittees for Certified Addiction Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapist. The Certified Addiction Counselor subcommittee and the Marriage and Family Therapy subcommittee will enhance the representation of these professions. The subcommittees will meet outside of the Board Meetings. The Board of Professional Counseling needs additional board members. If the current board members or public know anyone who is interested, please contact the Mayor's Office of Talents and Appointments (MOTA) for further details. Please keep in mind that board members must be DC residents and fully licensed for 3 years in DC. • Licensure Census: LPC - 2103 LGPC - 478 CACI - 81 CACII – 168 PAT – 24 LPAT – 5 MFT – 291 Dance - 5 • Legislative Updates - None **2. Board Attorney's Report –** DC Health recently met with the Office of Open Government to get clarity on the open meetings act. Because of that meeting the board agenda will be handled differently going forward. When it is time for the Board to talk about confidential matters, the Board will do a roll call vote to go into Executive (closed) Session as usual but the Board will return to Open Session to report back anything resolved in the Executive Session that the public needs to know that is public and then the Board Meeting will be called to close in the Open Session. Members of the public are welcome to stay in the Open Session Meeting to hear the Executive Report. **3. Board Chair's Report** - None
OS-0306-04	**<u>Open Session Minutes</u>**

	Board Action: Consideration of the January 23, 2026 Open Session Minutes. **Motion:** A motion was made by Rhonda Pope-Brown to approve the January 23, 2026 Open Session Board Meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Victoria Sherk. **Vote:** Rhonda Pope-Brown and Victoria Sherk voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
OS-0306-05	**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 March 6, 2026, open session consent agenda as written. Seconded by Victoria Sherk. **Vote:** Victoria Sherk and Rhonda Pope-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
OS-0306-06	**CEU Application Review** **Board Discussion:** The Board is to discuss rotating the review of continuing education application. **Motion:** A motion was made by Victoria Sherk to delegate board authority to board members to approve continuing education applications assigned to board members each month: Rhonda Pope-Brown (April), Victoria Sherk (May) and Laura Golojuch (June). Seconded by Rhonda Pope-Brown. **Vote:** Victoria Sherk and Rhonda Pope-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OS-0306-07	**Applying School Behavioral Health Data to Plan for Tiers 1 and 2 CEU Request for Approval** **Board Action:** The Board is to review "Applying School Behavioral Health Data to Plan for Tiers 1 and 2" 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 who are early in their careers with the foundational understanding of the provision of treatment services in a school setting. This session will focus on how to apply school behavioral health data to plan for tiers 1 and 2. This continuing education course is being offered March 11, 2026, being hosted as virtual live webinar course. The course is 1.5 hours of continuing education credit. **Motion:** A motion was made by Victoria Sherk to approve "Applying School Behavioral Health Data to Plan for Tiers 1 and 2" 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-0306-08	**Evidence Based Practices: Treatment Planning, Provision of Services and Progress Tracking at Tier 3 CEU Request for Approval** **Board Action:** The Board is to review "Evidence Based Practices: Treatment Planning, Provision of Services and Progress Tracking at Tier 3" 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 who are early in their careers with the foundational understanding of the provision of treatment services in a school setting. This session is a follow-up session in March that focuses on how to apply school behavioral health data to plan for tiers 1 and 2. This continuing education

	course is being offered April 8, 2026, being hosted as a virtual live webinar course. The course is 1.5 hours of continuing education credit. **Motion:** A motion was made by Victoria Sherk to approve "Evidence Based Practices: Treatment Planning, Provision of Services and Progress Tracking at Tier 3" 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-0306-09	**Stakeholder Collaboration in Schools CEU Request for Approval** **Board Action:** The Board is to review "Stakeholder Collaboration in Schools" 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 who are early in their careers with the foundational understanding of the provision of treatment services in a school setting. This session will focus on identifying important stakeholders within the school system as well as within the local DC community. This continuing education course is being offered May 6, 2026, being hosted as a virtual course. The course is 1.5 hours of continuing education credit. **Motion:** A motion was made by Victoria Sherk to approve "Stakeholder Collaboration in Schools" 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-0306-10	**Leveraging Leadership Skills in Schools CEU Request for Approval** **Board Action:** The Board is to review "Leveraging Leadership Skills in Schools" 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 who are early in their careers with the foundational understanding of the provision of treatment services in a school setting. This session will focus on leadership skills that clinicians bring to schools. This continuing education course is being offered June 3, 2026, being hosted as an in-person course. The course is 1.5 hours of continuing education credit. **Motion:** A motion was made by Victoria Sherk to approve "Leveraging Leadership Skills in Schools" 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
	Public Comments: **Katina Palmer** – asked the Board several questions: get more representation on the Board that the Board member requirements are that you have be licensed for at least 3 years and be a DC resident. If you are unable to find people that meet those requirements then an individual would be unable to apply for a board seat. How are you remedying not having representation when individual meets the licensing period but not the residency requirement? Ms. Palmer also asked if this is for certified addiction counselors or anybody licensed in other domains? Ms. Palmer asked about the mechanism to contact Ms. Herndon to work on collaboration. **Ms. Herndon** responded that DC Council did pass that measure to allow non-DC residents to sit on the Boards but the Mayor's office, who appoints people to the boards, did not sign off on Council's measure. There is not a seat for Certified Addiction Counselors on the Board, one was never created therefore to remedied that Ms. Herndon is creating a subcommittee for Certified Addiction Counselors and a subcommittee for Marriage and Family Therapy. Being on a subcommittee does not require you to be a resident of DC but it does require you to be licensed in DC. When Ms. Herndon sends out the email to Certified Addiction Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapist, she requesting individuals who are interested in serving on the subcommittee that they submit the required documents to Ms. Herndon for review. Ms. Herndon stated that the email will go out to those licensed as certified addiction counselors I or certified addiction counselor II. Ms. Herndon put her

	contact information in the chat box for Ms. Palmer to make contact for collaboration. **Ms. Shelia Carter** provided historical context regarding Certified Addiction Counselors having a seat on the Board. Ms. Carter also asked about the status of question of the internship and supervision of certified addiction counselors. **Ms. Herndon** commented that such a change would require a regulation change but also one of the purposes of the subcommittee and those serving on the subcommittee do not need to be a DC resident. **Board Chair, Victoria Sherk,** commented that Ms. Herndon makes the point that the subcommittee is a good place to address such concerns and how to increase the number of Certified Addiction Counselors in the District. **Mark Attanasi, Executive Director of International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium,** commented that he noticed how low the number is for Certified Addiction Counselors in the District and that he could give great insight into how to increase that field and show the Board the importance of their field and the counselors treating those with addiction and just with mental. **Board Chair, Victoria Sherk,** commented that the Board can schedule some time in the open session to allow Mr. Attanasi and/or Mr. Walton to make a presentation to the Board. **Ms. Herndon** commented that she already sent an email about this opportunity this morning.
OS-0306-11	**Motion to Close:** **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). 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).
	Roll Call Vote **Motion**: A motion was made by Victoria Sherk to close and move into the Executive (closed) Session Meeting. Seconded by Rhonda Pope Brown. **Vote**: Victoria Sherk and Rhonda Pope Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
	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.
	Executive Session Board Report
OS-0306-12	**Board Action:** Board report, as appropriate, of action taken during the Executive Session meeting. • Number of applications approved – 0 • Number of disciplinary actions - 2 • Number of interviews -2
OS-0306-13	**Motion to Adjourn at 1:06 pm** **Motion:** A motion was made by Victoria Sherk to close the March 6, 2026 Board of Professional Counseling meeting. Seconded by Rhonda Pope-Brown.

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 virtual March 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