

# BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

## MEETING AGENDA

**November 17, 2023**

**10:00 AM – 2:00PM**

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### **HYBRID MEETING NOTICE**

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board will have a hybrid schedule of in-person and virtual meetings. In-person meetings will resume in FY 2023, meeting dates can be found on the Board's webpage.*

*In-person meetings will be at 899 North Capitol Street, NE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20002.*

*Information on how to access the public portion of the meeting virtually 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 November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Call to Order:**

OS-1117-01	<b><u>Roll Call:</u></b>	
OS-1117-02	<p><b><u>Approval of the Agenda</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Acceptance of the November 17th Open Session Agenda.</p>	
OS-1117-03	<p><b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operational Status Update</b></li> <li>• <b>Licensure Census</b></li> <li>• <b>Sub Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>Legislative Update:</b></li> </ul> <p><b><i>New Legislation and Upcoming Hearings:</i></b></p> <p><b>Alternative Restorative Therapy (ART) Options for Youth Amendment Act of 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councilmember Henderson, alongside Councilmembers Pinto, Frumin, Allen, Lewis George, McDuffie, and R. White introduced the <i>ART Options for Youth Amendment Act of 2023</i> (<a href="#">B25-0500</a>) on September 26, 2023.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This bill amends the <i>Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977</i> with the goal of expanding therapy options for children under the care of CFSA. It proposes the inclusion of alternative therapies including art therapy, music therapy, drama therapy, dance or movement therapy, and narrative therapy to facilitate opportunities for youth to express their experiences non-verbally and physically.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A hearing is scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Behavioral Analyst Licensure Amendment Act of 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councilmember Henderson, alongside Councilmembers T. White, Parker, R. White, and Frumin introduced the <i>Behavioral Analyst Licensure Amendment Act of 2023</i> (<a href="#">B25-0566</a>) on November 6, 2023.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This bill establishes the profession of Behavior Analysts (BAs) as a licensed healthcare profession. This bill would place the profession under the oversight of the DC Health Board of Professional Counseling, aiming to enhance the professionalism of the field and expand the scope of practice for BAs, ultimately enabling them to address a broader range of behavioral and mental health challenges.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A hearing is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Health Occupations Revision Act (HORA) Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DC Health worked on a significant revision of the HORA. This would be the first significant revision in seventeen years.</li> <li>• The revised HORA received Mayoral approval, has been introduced in the Council as the <i>Health Occupations Revision General Amendment Act of 2023</i> (<a href="#">B25-0545</a>), and referred to the Committee on Health on November 7<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• A hearing is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	

**Council Approved Legislation:**

**DC Health Director Appointment:**

- Acting Director Bennett’s nomination has officially been approved as of November 7<sup>th</sup>

**Pathways to Behavioral Health Degrees Act of 2023:**

- Councilmember Robert White has reintroduced the *Pathways to Behavioral Health Degrees Act of 2023* ([B25-0055](#)), which would establish the Behavioral Health and Human Services Scholarship Program administered by UDC for students with bachelor’s degrees seeking to obtain an accredited master’s degree required for licensure by the Board of Social Work or the Board of Professional Counseling.
  - The scholarship funds will pay for UDC tuition, academic costs such as books and supplies, a monthly stipend toward living expenses and transportation, and fees associated with obtaining a license for a behavioral health occupation in the District. Both District residents and employees are eligible for the program.
  - Once a participant completes their master’s program and obtains licensure, they are required to work in a behavioral health occupation at a District local education agency, government agency, or health care provider organization for at least two years.
- Funding for this legislation was added into the proposed FY 2024 budget (\$1.2 million).
- The bill passed it's final reading on November 7<sup>th</sup> and is awaiting Mayoral approval.

**Health Professional Licensing Boards Residency Requirement Amendment Act of 2023:**

- Councilmembers Henderson and Parker introduced the *Health Professional Licensing Boards Residency Requirement Amendment Act of 2023* ([B25-0312](#)) on June 2, 2023.
  - This legislation permits non-District residents to serve on health professional licensing boards.
  - There are restrictions, including that the Board Chair and Consumer Members are still required to be District residents and no more than 50% of the Board could be made up of non-District residents.
- The bill passed it's final reading on November 7<sup>th</sup> and is awaiting Mayoral approval.

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- **DC HEALTH social media**
  - **Facebook: @dchealth**
  - **Twitter: @\_DcHealth**
  - **TikTok: @dchealth**
  - **Instagram: @dchealth**
- **Additional Updates**

OS-1117-04	<b>BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT</b>	
OS-1117-05	<b>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</b>	
OS-1117-06	<p><b><u>Open Session Minutes</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Consideration of the Open Session minutes from October 20 2023, meeting.</p>	
OS-1117-07	<p><b><u>Standard Fine and Assessments</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> The Board is to review and discuss the increase of fines and assessments.</p>	
OS-1117-08	<p><b><u>CEU Approval</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> The Board is to review the two CEU applications submitted to the Board for approval.</p>	
OS-1117-09	<p><b><u>Art Therapy Forms</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> The Board is to review the Art Therapy Forms for licensure application and determine if the forms meet the requirements.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> The Art Therapy professional licenses have been implemented and are currently live. The Board Staff is currently working on creating the forms for the licensure applications.</p> <p>No Action</p>	

<p><b>OS-1117-10</b></p>	<p><b><u>Consent Agenda:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Consideration of the applications approved for purposes of review and/or ratification of Board actions taken since the last Board meeting.</p>	
<p><b>OS-1117-11</b></p>	<p><b><u>Motion to</u></b> <b><u>Close Board</u></b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p> <p><b>Background:</b> 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"> <li>1. To consult with an attorney to obtain legal advice and to preserve the attorney-client privilege between an attorney</li> </ol>	

	<p>and a public body, or to approve settlement agreements pursuant to § 2-575(b)(4)(a).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Preparation, administration, or grading of scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examinations pursuant to section § 2-575(b)(6).</li> <li>3. To discuss disciplinary matters pursuant to section § 2-575(b)(9).</li> <li>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).</li> </ol>	
<p><b><u>THIS SECTION IS FYI ONLY</u></b> <b><u>NO BOARD DECISION OR ACTION IS NEEDED</u></b></p>		
<p><b>OS-FY1</b></p>	<p><b><u>Supervised Practice Form</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Update:</u></b> Pending the subcommittee meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> 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>	
<p><b>OS-FY2</b></p>	<p><b><u>Discussion on Supervision</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Update:</u></b> Pending Additional Information.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b></p>	

In April 2022, Ms. Sherk requested interpretation and further guidance to elaborate on the existing regulation regarding the supervision (specifically whether or not to have a primary supervisor).

In May 2022, the Board requested to table this matter for the next Board meetings for additional information.

**The next open session meeting is December 15, 2023 at 10:00**

*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](mailto:opengovoffice@dc.gov).*