

BOARD OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY MEETING MINUTES

September 1, 2020

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Virtual Meeting Notice

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all board meetings will be held virtually during the declared public health 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=m5a114aeda00b1abfe1ec2744b7a2c842>

Join by Phone

Call in Number: 1-650-479-3208 Call-in number (US/Canada)

Access Code: 473 094 809

OPEN SESSION MINUTES SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

OS-0901-01	<p>CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL</p> <p>The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Board Chairperson, Shelia Holt and a quorum was established.</p> <p>Board Members Sheila Holt – Board Chair (Present) Angela Sarafin – Board Member (Present) Jennifer Novak – Board Member (Present)</p> <p>Board Staff Aisha Nixon – Executive Director (Present) Panravee Vongjaroenrat – Assistant General Counsel (Present) Thelma Ofosu- Mensah – Health Licensing Specialist (Present) Rebecca Odrick –Investigator (Present) Ericka Walker- Executive Director (Present) Ajay Gohil- Assistant General Counsel (Present) Nitish Arora- Intern Amira Yanni- Intern Allyson Watson- Visitor</p>	
OS-0901-02	<p>APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA</p> <p>Motion: Motion made by Angela Sarafin to accept the September 1, 2020 Open Session Agenda. Seconded by Jennifer Novak.</p> <p>Angela Sarafin, Jennifer Novak, and Shelia Holt all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously</p>	
OS-0901-03	<p>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</p> <p>Executive Director, Aisha Nixon welcomed the Board members to the Board’s second virtual meeting. She provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Panravee Vongjaroenrat has been promoted and will now be the legal advisor for the Board of Nursing and Board of Professional Counseling. She will no longer be the Attorney for the Marriage and Family Therapy Board. Ms. Nixon introduced Mr. Ajay Gohil, who will be the Interim attorney for the Board until the position is filled. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Waugh the Health Licensing Specialist is on leave and Thelma Ofosu-Mensah is currently acting as the interim Health Licensing Specialist for the Board. • Ms. Tonoah Hampton and Ms. Ericka Walker, Executive Directors are observing various meetings as part of their orientation. • Introduced, Mr. Nitish Arora to the Board as an intern and gave a brief description of his assigned duties. • Informed the Board that the annual meeting for the Board is September 22, 2020. • Informed the Board that DC Health is in full operational mode, but it is not yet open to the public. • Fingerprints are being conducted by field prints all over the country hence applicants can do their fingerprints at any fieldprint location. • The Board currently has 141 active licensees. • A news alert will be sent out to all licensees by the end of September regarding latest Board activities. 	
OS-0901-04	<p>BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT</p> <p>Ajay Gohil confirmed that Marriage and Family Therapists licensees will expire on December 31, 2020 and the grace period for renewal will end on February 28, 2021. Renewal will begin on October 1, 2020.</p>	
OS-0901-05	<p>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</p> <p>Ms. Sheila Holt expressed her gratitude for Board staff and Board members for their continued support to Board activities.</p>	
OS-0901-06	<p>MINUTES</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the June 2, 2020 meeting.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Motion made by Jennifer Novak to approve the June 2, 2020 Open Session Minutes. Seconded by Angela Sarafin.</p> <p>Angela Sarafin, Jennifer Novak, and Shelia Holt all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

<p>OS-0901-07</p>	<p>POST COVID-19</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Continue the discussion possible telehealth policy/regulations that can be implement in the future.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> In response to the public health emergency the Board issued a policy statement that addresses the face-to-face requirements. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mayor issued an Administrative Order that waived licensure requirements and for the allowance of telehealth. The Office of Health Professional Licensing would like all the Boards to look at drafting regulations to address the role telehealth will play in the District post COVID-19.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> No Action is required at this time. Discussions were had regarding policies and procedures concerning continuing education requirements during COVID 19 and post COVID-19 era. Discussions pertaining to this agenda items are ongoing.</p>	
<p>OS-0901-08</p>	<p>MOTION TO CLOSE</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>Background:</u> Upon conclusion of the open session meeting pursuant to the DC Official Code 2-575(b) and for the purposes set forth therein, the Board will move into the closed executive session portion of the meeting to consult with the Board attorney, discuss disciplinary matters and hear reports concerning violations of the law or regulations.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Motion made by Jennifer Novak to close the Open Session portion of the meeting at 11:46 AM. Seconded by Sheila Holt.</p> <p>Angela Sarafin, Jennifer Novak, and Shelia Holt all voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

OS-0901-09	<p>MOTION TO ADJOURN</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> To adjourn the meeting.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> At the end of every meeting, a motion to adjourn must be made in open session to close out the business of the Boards.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Meeting was closed in Executive Session.</p>	
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The next open session meeting scheduled for December 1, 2020 at 11:00am.

The Open Meetings Act governs this meeting. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.