

BOARD OF PODIATRY MEETING MINUTES

JULY 15, 2020

1:30 pm to 4:30 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:

Wednesday, Jul 15, 2020 1:30 pm | 1 hour | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 160 639 6138

Password: 4ArvJz63qyu

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/j.php?MTID=m8738cdf587f31344e63f4498f0dd7c9a> .

Join by phone

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

Access code: 160 639 6138

OPEN SESSION JULY 15, 2020

OS-0715 -01	<u>CALL TO ORDER: 1:45PM</u>	
OS-0715 -02	<p><u>ROLL CALL</u></p> <p><u>Board Members:</u> Teresa Hilliard, DPM – Chairperson Michangelo Scruggs, DPM - Member Barbara Clark- Member</p> <p><u>HRLA Staff</u> Aisha Nixon- Executive Director Thelma Ofosu- Mensah – Health Licensing Specialist Deb Moss- Board Investigator Gregory Scurlock – Compliance Officer Ajay Gohil - Assistant General Counsel Ji Young Ahn- Legal Intern Nija Chappel- Legal Intern</p> <p><u>Visitor:</u> Dr. Alex Mattia -Public Member</p>	
OS-0715-03	<p><u>MOTION TO ACCEPT THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA</u></p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Motion made by Dr. Scruggs to accept the agenda. Seconded by Dr. Hilliard.</p> <p>Ms. Clark, Dr. Scruggs, Dr. Hilliard voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0715-04	<p><u>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:</u></p> <p>Ms. Aisha Nixon gave an update on the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciated the Board for taking time to join the virtual meeting and informed the Board that virtual Board meetings will be held until further notice. • Informed the Board that Board staff continues to work remotely and conducting their regular duties including processing of applications. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed the Board that the District is in Phase Two of the COVID 19-opening requirements and the licensure waiver for licensees is currently in place until July 24, 2020. She further indicated that the public health emergency is still in place. • She informed the Board that there has been a realignment in the Health Regulation and Licensing Administration. Three new Associate Director positions are currently in place and will report directly to the Senior Deputy Director. Mr. Meyers is the new Associate Director that will oversee the Office of Professional Licensing. In addition, the Allied and Behavioral Health Boards will be split and a new Executive Director position has been added. • The next Board meeting is October 7, 2020. • The Board currently has 135 active licensees 	
OS-0715-05	<p><u>BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT:</u></p> <p>Board Counsel gave an update on the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed the Board about the passing of Mr. Van Brathwaite. Mr. Brathwaite was the previous Attorney for the Board of Podiatry and made mention of an article about Mr. Brathwaite that was published in the Washington Post. • He informed the Board that Ms. Panravee Vongjaroenrat, Assistant General Counsel has taken over the duty of working on the HORA updates. • He informed the Board that a new law is being enacted that will require clinical laboratory directors to have and maintain a license in the District. He indicated that since Podiatrists can be clinical laboratory directors he has request that the law be updated to include Podiatrists. • Mr. Gohil also indicated that a workgroup is currently looking at Telehealth regulations for all health professionals within the District of Columbia. 	
OS-0715-06	<p><u>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT:</u></p> <p>Dr. Hilliard informed the Board that she attended the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards 2020 Webinar Annual Meeting. She</p>	

	<p>further indicated and that she has a newsletter available to all Board members for review about the meeting.</p>	
OS-0715 -07	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Consideration of the January 8, 2020 Open Session Minutes.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Motion made by Dr. Scruggs to accept the January 8, 2020 Open Session Minutes. Seconded by Dr. Hilliard.</p> <p>Ms. Clark, Dr. Scruggs, and Dr. Hilliard voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0715 -08	<p><u>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY APPLICANTS</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> To review and provide feedback regarding frequently asked questions.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> The team has been given the opportunity to create a FAQ section on the Board’s current webpage. This FAQ section will allow applicants and licensees the ability to get information in a timely manner. The FAQ section consist of questions that our Health Licensing Specialist are frequently asked.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> No formal motion needed. Ms. Nixon gave the rationale for requesting the formation of FAQs for all the Boards under her supervision. She informed the Board that suggestions are welcomed from Board members.</p>	

OS-0715 -09	<p><u>WORKFORCE SURVEY</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> To provide feedback regarding core questions related to the profession.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> The Office of Health Professional Boards is moving in direction of creating uniformity and standard processes across the various boards. One of the things that they hope to implement is a Workforce Survey for all of the Boards. The survey includes core questions that will be asked by all boards on a continuous basis (every renewal).</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> No formal motion needed. Ms. Nixon gave the rationale behind the creation of the workforce survey. She further indicated that suggestions are welcomed from the Board members perspective.</p>	
OS-0715 -10	<p><u>POST COVID -19 DISCUSSIONS</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Discuss possible telehealth policy/regulations that can be implement in the future.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> 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 formal motion needed. Ms. Nixon informed the Board that Telehealth regulations are being considered to facilitate the needs of health professionals and the residents of the District of Columbia post COVID-19. The Board attorney indicated that the Chief of Staff of DC health, Dr. Jacqueline Watson has indicated</p>	

	<p>that there should be a uniform policy/regulation that will be use as a guideline for all the other professions.</p>	
<p>OS-0715-11</p>	<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>Background:</u> <i>Upon conclusion of the open session meeting pursuant to the DC Official Code 2-575B 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.</i></p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Motion made by Dr. Hilliard to close the open session meeting. Seconded by Dr. Scruggs.</p> <p>Ms. Clark, Dr. Scruggs, and Dr. Hilliard voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
	<p><u>MOTION TO ADJOURN</u></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 Board.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Motion made by Dr. Hilliard to close the open session meeting. Seconded by Dr. Scruggs.</p> <p>Ms. Clark, Dr. Scruggs, and Dr. Hilliard voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

This ends the Open Session portion of the meeting.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2020

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