

# BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

## MEETING MINUTES

**JANUARY 12, 2021**  
**2:30 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:*

#### **Join by Web**

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/j.php?MTID=m932fe6e3781980eb2c70dd15bed4e894>

#### **Join by Phone**

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

Access Code: 473 220 621

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES JANUARY 12, 2021**

**Call to Order: 2:39 and a quorum was established.**

	<p><b><u>Roll Call:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Members:</u></b> Anthony Jimenez, PhD – Chairperson Eric Jones, PhD- Board Member L. Hamilton Ferguson, MSA- Board Member Teresa Grant, PhD- Board Member Joette James, PhD- Board Member</p> <p><b><u>HRLA Staff</u></b> Aisha Nixon, Executive Director Fatima Abby, Health Licensing Specialist Carla Williams, Interim Board Attorney Christopher Boone, Board Attorney Deb Moss, Board Investigator</p> <p><b><u>Visitor:</u></b> Francesca Alesi, Psychologist</p>	
<p><b>OS-0112-01</b></p>	<p><b><u>Approval of the Agenda</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Acceptance of the January 12, 2021 Open Session Agenda.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Dr. Eric Jones to accept the January 12, 2021 Open Session Agenda. Seconded by Dr. Joette James.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Dr. Anthony Jimenez, Dr. Joette James, Dr. Teresa Grant, Mr. L. Hamilton Ferguson and Dr. Eric Jones voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p><b>OS-0112-02</b></p>	<p><b><u>BOARD/DEPARTMENT’S REPORT</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ms. Nixon welcomed everyone and wished them a happy prosperous new year.</li> <li>○ Staff will continue to work remotely.</li> <li>○ <u>Licensure Census</u>: There are 1629 licensed psychologists and psychology associates (1444</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>psychologists and 184 psychology associates).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ District of Columbia has begun distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine. DC Health sent notification to the licensees. All health professionals can register for the vaccine as long as they show appropriate documentation at the time of vaccination. Information links were shared with the Board Members and staff.</li> <li>○ Fall/Winter Board Announcement were sent to the Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Feedback came from a licensee in regard to consider accepting other CE agencies, beside American Psychological Association (APA).</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Updates on PSYPACT was provided to the Board.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reinstatement and Reactivation Continuing Education Requirements for Psychology Associate and Psychologists were drafted and moved forward for internal approval.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Informed the Board that he will be attending ASPPB virtual meeting for Board Chairs this coming Thursday.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>OS-0112-03</b></p>	<p><b><u>Open Session Minutes</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Consideration of the Open Session minutes from November 10, 2020 meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Dr. Eric Jones to accept the November 10, 2020 Open Session minutes. Seconded by Dr. Anthony Jimenez.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Dr. Anthony Jimenez, Dr. Joette James, Dr. Teresa Grant, Mr. L. Hamilton Ferguson and Dr. Eric Jones voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

<p><b>OS-0112-04</b></p>	<p><b><u>Board Delegations:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> The Board is to review the outlined delegated authorities and determine whether to accept.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> As the Board of Psychology (“the Board”) is limited in how often it can meet, the Board has delegated various authorities to Board staff to help accomplish the goal of public safety. These delegated authorities are limited in nature and are intended to facilitate the business of the Board in an efficient and expedient manner, while at the same time ensuring patient safety is always maintained.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Recommendation were shared and requested updates on the sections regarding Board Chair Signature and complaints.</p> <p>Motion made by Dr. Eric Jones to table the matter to March Board Meeting and update the information based on the recommendations provided today. Seconded by Dr. Teresa Grant.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Dr. Anthony Jimenez, Dr. Joette James, Dr. Teresa Grant, Mr. L. Hamilton Ferguson and Dr. Eric Jones voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p><b>OS-0112-05</b></p>	<p><b><u>Health Occupation Revision Act (HORA) Revision</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> The Board is to review and revise the HORA related to the professionals’ scope of practices for psychology and psychology associates.</p> <p>(16) (A) (i) "Practice of psychology" means the development and application, with or without compensation, of scientific concepts, theories, methods, techniques, procedures, and principles of psychology to aid in the understanding, measuring, explaining, predicting, preventing, fostering, and treating of abilities, disabilities, attributes, or behaviors that are: (I) Principally cognitive, such as aptitudes, perceptions, attitudes, or intelligence; (II) Affective, such as happiness, anger, or depression; or As of 6/2015 28 (III) Behavioral, such as physical abuse. (ii) The term "practice of psychology" includes: (I) Coaching, consulting,</p>	

counseling, and various types of therapy, such as behavior therapy, group therapy, hypnotherapy, psychotherapy, and marriage, couples, and family therapy; (II) Intellectual, personality, behavioral, educational, neuropsychological, and psychophysiological testing; and (III) Professional activities, such as research, teaching, training, interviewing, assessment, evaluation, pharmacology, and biofeedback. (B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as preventing or restricting the practice, services, or activities of: (i) An individual bearing the title of psychologist in the employ of an academic institution, research organization, or laboratory, if the psychology-based activities or services offered are within the scope of employment, are consistent with his or her professional training and experience, and provided within the confines of employment; [or] (ii) A school psychologist employed by and working in accordance with the regulations of the District of Columbia Board of Education.

§ 3-1209.06. Psychology associate. (a) A person who is engaged as a psychology associate in the District shall register with the Mayor, renew the registration as required by rule, and pay the required registration fee established by the Mayor. (b) A person registered to practice as a psychology associate may provide psychological services and activities while under the direct supervision of a psychiatrist, or a licensed psychologist with a doctoral degree in psychology. As of 6/2015 122 (c) A psychology associate shall have graduated from an accredited college or university with at least a Master's degree based on a program of studies primarily focusing on psychology, or a program judged by the Board to be substantially equivalent in subject matter and extent of training to a master's or doctoral degree in psychology. (d) The Mayor, pursuant to § 2-501 et seq., shall issue rules further setting forth the education and experience needed to qualify as a psychology associate.

(q) Unless authorized to practice psychology under this chapter, a person shall not use the words or terms "psychology," "psychologist", "psychology associate", or similar title or description of services with the intent to represent that the person practices psychology.

**Motion:**

The Board Chair recommended to review and use the ASPPB scope of practice.

	<p>Motion made by Dr. Eric Jones to table the HORA to March meeting. Seconded by Dr. Anthony Jimenez.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Dr. Anthony Jimenez, Dr. Joette James, Dr. Teresa Grant, Mr. L. Hamilton Ferguson and Dr. Eric Jones voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p><b>OS-0112-06</b></p>	<p><b><u>Telehealth</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> The Board is to provide any feedback/discussion.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> DC Health has created an interprofessional workgroup comprised of the Board Chairs from different licensure boards. The group was established to generate ideas on solving health matters from a multi-discipline approach. The Workgroup has decided to focus its efforts on the development of legislation to address telehealth. A subcommittee will be formed with representation from each health professional board.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> No formal motion was made.</p>	
<p><b>OS-0112-07</b></p>	<p><b><u>Motion to Close</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> Chairperson, I move that the Board close the Open Public session portion of the meeting and move into the Closed Executive Session portion of the meeting pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b) for the following purposes: to discuss disciplinary matters pursuant to § 2-575(b)(9); to seek the advice of counsel to the board, to preserve the attorney-client privilege, or to approve settlement agreements pursuant to § 2- 575(b)(4); and to plan, discuss, or hear reports concerning ongoing or planned investigations pursuant to § 2-575(b)(14).”</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p>	

Motion made by Dr. Anthony Jimenez to close the open session agenda. Seconded by Mr. L. Hamilton Ferguson.

**Vote:**

Dr. Anthony Jimenez, Dr. Joette James, Dr. Teresa Grant, Mr. L. Hamilton Ferguson and Dr. Eric Jones voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

***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).***

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 9, 2021** at **2:30 pm**.