

# BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

## MEETING MINUTES

**JANUARY 9, 2024**  
**2:00 PM**

### Virtual Meeting Notice

*Currently, all board meetings will be held virtually during the declared public 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 9, 2024**

**Call to Order: 2:13pm**

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|                          | <p><b><u>Roll Call:</u></b><br/>Anthony Jimenez, PhD – Chairperson<br/>Joette James, PhD- Board Member</p> <p><b><u>HRLA Staff</u></b><br/>Ericka Walker, Executive Director, substituting for Ms. LaTrice Herndon<br/>Fatima Abby, Health Licensing Specialist<br/>Joanne Drozdoski, Board Attorney<br/>Deb Moss, Investigator<br/>Gregory Scurlock, Compliance Officer</p> <p><b><u>Visitor:</u></b><br/>Nicholas Weil</p>   |  |
| <p><b>OS-0109-01</b></p> | <p><b><u>Approval of the Agenda</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b><br/>Acceptance of the January 9, 2024 Open Session Agenda.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b><br/>Motion made by Dr. Joette James to accept the January 9, 2024, Open Session Agenda with additional accreditation topic.<br/>Seconded by Dr. Anthony Jimenez.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b><br/>Dr. Anthony Jimenez and Dr. Joette James voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>OS-0109-02</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>A. Operational Status Update           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DC is moving in February 23, 2024 to a new location at 2201 Shannon Place, SW, Washington DC.</li> </ul> </li> <li>B. Licensure Census           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PSYCHOLOGIST-1622</li> <li>▪ PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATE-287</li> </ul> </li> <li>C. Legislative Updates</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |

- Councilmember Henderson, alongside Councilmembers Pinto, Frumin, Allen, Lewis George, McDuffie, and R. White introduced the *ART Options for Youth Amendment Act of 2023* ([B25-0500](#)) on September 26, 2023.
  - This bill amends the *Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977* 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.
- A hearing was held on [December 6, 2023](#), during which the DC Child and Family Services Agency provided testimony in support of the legislation.

**Behavioral Analyst Licensure Amendment Act of 2023**

- Councilmember Henderson, alongside Councilmembers T. White, Parker, R. White, and Frumin introduced the *Behavioral Analyst Licensure Amendment Act of 2023* ([B25-0566](#)) on November 6, 2023.
  - 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.
- A hearing was held for this legislation on [December 7<sup>th</sup>](#) during which DC Health’s Associate Director for the Office of Health Professional Licensing Boards provided testimony.

**Health Occupations Revision Act (HORA) Update:**

- DC Health worked on a significant revision of the HORA. This would be the first significant revision in seventeen years.

- The revised HORA received Mayoral approval and has been introduced in the Council as the *Health Occupations Revision General Amendment Act of 2023* ([B25-0545](#)).
- This legislation received a hearing on [December 7<sup>th</sup>](#). Over 80 witnesses, many of whom were healthcare professionals, signed up to provide testimony. DC Health's Associate Director of Health Professional Licensing Boards provided testimony in support and answered questions from the Council. This bill will likely be marked up in Committee in March, before which DC Health will work closely with the Council on any potential changes.

**Health Professional Compact Bills:**

- Councilmember Gray has introduced bills that would have the District join two health professional licensing compacts:
  - The *Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact Approval Act of 2023* ([B25-0286](#)) would have the District join the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact and applies to Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants. The compact is not operational but is scheduled to start accepting applications in mid-2024.
  - The *Counseling Compact Approval Act of 2023* ([B25-0287](#)) would have the District join the Counseling Compact and applies to Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs).
- Additionally, Councilmember Frumin has introduced the *District of Columbia Nurse Licensure Compact Authorization Act of 2023* ([B25-0430](#)) which applies to Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs).
- A hearing was held for the Occupational Therapy and Counseling Compacts on [December 7<sup>th</sup>](#). During the hearing, the Council heard testimony from public witnesses, including local advocacy organizations. DC Health testified on both testimonies and expressed support for increased licensure portability. However, DC Health did also raise some concerns with joining each of the compacts.

**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.

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|                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This legislation would permit non-District residents to serve on health professional licensing boards.</li> <li>○ There would be restrictions, including that the Board Chair and Consumer Members would continue to need to be District residents and no more than 50% of the Board could be made up of non-District residents.</li> <li>▪ This bill received a hearing on <a href="#">July 13, 2023</a>. DC Health testified during this hearing and expressed support for the need for innovative solutions to fill board vacancies and offered some changes to the bill. It then passed on final reading on November 7<sup>th</sup> and was signed by the Mayor on November 21<sup>st</sup>. It is now undergoing Congressional Review and is expected to become law in early February of 2024.</li> <li>• <b>BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Joanne Drozdoski, Board Attorney, also mentioned the December 7 council meeting. In addition, she addressed questions about the subcommittees for the psychology/school psychology regulations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There was no report from the Chairperson.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |
| <p><b>OS-0109-03</b></p> | <p><b><u>Open Session Minutes</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b><br/>Consideration of the Open Session minutes from November 14, 2023 meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b><br/>Motion made by Dr. Joette James to accept the November 14, 2023 Open Session Minutes. Seconded by Dr. Anthony Jimenez.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b><br/>Dr. Anthony Jimenez and Dr. Joette James voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>OS-0109-04</b></p> | <p><b><u>Discussion on Applied Behavioral Analyst (ABA)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b><br/>The Board is to discuss Applied Behavioral Analyst (ABA) and determine whether to license this profession.</p>   |  |

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|                           | <p>The Board had discussion and questions regarding the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many behavioral analysts out there?</li> <li>• What are some of the behavioral analyst positions look like?</li> <li>• Why does this profession need to be under the board of psychology and not board of Professional Counseling?</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Ericka Walker informed the Board that she will share these questions with Ms. Herndon.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Addendum #1</b></p> | <p><b><u>APA and APPIC Accreditation Postdoctoral Fellowship</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b><br/>A question regarding whether an applicant who is practicing under an APPIC member postdoctoral considered exempt from psychology associate registration.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b><br/>The Board agreed that candidates under a postdoctoral program that is considered as APPIC member will not need to obtain psychology associate registration in DC in order to complete the postdoctoral program.</p> <p>The Board attorney will be updating the policy statement.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>OS-0109-05</b></p>  | <p><b><u>Consent Agenda:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b><br/>Consideration of the applications approved for purposes of review and/or ratification of Board actions taken since the last Board meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b><br/>The Consent Agenda is a record of the decisions and/or actions taken by the Board or its staff since the last meeting of the Board.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b><br/>Motion made by Dr. Joette James to accept the Open Consent Agenda. Seconded by Dr. Anthony Jimenez.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b><br/>Dr. Anthony Jimenez and Dr. Joette James voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> |  |

OS-0109-06

**MOTION TO CLOSE & ADJOURN**

**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 § 2575(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).

At the end of every meeting, a motion to adjourn must be made in open session to close out the business of the Board.

**Motion:**

Motion made by Dr. Joette James to close the Open Session Meeting. Seconded by Dr. Anthony Jimenez.

**Vote:**

Dr. Anthony Jimenez and Dr. Joette James voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Open Session Agenda continues on the next page with '**Motion to Adjourn**'. The next meeting is scheduled on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024**. This ends the Open Session Agenda.

*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).*