

**BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK**

**899 NORTH CAPITOL ST. NE – 2<sup>ND</sup> FL.**

**WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**April 27, 2020**

**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**BOSW Mission Statement:**

“To provide oversight to licensed professionals and ensure the health and safety of citizens and visitors in the District of Columbia through the provision of health care services.”

**OPEN SESSION April 2020**

<b>BOARD MEMBERS:</b>		
	VELVA SPRIGGS, LISW, CHAIRPERSON	Present
	WANDA WHEELER, LICSW, BOARD MEMBER	Present
	DANIELLE NELSON, LSGW, BOARD MEMBER	Present
	SELERYA MOORE, CONSUMER MEMBER	Present
<b>STAFF:</b>		
	AISHA NIXON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Present
	MAVIS AZARIAH ARMATTOE- HEALTH LICENSING SPECIALIST	Present
	PANRAVEE VONGJAROENRAT, ESQ.- ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL	Present
<b>VISITORS:</b>	GINA SANGSTER, PRIVATE PRACTICE ADELE NATTER, GWSCSW MARGOT ARONSON, GWSCSW STERLING HAWKINS, VA MEDICAL CENTER TAMARA PINCUS, PRIVATE PRACTICE THERAPIST ADAM BROWN	

**OPEN SESSION April 2020**

	<b><u>Roll Call</u></b>	VS
OS-0427-01	<p><b><u>Acceptance of the Open Session Agenda</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Ms. Selerya Moore made a motion to accept the agenda presented. Ms. Wanda Wheeler seconded the motion.</p> <p>Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0427-02	<p><b><u>Executive Director’s Report:</u></b> Ms. Nixon thanked the Board and staff for the first Board of Social Work WebEx meeting. She provided the current licensure census and there are 4912 licensed social workers in the District. Social Workers have been included on the list of essential professional and can test for the national exam; however, since only selected testing centers are open applicants are having problems securing test date. Therefore, staff is recommending not approving applicants to sit for the national exam until all testing centers are opened on or about 5/1/2020. The Mayor’s Administrative Order waiving licensure and the allowance of telehealth are currently in place due to the public health emergency. The Mayor does daily press briefs and recommend DC residents to listen and also for more updates on the Corona Virus to visit <a href="http://www.coronavirus.dc.gov">www.coronavirus.dc.gov</a>. There are 2 new testing centers opened in Ward 5 and 8 and expanded testing for health professionals. The District of Columbia Government is open with most agencies working remotely. DC Health has some divisions open however HRLA is working mostly remotely.</p>	
OS-0427-03	<p><b><u>Chairperson’s Report:</u></b> No report.</p>	VS
OS-0427-04	<p><b><u>Board’s Attorney’s Report:</u></b> No report.</p>	
OS-0427-05	<p><b><u>Open Session Minutes</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the February 24, 2020 meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Ms. Selerya Moore made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. Ms. Wanda Wheeler seconded the motion.</p>	

	<p>Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0427-06	<p><b><u>Private Practice Policy</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To review the updated Private Practice Policy and determine whether to approve or make additional changes.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> The Board had received clarification on if it was ok for a group private practice that is owned by a psychologist are able to employ LGSWs as the private practice policy adapted by the Board requires the practice to be owned by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. The made some changes to the current policy to reflect the enquiry.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Ms. Wanda Wheeler made a motion to approve the amended policy and for posting on the Boards webpage. Ms. Selerya Moore seconded the motion.</p> <p>Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0427-07	<p><b><u>Continuing Education Requirement for Renewals</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To determine whether to waive the live/face-to-face continuing education requirement.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> The Board has received numerous requests to waive the face to face continuing education requirements for the next renewal. The SW regulations requires a completion of 28 in person CEUs towards the required CEUs for renewal. However, in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing a lot of in-person programs have been cancelled or converted to interactive webinars.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Ms. Wanda Wheeler made a motion for the Board to accept online CEUs for the 2021 renewal cycle. Ms. Selerya Moore seconded the motion.</p>	

	<p>Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously</p>	
OS-0427-08	<p><b><u>Telehealth</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To discuss the current telehealth guidance issued by DC Health.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mayor issued an Administrative Order that waived licensure requirements and the allowance of telehealth.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Ms. Wanda Wheeler made a motion for the pandemic season starting March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 the Board would accept electronic supervision which would include telephonic means as well as tele practice of LGSWs in the District. Ms. Danielle Nelson seconded the motion.</p> <p>Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously</p>	
OS-0427-09	<p><b><u>Details about Mental Health App and its Issues.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> FYI only.</p> <p><b><u>Background</u></b> Board Attorney has requested the article be included on the agenda for informational purposes. <a href="https://jezebel.com/the-spooky-loosely-regulated-world-of-online-therapy-1841791137">https://jezebel.com/the-spooky-loosely-regulated-world-of-online-therapy-1841791137</a></p> <p><b><u>Action:</u></b> The Board Attorney will draft a policy guidance on telehealth practice for the Board to review at its next meeting.</p>	
OS-0427-10	<p><b><u>Old Criminal Background Check Reports</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To determine what to do with older criminal background check results that were not disclosed during previous renewals.</p>	

	<p><b><u>Background:</u></b>          Due to the change in fingerprinting vendors last summer, there has been a recent extension of the portal. The new portal now gives legal counsel direct access to the criminal background check reports.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b>          Ms. Danielle Nelson made a motion authorizing Board staff to review old CBC record to determine which ones need to be brought before the Board for review. Ms. Selerya Moore seconded the motion.</p> <p>Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0427-11	<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 by DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b>          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><b><u>Motion:</u></b>          Ms. Selerya Moore made a motion close the open session meeting. Ms. Danielle Nelson seconded the motion.</p> <p>Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

OS-0427-42	<p><b><u>Motion to Adjourn</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To adjourn the meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> 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><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Ms. Wanda Wheeler made a motion to adjourn the April Social Work Board meeting. Ms. Selerya Moore seconded the motion.</p> <p>Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
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The next meeting is scheduled for **June 22, 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](mailto:opengovoffice@dc.gov).*