

## BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

**February 29, 2024**

**9.00 AM to 1:00 PM**

### MEETING MINUTES

#### In Person Meeting Notice

*HYBRID MEETING NOTICE Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board will have a hybrid schedule of in-person and virtual meetings. In-person meetings will resume in FY 2023, meeting dates can be found on the Board's webpage.*

*In-person meetings will be at 899 North Capitol Street, NE, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20002.*

*Information on how to access the public portion of the meeting virtually is listed below:*

#### **This meeting was available by Web**

Board of Social Work - Open Session

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/j.php?MTID=m98cde39750bd20eaace19ba67f6a4693>

#### **This meeting was available by Phone**

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

Access Code: 478 300 028

#### **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 February 2024**

BOARD MEMBERS:		
	VELVA SPRIGGS, LISW, CHAIRPERSON	Present
	WANDA WHEELER, LICSW, BOARD MEMBER	Present
	MARJAN SHALLAL, LGSW, BOARD MEMBER	Present
	SELERYA MOORE, CONSUMER MEMBER	Present
STAFF:		
	LA TRICE HERNDON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Present
	MAVIS AZARIAH ARMATTOE- HEALTH LICENSING SPECIALIST	Present
	JOANNE DROZDOSKI, ESQ.- ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL	Present
	ANTHEA ISAACS, HEALTH LICENSING SPECIALIST	Present
	DEBBIE MOSS, INVESTIGATOR	Absent
	GREGORY SCURLOCK, COMPLIANCE OFFICER	Absent
	KERA JOHNSON, POLICY ANALYST	Present
VISITORS:		
	STEVE SZOPA	Present
	ADELE NATTER	Present
	ANISLEY	Present
	RACHEL DOYLE	Present

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES February 29, 2023**

	<b><u>Roll Call</u></b>	VS
OS-0229-01	<b><u>Acceptance of the Open Session Agenda</u></b> <b>Motion:</b> Motion made by Ms. Marjan Shallal to accept the January 29, 2023, Open Session Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Selerya Moore.  <b>Vote:</b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Marjan Shallal and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously	
OS-0229-02	<b><u>Executive Director's Report:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency has moved to its new location Shannon Place- 2201 Shannon Place SE, Washington DC, 20020. Its also recommended to check DC Health's website for updates about the move.</li> <li>• There was a meeting between several universities on a collaborative effort to create an exam that would be equitable to all. It is an ongoing discussion.</li> <li>• The bill to remove Clean Hands requirement for application was reviewed for approval.</li> <li>• Licensure Census: Total of 6,157 active Social Workers: 1,421 LGSW, 4652 LICSW, 40 LISW, and 44 LSWA</li> </ul>	LH
OS-0229-03	<b><u>Chairperson's Report:</u></b>  None	VS
OS-0229-04	<b><u>Boards Attorney's Report:</u></b>  Ms. Drozdowski updated that there was quorum at the meeting. Ms. Drozdowski discussed that board members can now be non-resident of the District but the board Chair and Consumer Member must still be a resident of the District.	JD
OS-0229-05	<b><u>Open Session Minutes</u></b>  <b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the January 29, 2024, meeting.  <b>Motion:</b> Motion made by Ms. Selerya Moore to approve the January 29, 2024, Open Session minutes as presented. Seconded by Ms. Marjan Shallal.	

	<p><b>Vote:</b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Marjan Shallal and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously</p>	
OS-0229-06	<p><b><u>Open Session Consent Agenda</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> 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> The Consent Agenda is a record of the decisions and/or actions taken by the Board or its staff since the last meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Selerya Moore to approve the January 29, 2024, Open Session Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Ms. Wanda Wheeler.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Marjan Shallal and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously</p>	
OS-0229-07	<p><b><u>OGR Updates</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Board to take appropriate action if required.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b></p> <p><b>Alternative Restorative Therapy (ART) Options for Youth Amendment Act of 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>o This bill amends the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977 with the goal of expanding therapy</p>	

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.

o 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 7th 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 7th. 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:
  - o 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.
  - o 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 7th. 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.

	<p><b>Health Professional Licensing Boards Residency Requirement Amendment Act of 2023:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councilmembers Henderson and Parker introduced the Health Professional Licensing Boards Residency Requirement Amendment Act of 2023 (B25-0312) on June 2, 2023.</li> </ul> <p>o This legislation would permit non-District residents to serve on health professional licensing boards.</p> <p>o 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. § This bill received a hearing on July 13, 2023. 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 7th and was signed by the Mayor on November 21st. It is now undergoing Congressional Review and is expected to become law in early February of 2024.</p> <p><b>No Motion was made on this. This matter was reported under the Legislative Updates by Ms. Kiera Johnson.</b></p>	
OS-0229-08	<p><b><u>Standard Fine and Assessments</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Standard Fine and Assessments</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> The Board is to review and discuss the fine and assessments and determine whether to make amendments.</p> <p><b>Tabled</b></p>	
OS-0229-09	<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>Background:</b> 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> <li>2. Preparation, administration, or grading of scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examinations pursuant to section § 2-575(b)(6).</li> <li>3. To discuss disciplinary matters pursuant to section § 2-575(b)(9).</li> <li>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).</li> </ol> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for <b>March 25, 2024.</b></p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Motion made by Ms. Wanda Wheeler to close the Open Session Meeting at 10.46 am. Seconded by Ms. Marjan Shallal.</p> <p><b>Vote:</b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Marjan Shallal and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously</p>	
	<b><u>Open Session Board FYI only</u></b>	
OS-0229-10	<p><b><u>Request from Adele Nater</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Pending:</u></b> Board Update to draft policy after review of public comments.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> Ms. Natter on behalf of the Greater Washington Society has submitted a request for the Board to accept group supervision towards individual hours for clinical licensure. The DC Board's</p>	



	<p>policy has been group supervision are counted towards general supervision hours. The ASWB Model Law recommends that fifty percent of the required individual supervision hours towards clinical licensure can be completed via group supervision and the group supervision may contain no more than 6 supervisees. The Board has developed a proposed statement on group supervision and would like the public to review and comment.</p>	
OS-0229-11	<p><b><u>Ethical Concerns with DC Sexual Assault Victim’s Rights Amendment Act of 2019</u></b> <b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Discuss the potential impact the law will have on licensees. <b><u>Background:</u></b> The Board received an email from Ms. Sherrod regarding the DC law on Teen advocates. The DC Sexual Assault Victims’ Rights Amendment Act of 2019 included the right to an advocate for 13 to 17-year-old youth in DC who have experienced sexual assault. For youth in this age range who were specifically impacted by peer-on-peer or stranger assault, the right to an advocate comes with an exemption to mandated reporting. A licensee would like the Board’s guidance since it had potential ethical implications on social workers.</p>	
OS-0229-12	<p><b><u>Endorsement Requirements/Reciprocity Pathway</u></b>  <b><u>Pending:</u></b> Boards contact with the states of VA and MD to pursue reciprocity licensure pathways.  <b><u>Background:</u></b> In Attempt to provide easier pathways to licensure we are requesting each board to discuss and evaluate the following possibilities: Endorsement requirements. ASWB Model Act Section 308. Qualifications for Licensure by Endorsement. (a) To obtain a license by endorsement at the equivalent designation and subject to Article IV of this Act, an applicant currently licensed as a social worker in another jurisdiction must provide evidence satisfactory to the Board, subject to Article III, Section 311, that the applicant: (1) Has submitted a written application and paid the fee as specified by the Board; and (2) Has presented to the Board proof of an active social work license in good standing.</p>	

	The Board has voted to pursue reciprocity licensure pathways with the states of VA and MD. The Board voted not to make any changes to the current endorsement checklist.	
OS-0229-13	<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 Board.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Wanda Wheeler to adjourn the February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting at 10.46 am. Seconded by Ms. Marjan Shallal.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Marjan Shallal and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

**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).***