

## BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

**January 25, 2021**

**10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

### MEETING MINUTES

#### Virtual Meeting Notice

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all board meetings were held virtually during the declared public health emergency.*

*Information on how to access the public portion of the meeting 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 January 2021**

<b>BOARD MEMBERS:</b>		
	VELVA SPRIGGS, LISW, CHAIRPERSON	Present
	WANDA WHEELER, LICSW, BOARD MEMBER	Absent
	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
	AJAY GOHIL, ESQ.- ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL	Present
	DEBBIE MOSS, INVESTIGATOR	Present
	CHRISTOPHER BOONE, ESQ.- ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL	Present
<b>VISITORS:</b>	MARGOT ARONSON, LICSW, GWSCSW	
	ADELE NATTER, LICSW, GWSCSW	
	ASHLEY COLEMAN, HAHSTA	
	JENNIFER VIRGO LICSW, MARY'S CENTER	
	TAWANA LEE, LGSW	
	REBECCA WOLFSON-BRULEY, LICSW, COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	
	LEAH VARGA, HAHSTA	
	MELISSA MILLAR, LICSW, COMMUNITY OF HOPE	
	TAMARA WATERS, HAHSTA	
	JEAN CAMPBELL, MEYER TREATMENT CENTER	
	PAIGE ORGANICK-LEE	
	NAOMI SEILER	
	AMBER RIEKE	
	ITUNU AFOLABI, TOWSON UNIVERSITY INTERN	
	GINA, GANGSTER, LICSW	
	JEAN CAMPBELL, LICSW, MEYER TREATMENT CENTER	
	ANYA VERCK	
	KENNETH PETTIGREW, HAHSTA	

**OPEN SESSION AGENDA January 25, 2021**

	<p><b><u>Roll Call</u></b> Meeting called to order at 10. 05AM and a quorum was established.</p>	VS
OS-0125-01	<p><b><u>Acceptance of the Open Session Agenda</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Danielle Nelson to accept the January 25, 2021 Open Session Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Selerya Moore.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0125-02	<p><b><u>Executive Director’s Report:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DC Health was closed to the public and staff asked to continue to work remotely during week of the inauguration but now open.</li> <li>• DC Health Processing Center is now open on Mondays and Wednesdays by appointments only.</li> <li>• Applications are accepted via mail and the Board is accepting supporting documents can be sent in electronically from the source.</li> <li>• Health Licensing Specialists for the Boards continue to work remotely.</li> <li>• Fall/Winter announcement was sent via email about 2 weeks ago to all active licensees</li> <li>• Provided information on the COVID-19 vaccination to attendees.</li> <li>• Licensure Census: Total of 5,279 active Social Workers: 1,473 LGSW, 3,693 LICSW, 46 LISW, and 67 LSWA.</li> </ul>	
OS-0125-03	<p><b><u>Chairperson’s Report:</u></b> None</p>	VS
OS-0125-04	<p><b><u>Board’s Attorney’s Report:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HORA revision project.</li> <li>• To review their scope of practice definition to update to reflect current national trends so it can be updated in the HORA,</li> <li>• He suggested Board discuss their delegated duties and CBC policy at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Encouraged Board members to inform their colleagues about the opening on the Board.</li> </ul>	

OS-0125-05	<p><b><u>Open Session Minutes</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the November 23, 2020 meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Danielle Nelson to approve the November 23, 2020 Open Session Minutes. Seconded by Ms. Selerya Moore.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0125-06	<p><b><u>Request for Supervised Practice for BSW and MSW Graduates</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To discuss the possible implementation of a supervised practice form to allow MSW and BSW graduates to work under supervision while they wait to sit for the national examination.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> During the September 28, 2020 meeting, Ms. Loretta Rodts from Community Connections addressed the Board and expressed the need for the Board to allow MSW and BSW graduates to work unlicensed under supervision. A number of community organizations have signed a letter in support of the implementation of a supervised practice letter by the Board of Social Work.</p> <p>During the October 26, 2020 meeting, the Board discussed the following and had questions that required further research. They tabled the matter for further discussion with increased external participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity regarding what the implementation of a supervised practice form would entail.</li> <li>• Ask staff questions regarding possibly increased workload.</li> <li>• How would the implementation of the supervised practice form be monitored and tracked?</li> <li>• The need for the external stakeholders to have conversations with the test developer ASWB.</li> <li>• Does the exam pass rate increase with the use of</li> </ul>	

	<p>supervised practice?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What role are employers willing to play?</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Discussion:</u></b> No formal motion was made. The Board met and discussed with members of the public on the topics listed above. The public provided a number of comments regarding the matter and responded to the Boards questions. Community Connections encouraged the Board to think about the longer grace period of 120 days. They also stated that their organization is invested in the success of their employees and conduct study groups and reimburse employees for the exam and licensure. Participants also discussed the use of Community Support Workers and the Board’s policy regarding unlicensed practice.</p> <p>The Board encouraged the public members to contact local programs and ASWB regarding their concerns around the low passing rates of minorities. In addition, encouraged visitors to look into becoming item writers for the national exam through ASWB.</p> <p>The Board would vote on this matter at the February 22, 2021 Board meeting.</p>	
OS-0125-07	<p><b><u>Presentation on Community Health Workers</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Discuss the potential implementation of a community health worker certification.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> The HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD &amp; TB Administration (HAHSTA) has been working to develop certification process for community health workers in the District. They would like to gain feedback and support for the DC Board of Social Work.</p> <p><b><u>Discussion:</u></b> No formal motion was made. The Team form HAHSTA presented the proposed voluntary certification of community health worker certification to the Board. They would be providing more information on the progress to the Board as they continue to work with DC Health-HRLA on which Board if any will oversee the certification process.</p>	

OS-0125-08	<p><b><u>Extension of Tele-supervision Policy</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Determine whether to extend the Tele-supervision policy.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> The Board voted in April to develop a policy guidance on tele-supervision during the public health emergency. This guidance had an ending date of Dec 31, 2020. Since the public health emergency is still in effect the provision will have to be extended.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Danielle Nelson to extend the policy until December 31, 2021; however, the Board may halt policy should the public health emergency end before December 31, 2021. Seconded by Ms. Selerya Moore.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0125-09	<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 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> Motion made by Ms. Danielle Nelson to close the open session meeting at 11.40am. Seconded by Ms. Selerya Moore.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b></p>	

	Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.	
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The next meeting is scheduled for **February 22, 2021.**

***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).***

## **OPEN SESSION**

### **INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

**ALL ITEMS FOLLOWING THIS PAGE ARE INFORMATION ONLY**

**NO BOARD ACTION OR DISCUSSION IS NEEDED**

### **UPDATES**



OS-0125-10	<p align="center"><b><u>Ethical Concerns with DC Sexual Assault Victim’s Rights Amendment Act of 2019</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Discuss the potential impact the law will have on licensees.</p> <p><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. Licensee would like the Board’s guidance since it had potential ethical implications on social workers.</p>	
OS-0125-11	<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 Social Work (“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>	