

## BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

**March 22, 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 March 2021**

<b>BOARD MEMBERS:</b>		
	VELVA SPRIGGS, LISW, CHAIRPERSON	Present
	WANDA WHEELER, LICSW, BOARD MEMBER	Present
	DANIELLE NELSON, LICSW, BOARD MEMBER	Present
	SELERYA MOORE, CONSUMER MEMBER	Absent
<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	
	STEVE SZOPA,	
	KARLA FLANAGAN	
	TAWANA LEE, LGSW	
	REBECCA WOLFSON-BERLEY, LICSW, COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	
	KAREN GUILLORY	
	MELISSA MILLAR, LICSW, COMMUNITY OF HOPE	
	TWANA SHERROD	
	BERNICE WASHINGTON	
	MARK LEVOTA	
	OBINNA NWOSU	

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES March 22, 2021**

	<p><b><u>Roll Call</u></b> Meeting called to order at 10. 05AM and a quorum was established.</p>	VS
OS-0322-01	<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 March 22, 2021 Open Session Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Wanda Wheeler.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Wanda Wheeler voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0322-02	<p><b><u>Executive Director’s Report:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DC Health remains closed to the public. A limited number of Board staff go in once a week to facilitate with processing of mail.</li> <li>• The Mayor’s public health emergency order has been extended until 5/20/2021. This is likely to be the last extension.</li> <li>• The waiver for licensure under the public health emergency order would be extended for 60 days after the order ends.</li> <li>• Licensure Census: Total of 5,377 active Social Workers: 1,485 LGSW, 3,778 LICSW, 46 LISW, and 68 LSWA.</li> </ul>	
OS-0322-03	<p><b><u>Chairperson’s Report:</u></b> Ms. Spriggs reported she has attended a meeting initiated by ASWB to address the issue of racial discrimination and its impacts on society and as professionals. It was an interesting discussion about awareness creation and the impacts of racial bias in the country and the need for it to be addressed.</p>	VS
OS-0322-04	<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 and 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>• Liability extensions also extended 60 days after public health emergency ends.</li> </ul>	

OS-0322-05	<p><b><u>Open Session Minutes</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the January 25, 2021 meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Danielle Nelson to approve the January 25, 2021 Open Session Minutes with amendments. Seconded by Ms. Wanda Wheeler.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Wanda Wheeler voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0322-06	<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</li> </ul>	

	<p>conversations with the test developer ASWB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the exam pass rate increase with the use of supervised practice?</li> <li>• What role are employers willing to play?</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion:</b> Motion made by Wanda Wheeler to table this item for additional information be received from the legal team about the need to have a regulatory change or not before a decision is made. Seconded by Ms. Danielle Nelson.</p> <p><b>Vote:</b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Wanda Wheeler voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0322-07	<p><b><u>Ethical Concerns with DC Sexual Assault Victim’s Rights Amendment Act of 2019</u></b></p> <p><b>Board Action:</b> Discuss the potential impact the law will have on licensees.</p> <p><b>Background:</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> <p><b>Motion:</b> Motion made by Ms. Wanda Wheeler table matter until a working group is established with the Board of professional counselling to develop a guidance document on the issue. Seconded by Ms. Danielle Nelson.</p> <p><b>Vote:</b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Wanda Wheeler voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

OS-0322-08	<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. Included for review and acceptance are the CBC chart and the suggested fines/assessments for violations.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b>          Motion made by Wanda Wheeler to table this for the Board to review the documents further before approving. Seconded by Ms. Danielle Nelson.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b>          Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Wanda Wheeler voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0322-09	<p><b><u>Enquiry regarding LGSWs in Private Practice</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b>          To review the enquiry and provide clarification if possible.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b>          The Board received an enquiry regarding the policy guidance for LGSW’s in private practice specifically the section on: The supervising LICSW must participate in the initial intake and diagnostic assessment of all clients served by the LGSW subject to the following: For an LGSW with less than 1,500 hours of supervised clinical experience, the supervising LICSW must participate in a face-to-face interview of the clients. With being completely virtual right now, our current intake process for our LGPCs is....</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After completing a phone screening, our intake coordinator places clients with clinicians (including LGs) based on specialty area and insurance.</li> <li>• Before meeting with the LG, an independently licensed clinician conducts an abbreviated assessment to make sure the client is appropriate for telehealth and to work with an LG.</li> <li>• Client is then transferred to the LG clinician for ongoing assessment and treatment under their board approved supervisor</li> </ul> <p>Would our current procedures align with what the scope of practice is outlining? We feel we've put many stopgaps in place to ensure clients are appropriately evaluated before working with LGs. If we were to use these procedures for LGSWs the client would be coming to the LGSW already evaluated, so the supervisor sitting in on the session seems superfluous. Given we are such a large practice we have many independently licensed clinicians and supervisors who are able to support our LGs in this way.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Danielle Nelson to set up a meeting with Ms. Wanda Wheeler to update the policy guidance in place to address enquiry and for the whole Board to review at the next meeting. Seconded by Ms. Wanda Wheeler</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Wanda Wheeler voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0322-10	<p><b><u>Question on Who can Diagnosis and/or Develop Treatment Plans</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> The Board is to discuss the question and provided feedback.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> "Is either diagnosis or treatment planning reserved to independent practitioners only? Or, may supervised professionals also perform same? If the supervisees cannot perform them, how do they learn?"</p>	

	<p><b><u>Motion:</u></b>          Motion made by Ms. Wanda Wheeler to state that LGSW can diagnose and initiate treatments plans under the supervision of a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker. Seconded by Ms. Danielle Nelson.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b>          Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Wanda Wheeler voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0322-11	<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 social workers.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b>  <b>(18) (A) "Practice of social work"</b> means rendering or offering to render professional services to individuals, families, or groups of individuals that involve the diagnosis and treatment of psychosocial problems according to social work theory and methods. Depending upon the level at which an individual social worker is licensed under this chapter, the professional services may include, but shall not be limited to, the formulation of psychosocial evaluation and assessment, counseling, psychotherapy, referral, advocacy, mediation, consultation, research, administration, education, and community organization.</p> <p><b>§ 3-1202.12. Board of Social Work.</b> (a) There is established a Board of Social Work to consist of 5 members appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council. (b) The Board shall regulate the practice of social work, including categories of specialties within the social work profession. (c) Of the members of the Board, 4 shall be social workers licensed in the District, representing each of the 4 licensing categories established by subchapter VIII of this chapter, and 1 shall be a consumer member. (d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, members of the Board shall be appointed for terms of 3 years. (e) Of the members initially appointed under this section, 1 shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, 2 shall be appointed for a term of 2</p>	



years, and 2 shall be appointed for a term of 3 years. The terms of the members first appointed shall begin on the date that a majority of the first members are sworn in, which shall become the anniversary date for all subsequent appointments.

(12) Issuing rules, as the Mayor may periodically determine to be necessary to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of the District, for the temporary licensure for a fixed period of time not to exceed 90 days and under conditions to be prescribed by the Mayor by rule, of applicants for licensure to practice a health occupation in the District, except the Mayor may provide for the issuance of temporary licenses to applicants for licensure to practice social work and marriage and family therapy for a period not to exceed 1 year, and to applicants for licensure to practice as anesthesiologist assistants for a period not to exceed 2 years;

**SUBCHAPTER VIII. CATEGORIES AND QUALIFICATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS § 3-1208.01.** Licensed social work associate. (a) The

Board of Social Work shall license as a social work associate a person who, in addition to meeting the requirements of subchapter V of this chapter, has a baccalaureate degree ("B.S.W.") from a social work program accredited by the Council of Social Work Education, and has satisfactorily completed the examination process at the associate level. (b) A licensed social work associate ("L.S.W.A.") may perform case work, group work, as of 1/2015 96 and community organization services under the supervision of a social worker licensed under § 3-1208.03 or § 3-1208.04. § 3-1208.02. Licensed graduate social worker. (a) The Board of Social Work shall license as a graduate social worker a person who, in addition to meeting the requirements of subchapter V of this chapter, has a master's degree or a doctorate from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, and has satisfactorily completed the examination process at the graduate level. (b) A licensed graduate social worker ("L.G.S.W.") may perform any function described as the practice of social work in this chapter, other than psychotherapy, under the supervision of a social worker licensed under § 3-1208.03 or § 3-

1208.04, and may perform psychotherapy under the supervision of a social worker licensed under § 3- 1208.04. § 3-1208.03.

Licensed independent social worker. (a) The Board of Social Work shall license as an independent social worker a person who, in addition to meeting the requirements of subchapter V of this chapter, has a master's degree or a doctorate from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, has satisfactorily completed the examination process at the independent level, and has at least 3,000 hours post-master's or postdoctoral experience under the supervision of a licensed independent social worker over a period of not less than 2 or more than 4 years. (b) A licensed independent social worker ("L.I.S.W.") may perform any function described as the practice of social work in this chapter, other than the diagnosis or treatment (including psychotherapy) of psychosocial problems, in an autonomous, self-regulated fashion, in an agency setting or independently, and may direct other persons in the performance of these functions. § 3-1208.04.

Licensed independent clinical social worker. (a) The Board of Social Work shall license as an independent clinical social worker a person who, in addition to meeting the requirements of subchapter V of this chapter, has a master's degree or a doctorate from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, has satisfactorily completed the examination process at the independent clinical level, and has at least 3,000 hours of post-master's or postdoctoral experience participating in the diagnosis and treatment of individuals, families, and groups with psychosocial problems, under the supervision of a licensed independent clinical social worker over a period of not less than 2 years or more than 4 years; under As of 1/2015 97 special circumstances approved by the Board, supervision by a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist may be substituted for up to 1500 hours of this requirement. (b) A licensed independent clinical social worker ("L.I.C.S.W.") may perform any function described as the practice of social work in this chapter, in an autonomous, self-regulated fashion, in an agency setting or independently, and may supervise other persons in the performance of these functions. A

licensed independent clinical social worker shall not engage in the practice of medicine and shall refer patients or clients with apparent medical problems to an appropriate and qualified medical practitioner. § 3-1208.05. Transition. For a period of 2 years following March 25, 1986, all references in this subchapter to supervision by licensed social workers shall be deemed to refer to supervision by persons meeting the requirements for licensure in the District, regardless of whether they are licensed in fact. § 3-1208.06. Waiver of requirements. (a) The Board of Social Work shall waive the educational and examination requirements for any applicant for licensure as a social worker who can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that he or she has been performing the functions of a social worker, as defined in this chapter, on a full-time or substantially full-time basis continually at least 12 months immediately preceding March 25, 1986, and is qualified to do so on the basis of pertinent education, training, experience, and demonstrated current competence, provided that application for the license is made within 24 months of March 25, 1986. (b) The Board of Social Work shall waive the examination requirement for any applicant who meets the educational requirements for licensure as a social worker, has practiced as a social worker or as a social work administrator, whether full time or not, within a 3-year period immediately preceding March 25, 1986, and is qualified to do so on the basis of pertinent experience, and demonstrated current competence, provided that application for the license is made within 24 months of March 25, 1986. (c) Applicants licensed under the waiver provisions of this section shall be eligible for license renewal on the same terms as all other licensed social workers.

**Motion:**

Motion made by Ms. Wanda Wheeler to send the SW HORA changes to her and Ms. Nelson for review for two weeks and then to send to Ms. Spriggs and Ms. Moore for the following two weeks and have it ready for the full Boards review at the April or May meeting. Seconded by Ms. Danielle Nelson.

**Vote:**

	<p>Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Wanda Wheeler voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>OS-0322-12</p>	<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. Danielle Nelson to approve the Open Session Consent Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Danielle Nelson.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Wanda Wheeler voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>OS-0322-13</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 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 Open Session meeting at 12.37pm. Seconded by Ms. Wanda Wheeler.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b></p>	

	Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Wanda Wheeler voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.	
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The next meeting is scheduled for **April 26, 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).***