

## BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

**May 23, 2022**

**10.00 AM to 2:00 PM**

### MEETING MINUTES

#### 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:*

#### **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 May 2022**

<b>BOARD MEMBERS:</b>		
	VELVA SPRIGGS, LISW, CHAIRPERSON	Present
	WANDA WHEELER, LICSW, BOARD MEMBER	Present
	MARJAN SHALLAL, LGSW, BOARD MEMBER	Present
	SELERYA MOORE, CONSUMER MEMBER	Present
<b>STAFF:</b>		
	LATRICE HERNDON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Present
	MAVIS AZARIAH ARMATTOE- HEALTH LICENSING SPECIALIST	Present
	JOANNE DROZDOSKI, ESQ.- ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL	Present
	DEBBIE MOSS, INVESTIGATOR	Present
	GREGORY SCURLOCK, COMPLIANCE OFFICER	Absent
	ANTHEA ISAACS, DETAILED STAFF	Present
	AMANDA ATTIYA, POLICY ANALYST	Present
<b>VISITORS:</b>	STEVE SZOPA, LICSW, GWSCSW	

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES May 23, 2022**

	<p><b><u>Roll Call</u></b> Meeting called to order at 10:12AM and a quorum was established.</p>	VS
OS-0523-01	<p><b><u>Acceptance of the Open Session Agenda</u></b> <b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Selerya Moore to accept the May 23, 2022, Open Session Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Wanda Wheeler.  <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-0523-02	<p><b><u>Executive Director’s Report:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Public Emergency status in the District ended on April 16, 2022.</li> <li>• The COVID Vaccine Booster shoot mandate for licensure in the District has been repealed. However, the COVID Vaccine requirement is still a requirement.</li> <li>• Licensure Census: Total of 5,539 active Social Workers: 1,407 LGSW, 4036 LICSW, 44 LISW, and 52 LSWA</li> <li>• Legislative Update: Ms. Amanda Attiya with DC Health Office of Government Relations reported on the following: <b>Removing Barriers Legislation:</b></li> </ul> <p>Following passage of the <i>Removing Barriers to Occupational Licensing for Returning Citizens Amendment Act of 2019</i> (<a href="#">B23-0440</a>), DC Health’s ability to evaluate criminal records when considering licensure were hindered. This threatens patient safety while also limiting the District’s ability to engage with regional or national licensure compacts. The Office of Government Relations (OGR) has worked with Council to add an amendment to the <i>HIV/AIDS Data Privacy Protection Amendment Act of 2021</i> (<a href="#">B24-0207</a>). This amendment would reverse elements of B23-0440 by increasing the flexibility of DC Health Professional Boards to consider criminal records and repealing the ability for perspective applicants to have a predetermination hearing. The legislation has been voted out of Committee and OGR expects it to receive a first reading on June 7, 2022.</p> <p><b>Proposed FY23 Budget:</b> The FY23 budget process continues in the Committee of the Whole. Council passed the FY23 budget on first reading and included recommendations from the Committee on Health. This includes adding ten FTEs to support the licensure process, but also removing funding that is critical to the infrastructure of DC Health Boards. The Committee of the</p>	

	<p>Whole has its second and final reading on May 24, 2022. Council is also considering the FY23 Budget Support Act (BSA) which includes several key provisions. OGR is working to add subtitles expanding eligibility for the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP) as well as authorizing a healthcare professional scholarship program.</p> <p><b>Living Facility Compulsory Social Worker Designation Act:</b>        In November, the Council introduced a bill that seeks to require that all living facilities (such as Assisted Living Facilities or Nursing Facilities) have a designated social worker to serve its residents. These social workers would be on staff with the respective living facility and would need to provide services including advocacy and counseling services. Currently, 100% of Nursing Homes already have a social worker on staff, and Assisted Living Facilities are required to provide access to social work services. A hearing is scheduled in the Committee on Health on June 27, 2022, and a representative from DC Health plans to testify.</p>	
OS-0523-03	<p><b>Chairperson’s Report:</b> Ms. Spriggs reported on the ASWB Spring Educational Meeting April 28-30:        Social Work Board members from States, US territories, Canada, and the District of Columbia attended the annual spring Board Member Exchange meeting where we updated ASWB members on individual state-level issues and accomplishments and engaged in discussions highlighted by attendees as being of priority concern: Diversity, Equality/Equity, Inclusion (DEI): new jurisdictional initiatives planned or underway, initiating and implementing decolonization practices, examining institutional racism and how to address it within organizational infrastructure, navigating barriers around uncomfortable conversations on race, examining internal discriminatory policies and practices, and avoidance of minimization and trivialities. Incorporating more visibly and concretely the macro social work practice, which gets lost within an overwhelming view toward clinical practice. Should there be minimal competency requirements for macro practice? Macro practice is a legitimate response to the marketplace.</p> <p>COVID and the increased dependency on technology: While face-to-face sessions are missed and are even mandated in specific policies, adjustments have been made to accommodate practice while continuing to adhere to social work ethics. The increased use of telehealth/teletherapy and reciprocity arrangements reflect those adjustments and may become normalized with or without COVID.</p>	VS

	<p>Supervision Issues: Can other professions supervise social workers seeking their licenses? What are the various state requirements for supervision; allowing those individuals without certification to carry the title of social worker.</p> <p>The ASWB Exam: Efforts ongoing to ensure fairness. Despite the best efforts, there remains a profound concern about low pass rates for minority applicants. There will be an exam tutorial on the ASWB website.</p> <p>There were skill refresher labs for all participants, which included board member roles on being presenters, educators, and advocates; decision-making; ASWB resources; outreach through collaboration and effective communication styles; the application of new skills; and the review and enforcement of regulations. There was also an administrators exchange forum.</p> <p>The Education Meeting was a very useful opportunity to build professional knowledge, share ideas and learn about how other jurisdictions address issues and concerns on their boards.</p>	
OS-0523-04	<p><b><u>Boards Attorney's Report:</u></b> The COVID Vaccine Booster mandate has been rescinded since April 6, 2022. The Removing Barriers Legislation has been amended and presented to council and once approved will be very good as it will help Boards to be able to look as past criminal records further in regards to licensure.</p>	
OS-0523-05	<p><b><u>Open Session Minutes</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the April 25, 2022, meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Ms. Selerya Moore to approve the April 2022 Open Session Minutes 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</p>	

OS-0523-06	<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 May 2022 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-0523-07	<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. Selerya Moore to close the Open Session portion of the meeting at 10:48AM. Seconded by Ms. Marjan Shallal.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b></p>	

	Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Marjan Shallal and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.	
	<b><u>Open Session Board FYI only</u></b>	
OS-0523-08	<p><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>	

The next meeting is scheduled for **June 27, 2022.**

***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).***