

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

November 23, 2020

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=m59a23521987aec5b989b82be49aa4f0>

This meeting was available by Phone

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

Access Code: 172 203 9061

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 November 2020

BOARD MEMBERS:		
	VELVA SPRIGGS, LISW, CHAIRPERSON	Present
	WANDA WHEELER, LICSW, BOARD MEMBER	Present
	DANIELLE NELSON, LSGW, BOARD MEMBER	Present
	SELERYA MOORE, CONSUMER MEMBER	Present
STAFF:		
	AISHA NIXON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Present
	MAVIS AZARIAH ARMATTOE- HEALTH LICENSING SPECIALIST	Present
	AJAY GOHIL, ESQ.- ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL	Present
	DEBBIE MOSS, INVESTIGATOR	Present
VISITORS:	MR. STEVEN SZOPA, LICSW, GWSCSW	
	MARGOT ARONSON, LICSW, GWSCSW	
	ADELE NATTER, LICSW, GWSCSW	
	LIZ WOLFE, LICSW, MARY'S CENTER	
	JENNIFER VIRGO LICSW, MARY'S CENTER	
	JOAN WILLIAMS LICSW, SOME	
	REBECCA WOLFSON-BRULEY, LICSW, COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	
	LORETTA RODTS, LICSW, COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	
	MELISSA MILLAR, LICSW, COMMUNITY OF HOPE	
	SARAH SCARTMILL, LICSW, COMMUNITY OF HOPE	
	ROMITTA HOFF	

OPEN SESSION AGENDA November 23, 2020

	<p><u>Roll Call</u> Meeting called to order at 10. 20AM and a quorum was established.</p>	
OS-1123-01	<p><u>Acceptance of the Open Session Agenda:</u></p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Selerya Moore made a motion to accept the November 23, 2020 Open Session Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Wanda Wheeler.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> 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-1123-02	<p><u>Executive Director’s Report:</u> Ms. Nixon provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DC Health Processing Center is now open on Mondays and Wednesdays by appointments only. • Health Licensing Specialists for the Boards continue to work remotely. • ASWB Delegate Assembly was held last week virtually. The new elected Board for the organization is very diverse. • Licensure Census: Total of 5,208 active Social Workers: 1,454 LGSW, 3,645 LICSW, 46 LISW, and 65 LSWA. 	
OS-1123-03	<p><u>Chairperson’s Report:</u> Ms. Spriggs also reported her attendance of the virtual Delegate Assembly of ASWB which was shorter due to it being virtual but overall, the meeting went very well with important discussions around failure rates for people of color and minorities, mobility and portability and the election of a more diverse Board of Directors.</p>	VS
OS-1123-04	<p><u>Board’s Attorney’s Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HORA revision project. • To review their scope of practice definition to update to reflect current national trends so it can be updated in the HORA, • He suggested the Board discuss and finalized their 2021 meeting dates and Board delegated duties at the next meeting. • Encouraged Board members to inform their colleagues about the opening on the Board. 	

<p>OS-1123-05</p>	<p><u>Open Session Minutes</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the October 26, 2020 meeting.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Wanda Wheeler made a motion to approve the September 28, 2020 Open Session Minutes. Seconded by Ms. Selerya Moore.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>OS-1123-06</p>	<p><u>Request for Supervised Practice for BSW and MSW Graduates</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> 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><u>Background:</u> 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"> • Clarity regarding what the implementation of a supervised practice form would entail. • Ask staff questions regarding possibly increased workload. • How would the implementation of the supervised practice form be monitored and tracked? • The need for the external stakeholders to have conversations with the test developer ASWB. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the exam pass rate increase with the use of supervised practice? • What role are employers willing to play? <p><u>Discussion:</u> 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 January 25, 2021 Board meeting.</p>	
OS-1123-07	<p><u>Ethical Concerns with DC Sexual Assault Victim’s Rights Amendment Act of 2019</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Discuss the potential impact the law will have on licensees.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> 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><u>Motion:</u></p>	

	<p>Ms. Wanda Wheeler made a motion to table this matter and invite the social worker who presented matter to the Board at the next Board meeting for further discussion. Seconded by Ms. Selerya Moore.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> 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-1123-08	<p><u>Motion to Close</u></p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted by DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p> <p><u>Background:</u> 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><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Danielle Nelson made a motion to close the open session meeting minutes. Seconded by Ms. Wanda Wheeler.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

The next meeting is scheduled for **January 25, 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.