

Government of the District of Colum  
Department of Health  
Board of Social Work

**BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK**

**September 28, 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=m99dc89d1ba676c4b892a66e98ec96315>

**This meeting was available by Phone**

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

Access Code: 160 859 9517

**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."*

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**OPEN SESSION September 2020**

<b>BOARD MEMBERS:</b>		
	VELVA SPRIGGS, LISW, CHAIRPERSON	Present
	WANDA WHEELER, LICSW, BOARD MEMBER	Present
	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
<b>VISITORS:</b>	GINA SANGSTER, LICSW STEVE SZOPA, GWSCSW ALAN DEZEN, LICSW APPLICANT SHAHZEB ASIM OAG ATTORNEY JASON FACCI, OAG ATTORNEY COLLEEN HERBERT, COURT REPORTER CHERYL AGUILAR, LICSW TAMARA PINCUS, LICSW LORETTA RODTS, LICSW SARAH SCARTMILL MELISSA MILLAR SHAVON WARRICK	

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**OPEN SESSION MINUTES September 28, 2020**

OS-0928-01	<p><b><u>Acceptance of the Open Session Agenda</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b>          Ms. Selerya Moore made a motion to accept the Open Session Agenda. Ms. Danielle Nelson seconded the motion.</p> <p>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-0928-02	<p><b><u>Hearing of Ms. Shavon Warrick LICSW</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b>          A Hearing Proceeding.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b>          Ms. Warrick’s license has been summarily suspended since 1/18/2019. The Hearing notice was mailed and emailed to Ms. Warrick in March 2020 for a scheduled hearing in June 2020, but a response was never received.</p> <p>Another hearing notice was mailed out on 9/1/2020 and delivered on 9/5/2020 however, Ms. Warrick has not responded yet again to this notice.</p> <p>Hearing was conducted the Board will be providing a final decision to Ms. Warrick with 90 days.</p>	
OS-0928-03	<p><b><u>Executive Director’s Report:</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Nixon thanked the Board members for their support and participation with the virtual meetings. She provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DC health was still operating remotely, and the office still closed to the public.</li> <li>• She also reported that the department is working on launching an online application system for initial applications, reinstatements and reactivation applications in the near future. The online platform is currently undergoing User Acceptance Testing (UAT) by the staff.</li> <li>• The SW Board currently has 5125 active licensees.</li> <li>• Ms. Nixon encouraged the public to contact the MOTA for</li> </ul>	

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	<p>consideration on serving on Boards within the District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ASWB Annual Delegate Assembly is scheduled for November 16-20 and will be a virtual conference. ASWB has provided information that more testing centers are opened to accommodate exam scheduling and currently no reports of backlog in exams.</li> <li>• Ms. Nixon also informed the Board and the visitors that ASWB is looking for examination writers for the national exam and encouraged individuals to apply.</li> </ul>	
OS-0928-04	<p><b><u>Chairperson’s Report:</u></b>                  Ms. Spriggs provided a report from the ASWB Board Member Exchange. She stated at least 25 Board members from various jurisdictions between the US and Canada met to discuss various challenges regarding the regulation of social workers in their jurisdictions during the pandemic</p> <p>Ms. Wheeler attended DC Health’s Interprofessional Workgroup on behalf of Ms. Spriggs. She informed the board that a subcommittee with representation from all of the health professional boards will soon begin to work collectively to draft a Telehealth Bill that to cover all health professions. She reported the meeting was very productive and enlightening.</p>	VS
OS-0928-05	<p><b><u>Board’s Attorney’s Report:</u></b>                  Mr. Ajay Gohil introduced himself as the interim Board attorney. He also advised the Board to think of updating their scope of practice to reflect the current trends and also to amend the requirement of having each level of licensure representation on the Board to just licensed social workers to ease with filling Board vacancies.</p> <p>Ms. Panravee Vongjaroenrat joined the meeting briefly to say her good-byes and thank the board. The Board members wished Ms. Vongjaroenrat well and thank her for her years of service to the Board of Social Work.</p>	
OS-0928-06	<p><b><u>Open Session Minutes</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b>                  Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the July 27, 2020 meeting.</p>	

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	<p><b><u>Motion:</u></b>                  Ms. Wanda Wheeler made a motion to approve the Open Session Minutes. Ms. Danielle Nelson seconded the motion.</p> <p>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-0928-07	<p><b><u>Qualification for LICSW</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b>                  To review the proposed regulatory changes regarding the supervised hours.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b>                  A recent inquiry about this issue has resulted in this matter being back on the agenda for the Board to decide whether or not to stick to its previous interpretation or accept the proposed change by the sub-committee.</p> <p>The Board’ interpretation of the HORA had been for an LGSW to practice continuously between 2-4 years under supervision to qualify for approval to take the clinical exam. A sub-committee set up for regulations update had discussed this issue with the Board and the following update was proposed but not finalized:</p> <p><b>7005                    QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR LICENSED INDEPENDENT CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER</b></p> <p>7005.1                To qualify for a license to practice as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), an applicant shall:</p> <p>(a)    Possess at least a Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) degree from a social work program accredited by CSWE;</p> <p>(b)    Have taken and passed the Clinical Examination developed by ASWB; and</p> <p>(c)    Have accrued at least three thousand (3,000) hours of post-graduate clinical practice experience meeting the</p>	

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	<p>requirements of § 7007.2 under the supervision of an independent clinical social worker over a period of not less than two (2) or more than six (6) years, provided that at least five hundred (500) hours of the practice experience were accrued during the twelve (12)-month period prior to the date of the application, and provided further that the Board may extend the maximum time period for the accrual of the supervised practice by up to twenty-four (24) months based on demonstrated extenuating circumstances.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b>                  Ms. Wanda Wheeler made a motion to have legal draft a policy statement clarifying the Board’s interpretation of Section 7005 to state an applicant can accrue at least 3000 hours between 2-5 years in continuous or non-continuous practice and the hours should not be over 5 years old at the time of submission of application. Ms. Selerya Moore seconded the motion.</p> <p>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-0928-08	<p><b><u>TELEHEALTH</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b>                  To review the current telehealth guidelines as it relates to scope of practice, waiver of in person CE requirements and supervision of LGSWs and LSWAs and determine whether to adopt as emergency and proposed rule-making.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b>                  In March of 2020, The Mayor and Director of the Health Department issued a Telehealth Waiver for Health Care Professionals in good standing with another state or jurisdiction permission to provide telehealth services to residents residing in the District of Columbia due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic social distancing efforts of reducing the spread of the virus.</p>	

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During the April 2020 board meeting, the Board voted to have the attorney draft policy guidance on waiver of in person CE Tele-supervision and tele-practice for the SW Board. Senior leadership has requested that all policies that make changes to the current regulations be done through emergency/proposed rulemaking.

The Board’s possible options are as follows:

- Take out the in-person requirements entirely.
- Not take out the in-person requirements but leave room for them to suspend the in-person requirement under certain circumstances (limiting emergency situations or allowing the Board to use their discretion).

**Motion:**

Ms. Wanda Wheeler made a motion for the Board to keep the in person CE requirement in the regulations but add language that states, “The Board has the discretion to suspend the requirement in extenuating circumstances”. Ms. Danielle Nelson seconded the motion.

Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:**

Ms. Danielle Nelson made a motion to accept the policy regarding tele-supervision and incorporate language to include asynchronous modes of communication be considered as direct supervision. Ms. Selerya Moore seconded the motion.

Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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OS-0928-09	<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> Ms. Selerya Moore made a motion to close the Open Session portion of the meeting at 11:49 AM. Ms. Wanda Motion: Wheeler seconded the motion.</p> <p>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-0928-10	<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 Boards.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Ms. Selerya Moore made a motion to adjourn the September 2020 meeting in closed session at 3:16 PM. Ms. Wanda Wheeler seconded the motion.</p> <p>Ms. Velva Spriggs, Ms. Wanda Wheeler, Ms. Danielle Nelson and Ms. Selerya Moore voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed</p>	



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	unanimously.	
	<b><u>Comments from the Public Visitors in Open Session</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gina Sangster expressed that she is in favor of the DC Health moving forward with Telehealth legislation.</li><li>• Loretta Rodts asked the Board to consider the use of a Supervised Practice Form so BSW and MSW could practice under a LICSW while the wait to sit for the National Exam.</li><li>• Alan Dezen had questions regarding the licensure requirements.</li></ul>	

The next meeting is scheduled for **October 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).***