



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Health Regulation and Licensing Administration

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING OPEN SESSION MEETING AGENDA

January 8, 2021

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Virtual Meeting Notice

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

Information on how to access the public portion of the meeting is listed below:

OPEN SESSION JANUARY 8, 2021

OS-0121-01	<p>CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL</p> <p>The January 8, 2021 Open Session was called to order at 10:03am and a quorum was established.</p> <p>Board Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Victoria Sardi-Brown (Chairperson) – Absent • Laurie Ferreri (Vice-Chairperson) – Present • Victoria Sherk – Present • Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert – Present <p>Board Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aisha Nixon- Executive Director • David Walker – Health Licensing Specialist • Panravee Vongjaroenrat – Board Attorney • Leonard Howard – Board Investigator <p>Open Session Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathan Baca – Investigative Reporter (WUSA9) 	
OS-0121-02	<p>APPROVAL OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Sherk made a motion to approve the January 8, 2021 Open Session agenda without additions and/or corrections. Seconded by Ms. Ruffin-Colbert.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Ms. Ferreri, Ms. Sherk, and Ms. Ruffin-Colbert voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

OS-0121-03	<p>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</p> <p>Board Staff and the agency were mandated to work from home the remainder of the week due to the situation at Capitol Hill. Some agency staff may return to the agency starting January 21, 2021.</p> <p>Health professionals looking for information about the vaccine should visit https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine . Health professionals with questions about the vaccine should contact covid-19.vaccine@dc.gov . To sign-up to receive the vaccine, licensees should visit https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccinatedc .</p> <p>The public health emergency status was extended to March 31, 2021. All administrative orders pertaining to the public health emergency (including the licensure waiver) have been extended to March 31, 2021 as well.</p> <p>Renewing a license without a penalty ended December 31, 2020. Licenses that were not renewed have now expired and are eligible to renew. Counseling services cannot be provided with an expired license. Licensees can renew with a late fee until February 28, 2021. Licenses will remain expired until the renewal is approved.</p> <p>As of today, the Board has a total of 1,697 active licenses which breaks down as follows:</p> <p>CACI - 79 CACII - 152 LGPC - 278 LPC - 1188</p>	
OS-0121-04	<p>BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT</p> <p>On January 15, 2021, the emergency rulemaking will be posted for public comment. The emergency rulemaking went into effect on January 4, 2021 when signed by Dr. Nesbitt. LGPC applicants with under 700-hour internship can now be reviewed and may be approved for licensure.</p>	
OS-0121-05	<p>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</p> <p>No Report</p>	

OS-0121-06	<p>MINUTES</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the December 11, 2020 meeting.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Sherk made a motion to accept the December 11, 2020 Open Session minutes without modifications. Seconded by Ms. Ruffin-Colbert.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Ms. Ferreri, Ms. Sherk, and Ms. Ruffin-Colbert voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0121-07	<p>BOARD DELEGATIONS</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> The Board is to review the outlined delegated authorities and determine whether to accept.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> 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> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Ruffin-Colbert made a motion to table the matter for further discussion. Seconded by Ms. Ruffin-Colbert.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Ms. Ferreri, Ms. Sherk, and Ms. Ruffin-Colbert voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

OS-0121-08	<p>SCOPE OF PRACTICE REVISION</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Review and discuss whether to update current scope of practice.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> While updates to the Health Occupational and Revisions Act (HORA) are taking place, the Board can update its scope of practice. The following is the current scope of practice for counseling and addiction counseling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice of professional counseling means engaging in counseling or psychotherapy activities, including cognitive behavioral therapy or other modality, with or without compensation, to facilitate human development and to identify and remediate mental, emotional, or behavioral conditions and associated difficulties that interfere with mental health and wellness. The practice of professional counseling includes: the processes of conducting interviews, tests, and other forms of assessment for the purpose of diagnosing individuals, families, and groups, as outlined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Disorders or other appropriate classification schemes, and determining treatment goals and objectives; and assisting individuals, families, and groups through a professional relationship to achieve long-term effective mental, emotional, physical, spiritual, social, educational, or career development and adjustment. • Practice of addiction counseling means providing services, with or without compensation, based on theory and methods of counseling, psychotherapy, and addictionology to persons who are experiencing cognitive, affective, or behavioral psycho-social dysfunction as a direct or indirect result of addiction, chemical dependency, abuse of chemical substances, or related disorders. The practice of addiction counseling includes: Addiction prevention; Crisis intervention; Diagnosis; Referral; Direct treatment; Follow-up, which is rendered to individuals, families, groups, organizations, schools, and communities adversely affected by addictions or related disorders; the education and training of persons in the field of addiction counseling. 	
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	<p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Ruffin-Colbert made a motion to table the matter for further discussion. Seconded by Ms. Ruffin-Colbert.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Ms. Ferreri, Ms. Sherk, and Ms. Ruffin-Colbert voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0121-09	<p>TELEHEALTH</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> The Board is to provide any feedback/discussion.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> DC Health has created an interprofessional workgroup comprised of the Board Chairs from different licensure boards. The group was established to generate ideas on solving health matters from a multi-discipline approach. The Workgroup has decided to focus its efforts on the development of legislation to address telehealth. A subcommittee will be formed with representation from each health professional board.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Vice Chair, Ms. Ferreri ask the Board members if they received an email signing a petition for national licensing and state reciprocity for telemental health providers. Board members expressed that they would be interested in exploring further.</p> <p>No formal motion needed .</p>	

OS-0121-10	<p>FYI - ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM (NO ACTION NEEDED)</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Also known as ACP, the is for people who are victims/survivors of domestic violence/abuse to protect them from providing their actual address. This program is administered by the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG), which gives a person approved into the program OVSJG’s own address and will accept and forward mail – including accepting service of process – to program participants. The law requires that the Board accept the ACP address. Program participants must show a valid program card. The program card/authorization is good for 3 years at the beginning and is renewed every 2 years thereafter.</p> <p>No formal motion needed.</p>	
OS-0121-11	<p>MOTION TO CLOSE</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in 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. Ruffin-Colbert made a motion to close the open session. Seconded by Ms. Sherk.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Ms. Ferreri, Ms. Sherk, and Ms. Ruffin-Colbert voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The January 8, 2021 Open Session ended at 11:20pm.</p>	

The next open session meeting scheduled for February 12, 2021 at 10:00am.

The Open Meetings Act governs this meeting. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.