



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Health Regulation and Licensing Administration

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING OPEN SESSION MEETING AGENDA

July 9, 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 JULY 9, 2021

OS-0721-01	<p>CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL</p> <p>The July 9, 2021 Open Session was called to order at 10:05 AM and a quorum was established.</p> <p><u>Board Members:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Victoria Sardi-Brown (Chairperson) – Present • Victoria Sherk – Absent • Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert – Present <p><u>Board Staff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aisha Nixon- Executive Director • David Walker – Health Licensing Specialist • Panravee Vongjaroenrat – Board Attorney • Leonard Howard – Board Investigator • Hannah Knab – Legal Intern <p><u>Open Session Guests:</u></p> <p>None</p>	
OS-0721-02	<p>APPROVAL OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA</p> <p><u>Motion:</u></p> <p>Motion made by Ms. Ruffin-Colbert to accept the July 9, 2021 Open Session agenda with the modification to remove and place item OS-0721-07 (DISCUSSION – CAREER AND VOCATIONAL COUNSELING) on the September meeting and adding Hannah Knab’s presentation to the Board Attorney’s Report. Seconded by Dr. Sardi.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u></p> <p>Ms. Ruffin-Colbert and Dr. Sardi voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

OS-0721-03	<p>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</p> <p>Ms. Nixon thanked Ms. Ferreri for her service to the Board and the residents of the District of Columbia. The Board currently has two vacancies. The Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments has been notified.</p> <p>On July 12, 2021, staff will be physically returning to DC Health. Staff will be in the office three days a week and working remotely two days a week. DC Health has resumed walk in services, the public will no longer need to make appointments.</p> <p>The new online application system has been in use for three months. While there have been growing plans, staff continue to work diligently to process applications in a timely manner.</p> <p>Interviews were conducted in June for the Executive Director’s position. Ms. Nixon anticipates that the new Executive Director will be introduced at the September meeting.</p> <p><u>Current Licensure Census:</u> CACI – 81 CACII – 160 LGPC – 344 LPC – 1301</p>	
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<p>OS-0721-04</p>	<p>BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT</p> <p>The Board Attorney, Ms. Vongjaroenrat, discussed the impact of Ms. Ferreri’s departure from the Board regarding the regulation subcommittees. Due to the number of active board members, only one member can serve on a subcommittee at a time. The Board will need to decide whether to continue using subcommittees to work on the regulations or to work on regulations during the open session meetings.</p> <p>The attorney also requested the Board’s review and decide regarding the pending emergency rulemaking to revise section 9105 of chapter 91. The reviewing OAG attorney suggested that the wording be changed to say:</p> <p>“An applicant for license under this chapter shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board that he or she has completed, in a university-approved counseling setting, a practicum and internship that meets the standards of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) or a practicum or internship [CHANGED TO SUPERVISED PRACTICE] that meets standards comparable to a CACREP-accredited program.”</p> <p>The Board confirmed the attorney’s understanding of the intent of the regulatory amendment – specifically that the first phrase should be “practicum and internship”, the second phrase needs to be “practicum or internship” and that the substitution of “supervised practice” for the second phrase would not be appropriate since it would change the Board’s intent. The Board voted to keep the wordings the same as originally drafted.</p> <p>Hannah Knab, Legal Intern, presented research based on the issue of how states are currently handling licensing sanctions based on criminal convictions. The Board appreciated the presentation and requested a copy of her presentation.</p>	
<p>OS-0721-05</p>	<p>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</p> <p>None</p>	

OS-0721-06	<p>MINUTES</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the June 11, 2021 meeting.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Motion made by Ms. Ruffin-Colbert to accept the June 11, 2021 Open Session minutes as presented. Seconded by Dr. Sardi.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Ms. Ruffin-Colbert and Dr. Sardi voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0721-08	<p>DISCUSSION – EXTENDING SUSPENSION OF IN-PERSON CEUS AND SUPERVISION</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Discuss and decide whether to extend the previously approved policy that suspended the in-person CE requirement for CACI and CACII licensees.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mayor issued an Administrative Order that waived licensure requirements and allowed the use of telehealth. At the time, licensees also expressed concerns around receiving and providing supervision, sitting for the national examinations and in-person CE requirements. During the May 2020 meeting, the Board passed a motion to draft a policy that would suspend the in-person CE requirement for CACI and CACII licensees for the 2020 renewal. The use of the policy has expired and needs to be renewed.</p> <p>The Board also discussed and agreed that the regulations requiring in-person CE or supervision will have to be revised for the future. Accordingly, the policies should be extended until the regulatory revisions are finalized and effective.</p> <p><u>Motion 1:</u> Motion made by Ms. Ruffin-Colbert to extend the suspension of the CACI/CACII in-person CEU requirement until the Board revises the current regulations. Seconded by Dr. Sardi.</p>	

	<p><u>Vote:</u> Ms. Ruffin-Colbert and Dr. Sardi voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><u>Motion 2:</u> Motion made by Ms. Ruffin-Colbert to extend the suspension of the in-person supervision requirement until the Board revises the current regulations. Seconded by Dr. Sardi.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Ms. Ruffin-Colbert and Dr. Sardi voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0721-09	<p>OPEN SESSION CONSENT AGENDA</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Consideration of the applications approved for purposes of review and/or ratification of Board actions taken since the last Board meeting.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> 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><u>Motion:</u> Motion made by Ms. Ruffin-Colbert to accept the July 9, 2021 Open Session Consent Agenda. Seconded by Dr. Sardi.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Ms. Ruffin-Colbert and Dr. Sardi voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

OS-0721-10	<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> Motion made by Ms. Ruffin-Colbert to close the July 9, 2021 Open Session meeting at 11:27 AM. Seconded by Dr. Sardi.</p> <p><u>Vote:</u> Ms. Ruffin-Colbert and Dr. Sardi voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
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The next open session meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

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.

OPEN SESSION FYI – NO ACTION NEEDED

OSFYI-0721-01	<p>TELEHEALTH</p> <p><u>Background:</u> DC Health has created an inter-professional 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>	
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