

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING
899 NORTH CAPITOL ST. NE – 2ND FL.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002
MEETING MINUTES**

May 8, 2020

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

DRAFT

MAY 8, 2020 PUBLIC SESSION ATTENDANCE

Board Members:	Dr. Victoria Sardi-Brown, Chairperson	Present
	Laurie Ferreri, Board Member	Present
	Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert, Board Member	Present
	Victoria Sherk, Board Member	Present
Staff:		
	Aisha Nixon – Executive Director	Present
	David Walker – Licensing Specialist	Present
	Van Brathwaite – Board Attorney	Present
	Frank Meyers – Associate Director, Office of Health Professional Licensing Boards	Present
	Leonard Howard – Investigator	Present
Public:		
	Sabrina Gibbs – Licensure Applicant	Present

OPEN SESSION MAY 8, 2020

OS-0520-01	<p>CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL</p> <p>The meeting was called to order at 10:07am. A quorum was established with one board member not present. After quorum was established, the last board member arrived.</p>	
OS-0520-02	<p>APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Ruffin-Colbert made a motion to accept the May 8, 2020 Open Session Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Ferreri.</p> <p>Ms. Ferreri, Ms. Ruffin-Colbert, Ms. Sherk, and Dr. Sardi-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0520-03	<p>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</p> <p>The Executive Director reported that Mr. Van Brathwaite (Board Attorney) passed away in April. Mr. Brathwaite was an asset to the Board and served proudly for 20+ years. The Executive Director introduced Panravee Vongjaroenrat as the interim Board Attorney.</p> <p>The Board has 1,872 active licenses. The following is the breakdown of active licenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CACI - 95 • CACII - 176 • LGPC - 343 • LPC - 1258 <p>The Executive Director informed the Board that the Mayor hosts live press conferences throughout the week. The press conferences give updates about the pandemic in the District of Columbia. All information related to COVID-19 in the District of Columbia can be found at coronavirus.dc.gov.</p> <p>Sitting for the National Counselor Examination (NCE) were suspended due to the pandemic. Pearson Vue started allowing the Board’s applicants to sit for the NCE on May 1.</p>	

	As the upcoming renewal season approaches, the Office of Health Professional Licensing hopes to implement a Workforce Survey. The matter will be discussed in the June meeting. DC Health is also working on making initial applications online.	
OS-0520-04	<p>BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT</p> <p>The Interim Board Attorney is reviewing the subcommittee’s draft for the LPC and LGPC regulations. The Interim Board Attorney will be providing the Board with feedback regarding the purposed recommendations on the drafts to present to the Board later.</p>	
OS-0520-05	<p>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</p> <p>No Report</p>	
OS-0520-06	<p>MINUTES</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the March 13, 2020 meeting.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Ferreri made a motion to accept the March 13, 2020 Open Session Minutes without corrections and additions. Seconded by Ms. Sherk.</p> <p>Ms. Ferreri, Ms. Ruffin-Colbert, Ms. Sherk, and Dr. Sardi-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0520-07	<p>COVID-19 PANDEMIC</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Discuss and decide actions to address licensee concerns around supervision, CE completion, sitting for national examinations, and standards of care during the pandemic.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mayor issued an Administrative Order that waived licensure requirements and for the allowance of telehealth. Licensees have also expressed concerns around receiving and providing supervision, sitting for the national examinations and in-person CE requirements.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u></p>	

	<p>Ms. Ferreri made a motion for the Interim-Board Attorney to send the Board the social work policy pertaining to supervision during the pandemic and draft a policy to address the supervision of LGPCs during the pandemic. Seconded by Ms. Ruffin-Colbert.</p> <p>Ms. Ferreri, Ms. Ruffin-Colbert, Ms. Sherk, and Dr. Sardi-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Sherk made a motion for the Interim-Board Attorney to draft a policy that would suspend the in-person CE requirement for CACI and CACII licensees for the upcoming renewal. Seconded by Ms. Ferreri.</p> <p>Ms. Ferreri, Ms. Ruffin-Colbert, Ms. Sherk, and Dr. Sardi-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0520-08	<p>“THE SPOOKY, LOOSELY REGULATED WORLD OF ONLINE THERAPY”</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> FYI only – No Motion Needed.</p> <p><u>Background</u> Board Attorney has requested the article be included on the agenda for informational purposes. https://jezebel.com/the-spooky-loosely-regulated-world-of-online-therapy-1841791137</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> No formal motion needed.</p>	
OS-0520-09	<p>MOTION TO CLOSE OPEN SESSION – 11:35</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</p>	

	<p>matters and hear reports concerning violations of the law or regulations.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Ferreri made a motion to close the Open Session. Seconded by Ms. Sherk.</p> <p>Ms. Ferreri, Ms. Ruffin-Colbert, Ms. Sherk, and Dr. Sardi-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0520-10	<p>MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING – 13:44</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> To adjourn the meeting.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> 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><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Ruffin-Colbert made a motion to adjourn the May 8, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ferreri.</p> <p>Ms. Ferreri, Ms. Ruffin-Colbert, Ms. Sherk, and Dr. Sardi-Brown voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

The next open session meeting scheduled for June 12, 2020 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.