

**BOARD OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**September 19, 2023**

**11:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE**

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board will have in-person and virtual meetings. Please see the hybrid schedule in the Meeting Dates section of the agenda.**

**In-person meetings will be held at 899 North Capitol St., NE, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20002. Information on how to access virtual Board meetings is listed below:**

**BOARD OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY: OPEN SESSION MEETING**

**Hosted by HRLA BOARDS**

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/j.php?MTID=maabf299b791d117fed60a41cf0452462>

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 11:00 AM | 1 hour | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 2324 039 5814

Password: UsAZQqM4p73

Join by video system.

Dial 23240395814@dcnet.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone.

+1-202-860-2110 United States Toll (Washington D.C.)

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

Access code: 232 403 95814

**BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY**

<b>BOARD MEMBERS:</b>	
Sheila Holt, LMFT – Board Chairperson	PRESENT
Angela Sarafin, LMFT – Board Member	PRESENT
Vacant – Board Member, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist	VACANT
Vacant – Board Member, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist	VACANT
Vacant – Board Consumer Member	VACANT
<b>BOARD STAFF:</b>	
Ericka L. Walker, MSW - Executive Director	PRESENT
Thelma Ofosu-Mensah, Health Licensing Specialist	PRESENT
Joanne Drozdoski, Assistant General Counsel	PRESENT
Gregory Scurlock, Compliance Officer	PRESENT
Rebecca Odrick-Austin, Investigator	PRESENT

**OPEN SESSION SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

OS-0919-01	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL</b></p> <p><b><u>Board Members</u></b> Sheila Holt – Board Chair (Present) Angela Sarafin – Board Member (Present)</p> <p><b><u>Board Staff</u></b> Ericka Walker- Executive Director (Present) Joanne Drozdowski- Assistant General Counsel (Present) Thelma Ofosu- Mensah – Health Licensing Specialist (Present) Rebecca Odrick –Investigator (Present) Gregory Scurlock- Compliance Officer (Present) Geoffrey Calloway- Health Licensing Specialist (Present) Jennifer Stuart – Health Licensing Specialist (Present)</p>	
OS-0919-02	<p><b>APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA</b></p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Angela Sarafin to accept the September 19, 2023, Open Session Agenda. Seconded by Sheila Holt.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Angela Sarafin and Shelia Holt voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0919-03	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the June 6, 2023, meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Angela Sarafin to accept the June 6, 2023, Open Session Minutes. Seconded by Sheila Holt.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Angela Sarafin and Shelia Holt voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0919-04	<p><b>NATIONAL EXAMINATION RETAKE LIMITATION</b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> The Board is to determine the AMFTRB National Examination retake limitation and parameters for applicants who failed the exam multiple times.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b></p>	

	<p>The Board regulations do not provide guidance on how many times an applicant by examination/reexamination can be approved by the Board to sit/re-sit for the AMFTRB National Exams. Within DC Health, some Professional Boards do have specified limitations regarding the number of attempts an applicant may retake the National Exams after failing multiple times. Some of the Boards do have remediation measures such as applicants retaking refresher or preparation courses, and/or an applicant has to wait a specific period of time before resubmitting a new application for Board consideration.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p> <p>Motion made by Angela Sarafin stating the need for the Board to create a policy that an applicant who fails the AMFTRB Exams three times will need to meet with the Board before the Board can approve him/her to retake subsequent AMFRTB Exam. Seconded by Sheila Holt.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b></p> <p>Angela Sarafin and Shelia Holt voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0919-05	<p><b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:</b></p> <p>Ms. Ericka Walker gave updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She expressed gratitude to the Board members for serving on the Board with their professional expertise and knowledge.</li> <li>• She introduced Ms. Jennifer Stuart as the new Health Licensing Specialist for the Board of Medicine.</li> <li>• DC Health is moving to Reunion Square, 2201 Shannon Place, SE, in February 2024.</li> <li>• She informed the Board that Dr. Ayanna Bennett is the new DC Health Acting Director and that Dr. Sharon Lewis has retired from DC Health.</li> <li>• DC Health has formed the Interprofessional Board Chair Collaboration Work Group (IBCC). The group will be organizing a symposium in September on September 27, 2023, at 899 North Capitol Street NE 20002.</li> <li>• Census: 213 Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists</li> <li>• District of Columbia COVID-19 <a href="https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine">https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine</a></li> <li>• District of Columbia Monkeypox <a href="https://dchealth.dc.gov/page/monkeypox">https://dchealth.dc.gov/page/monkeypox</a></li> <li>•</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>The Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments</u></b></li> </ul> <p>The Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA) recruits talented and interested individuals from all eight Wards to serve on District Boards. Link to apply to serve on a Board: <a href="https://mota.dc.gov/page/boards-vacancies-or-available-seat">https://mota.dc.gov/page/boards-vacancies-or-available-seat</a></p>	
OS-0919-06	<b>BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT:</b> <p>Ms. Joanne Drozdoski gave updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She informed the Board that the Council Hearing for Dr. Ayanna Bennett Acting Director to become DC Health Director is scheduled for October 5, 2023.</li> <li>• The Interprofessional Board Chair Collaboration Work Group (IBCC) symposium scheduled for September 27, 2023, will be held at at DC Health 899 North Capitol Street Location which is a change of venue from the initial venue.</li> </ul>	
OS-0919-07	<b>CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT</b> <p>No Report</p>	
OS-0919-08	<b>FY 2024 MEETING DATES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 5, 2023 (In-person)</li> <li>• March 5, 2024</li> <li>• June 4, 2024 (In-person)</li> <li>• September 10, 2024</li> </ul>	
OS-0919 -09	<b><u>Consent Agenda</u></b> <p><b>Approved Marriage and Family Therapy Licenses from June 2023.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Crystal Scurr</li> <li>➤ Laura Hastings</li> <li>➤ Amanda Baquero</li> <li>➤ Xiaofang Wang Lanterman</li> <li>➤ Rachel Topel</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Angela Sarafin to accept the consent agenda as amended with the addition of <b>Jamie Kanter</b> and <b>Cheri Meadowlark</b>. Seconded by Sheila Holt.</p>	

	<b><u>Vote:</u></b> Angela Sarafin and Shelia Holt voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.	
OS-0919-10	<p><b>MOTION TO CLOSE</b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> To go into a closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> Pursuant to DC Official Code § 2-575(b), the Board will move into the Closed Executive Session portion of the meeting to discuss the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To consult with an attorney to obtain legal advice and to preserve the attorney-client privilege between an attorney and a public body, or to approve settlement agreements pursuant to § 2-575(b)(4)(a);</li> <li>2. Preparation, administration, or grading of scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examinations pursuant to section § 2-575(b)(6);</li> <li>3. To discuss disciplinary matters pursuant to section § 2-575(b)(9);</li> <li>4. To plan, discuss or hear reports concerning the ongoing or planned investigation of alleged criminal or civil misconduct or violations of law or regulations if disclosure to the public would harm the investigation pursuant to section § 2-575(b) (14).</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Motion made by Angela Sarafin to close the Open Session Meeting. Seconded by Sheila Holt.</p> <p><b><u>Vote:</u></b> Angela Sarafin and Shelia Holt voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0919-11	Roll Call Vote	
	This concludes the Public Open Session of the meeting. The Board will now move into the Closed Executive Session portion of the meeting pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b) for the reasons set forth in the motion.	

**This concludes the Open Session meeting.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2023(in person).**

**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](mailto:opengovoffice@dc.gov).**