

# BOARD OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY MEETING MINUTES

**March 2, 2021**

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

### **Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Open Session**

**Hosted by HRLA BOARDS**

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/j.php?MTID=m5a114aeda00b1abfe1ec2744b7a2c842>

Meeting number: 473 094 809

Password: AgRVg2M2Pa2

Join by phone

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

Access code: 473 094 809

**OPEN SESSION MARCH 2, 2021**

OS-0302-01	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL</b></p> <p>The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Board Chairperson, Shelia Holt and a quorum was established.</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) Christopher Boone- Assistant General Counsel (Present) Thelma Ofosu- Mensah – Health Licensing Specialist (Present) Rebecca Odrick –Investigator (Present) Gregory Scurlock- Supervisory Compliance Officer (Present) Ajay Gohil- Assistant General Counsel (Present)</p>	
OS-0302-02	<p><b>APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA</b></p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p> <p>Motion made by Angela Sarafin to accept the March 2, 2021 Open Session Agenda. Seconded by Sheila Holt.</p> <p>Angela Sarafin and Shelia Holt voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0302-03	<p><b><u>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Walker gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The processing center is opened on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, by appointment only.</li> <li>• DC Health launched The DC COVID Alert Notice (DC CAN), a new tool to help residents know if they may have been exposed to COVID-19.</li> <li>• Board Staff are working remotely.</li> <li>• The Board’s supervisory application is now posted the website.</li> <li>• There are two vacant seats available on the Board to be occupied by Marriage and Family Therapists in the District.</li> <li>• Public Health Emergency is declared until March 17, 2021.</li> <li>• The Board News alert has been sent out to all licensees.</li> </ul>	

OS-0302-04	<p><b><u>BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Gohil gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Gohil introduced Christopher Boone as the new Board Attorney.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Boone gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Boone introduced himself as the new Board Attorney and gave a brief background about his education and work experience.</li> <li>Mr. Boone provided an update on the January 4, 2021 emergency regulations that passed to provide the Boards with regulatory authority to modify their renewal CEU requirements during extraordinary times, such as the current coronavirus pandemic. The emergency rule authorizes Boards to accept "remote" (online/distanced) courses in lieu of all or part of the face-to-face CEUs required for renewal. The emergency rule only pertains to CEU requirements for renewal.</li> </ul>	
OS-0302-05	<p><b><u>CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Holt welcomed Mr. Christopher Boone as the new Attorney for the Board.</p>	
OS-0302-06	<p><b><u>MINUTES</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b></p> <p>Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the December 1, 2020 meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p> <p>Motion made by Angela Sarafin to accept the December 1, 2020 Open Session Minutes. Seconded by Sheila Holt.</p> <p>Angela Sarafin and Shelia Holt voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0302-07	<p><b><u>RENEWAL DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b></p> <p>Board to review and discuss draft delegated authorities.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p> <p>Motion made by Angela Sarafin to accept the proposed delegated authority as presented to the Board. Seconded by Sheila Holt.</p>	

	<p>Angela Sarafin and Shelia Holt voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0302-08	<p><b>SCOPE OF PRACTICE and REGULATION REVIEW</b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> Review of the current scope of practice and regulation for any amendments.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> The Board decided to review current scope of practice and regulations to make amendments where necessary.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b>  Motion made by Angela Sarafin to review and revise the current scope of practice as indicated in the HORA and present her revisions to the full Board for a final vote during the next meeting. Seconded by Sheila Holt.</p> <p>Angela Sarafin and Shelia Holt voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0302-09	<p><b>ACCEPTING REMOTE CONTINUING EDUCATION IN LIEU OF IN-PERSON CONTINUING FOR 2022 RENEWAL PERIOD.</b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b>  To vote on whether to accept remote CEUs in lieu of any portion of the 15 face-to-face CEUs that will be required to renew licensure by December 31, 2022, how long to accept the remote CEUs in lieu of face-to-face CEUs, and how many of the 15 face-to-face CEUs the Board will allow to be replaced by remote courses during that time.</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b> On Jan 4, 2021, emergency regulations were passed that provide Boards with regulatory authority to modify their renewal CEU requirements during extraordinary times, such as the current coronavirus pandemic. During 2020, some boards used policies to modify the CEUs at the beginning of the pandemic; now this emergency regulation is in place to accomplish the same end. The emergency rule authorizes Boards to accept “remote” (online/distanced) courses in lieu of all or part of the face-to-face CEUs required for renewal. The emergency rule pertains to CEU requirements for renewals, only.</p>	

	<p>Additional Note: The Emergency regulations also give clear regulatory authority to each board to grant whole or partial exemption from any CEU requirement on case-by-case basis for limited circumstances: Hardship, serious illness, disability, or other circumstances as deemed appropriate by the Board. This rule for case-by-case exemptions pertains to all CEU requirements, not just those for renewals. The Board does not have to vote to exercise its power to exempt licensees from renewal CEU requirements on a case-by-case basis for the limited circumstances.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p> <p>Motion made by Angela Sarafin to accept the Emergency Regulation pertaining to the continuing education requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure that the face-to-face requirements is replaced with such activity or technology that must be synchronous, allowing the parties involved to communicate and interact in real time without the need for recording or pre-recording intervention. Synchronous communication includes real-time, simultaneous telephone, teleconference, videoconference, or live webinar. Seconded by Sheila Holt.</p> <p>Angela Sarafin and Shelia Holt voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0302-10	<p><b><u>FYI 2021 MEETING DATES</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>June 1, 2021</b></li> <li>• <b>September 7, 2021</b></li> <li>• <b>December 7, 2021</b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p> <p>No Action Required</p>	
OS-0302-11	<p><b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD ORDER</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b> No Action Required</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b></p> <p>Attached is Administrative Order 2021-004 that clarifies and excludes health professionals who are not in good standing in the District of</p>	

	<p>Columbia from obtaining a waiver of licensure requirement pursuant to Administrative Order 2020-02 (Waiver of Licensure Requirements for Healthcare Providers) dated March 13, 2020 and that requires a healthcare facility to check an online database when utilizing Administrative Order 2020-02.</p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b></p> <p>No Action Required</p>	
OS-0302-12	<p><b>MOTION TO CLOSE</b></p> <p><b><u>Board Action:</u></b></p> <p>To go into closed session to discuss confidential matters as permitted in DC Official Code § 2-575(b).</p> <p><b><u>Background:</u></b></p> <p>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></p> <p>Motion made by Angela Sarafin to close the open session meeting at 12:15pm. Seconded by Sheila Holt.</p> <p>Angela Sarafin and Shelia Holt voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

**The next open session meeting scheduled for June 1, 2021 at 11:00 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](mailto:opengovoffice@dc.gov).**