



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Health Regulation and Licensing Administration

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2020

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

OPEN SESSION SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

OS-0920-01	<p>CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL</p> <p>The September 11, 2020 Open Session meeting was called to order at 10:10am and a quorum was established.</p> <p>Board Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Victoria Sardi-Brown (Chairperson) – Present • 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 (Absent) • Tonoah Hampton – Executive Director, Board of Nursing • David Walker – Health Licensing Specialist • Panravee Vongjaroenrat – Board Attorney • Leonard Howard – Board Investigator <p>Open Session Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nathalie Mizelle-Johnson • Dr. Sadiqa Long • Dr. Nancy Butler • Gregory Burnette • Monique Wilson 	
OS-0920-02	<p>APPROVAL OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA</p> <p>Motion: Ms. Sherk made a motion to approve the June 12, 2020 Open Session Agenda without additions and/or corrections. 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-0920-03	<p>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</p> <p>Ms. Hampton provided the Executive Director Report on behalf of Ms. Nixon. DC Health remains in a telework posture due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board continues to review applications for licensure and the average processing times of 30 to 45 business days remains unchanged. Members of the public are encouraged to continue to check coronavirus.dc.gov for additional information.</p>	

	<p>As of today, the Board has 1,958 active licensees. The following is a breakdown of the total number of active licensees:</p> <p>LPC - 1,291 LGPC - 394 CACII - 178 CACI – 95</p>	
OS-0920-04	<p>BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT</p> <p>Ms. Panravee Vongjaroenrat has become the Board’s general counsel. Ms. Vongjaroenrat looks forward to continuing to work with the Board.</p>	
OS-0920-05	<p>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</p> <p>No report</p>	
OS-0920-06	<p>MINUTES</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Consideration of the Open Session Minutes from the June 12, 2020 meeting.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Ferreri made a motion to approve the June 12, 2020 Open Session Minutes without additions and/or corrections. Seconded by Ms. Sherk.</p> <p>Ms. Ferreri, Ms. Ruffin-Colbert, and Ms. Sherk voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Sardi-Brown abstained from voting. The motion was passed by a majority of the Board.</p>	
OS-0920-07	<p>DISCUSSION - LPC ENDORSEMENT PROCESS</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> Discuss the endorsement process for the LPC and determine next steps.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> The Health Occupation Revisions Act (HORA) has a general endorsement process that is applicable to all licensure boards. However, the endorsement provision specific to professional counseling is somewhat different from the general HORA endorsement provision and presents possible conflict. The general endorsement process requires applicants to meet the current educational standards applicable to all licensees. However, the professional counseling endorsement provision appear to be more stringent than the general HORA requirement. It is necessary for the Board to review the laws and determine the best way to</p>	

	<p>apply them such that there is no legal conflict. The Board Attorney has provided information for the Board to review and discuss.</p> <p>The board’s consensus is that the HORA endorsement provision should be the main pathway. However, alternative pathways, particularly related to portability, are still to be determined, particularly since AACSB has a new portability recommendation – NCLEP 2.0.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Ruffin-Colbert made a motion to table the discussion regarding portability and requested a representative from AACSB speak on the NCLEP 2.0 process during the October 9, 2020 open session 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>	
OS-0920-08	<p>DISCUSSION – PROPOSED EMERGENCY COVID-19 REGULATIONS</p> <p><u>Board Action:</u> To review proposed emergency regulations related to the COVID-19 pandemic concerning supervision, CE completion, and standards of care during 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. To address concerns pertaining to supervision of LGPC and CAC licensees, CE completion, and standards of care during pandemic. The Board is advised to approve an emergency rulemaking to enable to the changes.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Ruffin-Colbert made a motion to amend the rules to allow the Board to waive face to face supervision requirements and allow the use of electronic communication devices in extreme circumstances. 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>	

	<p><u>Motion:</u> Ms. Sherk made a motion to amend the rules to remove the in-person CE requirement and allow the use of electronic CEUs for CACI and CACII licensees. 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-0920-09	<p>MOTION TO CLOSE – 11:30</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. Ferreri made motion to close the September 11, 2020 Open Session meeting. Seconded by Ms. Sherk.</p> <p>Ms. Ferreri, and Ms. Sherk voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
OS-0920-10	<p>MOTION TO ADJOURN</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>The Board’s meeting ended at 2:49pm due to a technical error.</p>	

The next open session meeting scheduled for October 9, 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.