

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
March 26, 2021**

John Shalett, LCSW, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. on Friday, March 26, 2021. The meeting was conducted at the Board office and streamed via video conference and all interested parties were provided the information to join the meeting. The allowance of a video conference is authorized by Proclamation 30 JBE 2020, Section 4 as extended by subsequent executive proclamations including 75 JBE 2020. Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, and Sheri Morris, Legal Counsel, were present for the meeting.

Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, conducted roll call. Board members present at the time of roll call included Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, John Shalett, LCSW, Jamie Barney, LCSW, Evan Bergeron, Consumer Member, and Carla Moore, LMSW. Ada Nelson was present via videoconference.

Hyacinth McKee, LCSW, joined the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Members of the public in attendance that we are aware of are on the attached list.

AGENDA

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held February 26, 2021.

CORRESPONDENCE

Women's Center for Healing & Transformation

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the Continuing Education Approval application submitted by the Women's Center for Healing & Transformation.

Grambling State University

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to approve the Continuing Education Approval application submitted by Grambling State University.

Innovative Approaches Counseling Center, LLP

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve the Continuing Education Approval application submitted by Innovative Approaches Counseling Center, LLP.

Monitetra King, LCSW-BACS

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve Monitetra King to provide virtual, face-to-face supervision to Gwendolyn Charles.

Julie Savoy, LCSW-BACS

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve Julie Savoy to provide virtual, face-to-face supervision to Kimberly Parker.

Shon Riley

Shon Riley inquired whether an RSW can conduct a psychosocial. Board members responded that it is within an RSWs scope of practice to conduct a psychosocial.

Mary Chand, LCSW

Mary Chand submitted an email asking whether it is better to provide psychotherapy under an LLC or Corporation. The Board advised that they are unable to provide advice relative to opening a private practice and forming an LLC or Corporation. Board members recommended that she consult with an attorney.

Shailey Bates, LMSW

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve Shailey Bates's request to obtain six additional group supervision hours.

Katherine Hebert, LCSW-BACS

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve Katherine Hebert to provide Sonja Johnson with 72 hours of group supervision.

Mercy Butler, LMSW

Mercy Butler submitted an email relative to opening a business to teach parenting classes. Board members responded that teaching a parenting class is within the practice of social work and that she will need an LCSW to teach the class independent of an agency setting.

Alvin Smith, LCSW-BACS

Board members referred Alvin Smith back to the response provided at the January 22, 2021 meeting.

Ray Wayne Miller, LCSW-BACS

Ray Wayne Miller requested the Board's position on virtual counseling. Board members responded that in Louisiana, a person must be licensed to provide social work services to a LA consumer. If the person is licensed in another state and does not want to obtain licensing in Louisiana they are authorized to provide services for a limited time as per La R.S. 37:2722(B) or (C). If the Louisiana licensed professional is going to be providing

services to a client in another state it is strongly recommended that the professional contact the licensing board for that state to find out if they need a license.

Natasha Smith, LCSW

Natasha Smith requested that the Board review a waiver for teletherapy with Medicare patients. Ms. Smith was referred to Medicare to seek clarification regarding the waiver.

Tammi Aidt, LCSW-BACS

Tammi Aidt submitted a question relative to witnessing advance care planning/living wills. The role of a witness is to sign in agreement that the person signing the document, for example a will, is the person they say they are. Board members do not consider this a dual relationship that will lead to exploitation as defined by the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

LaKenya Points, LMSW

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to deny LaKenya Points's request for removal of disciplinary action from her record.

Jessica Frankel, LMSW

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve Jessica Frankel's request that her W-2 and paystubs be accepted in lieu of the Professional Experience Verification record because the employer will not complete the record.

Plaquemines Community CARE Centers Foundation, Inc.

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to deny the application to be a Continuing Education Approval Organization submitted by Plaquemines Community CARE Centers Foundation, Inc. The Board advised the agency that it will reconsider the application after receiving another letter of reference and clarification of the employment status of the listed reviewer/approver.

Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to deny the application to be a Continuing Education Approval Organization submitted by Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies. The Board advised the agency that it will reconsider the application after receiving clarification of the cost to review an offering.

Hearing in the matter of Anna McKinnon Administrative Complaint #2020-140

Madeline Carbonette, AAG, requested that the matter be continued to June 4, 2021.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to continue the hearing to June 4, 2021.

FINANCIAL

Professional Service Contracts

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Hyacinth McKee and unanimously carried, to approve the offer of the following contracts:

Advanced Investigative Technologies at \$40 per hour and a maximum contract of \$10,000.00.

ASWB (CE auditor) at \$12/audit and a maximum contract of \$2,500.00.

Department of Justice (prosecutor) at \$225 per hour and a maximum contract amount of \$100,000.00.

Daigle, Fisse & Kessenich (legal counsel) \$225 per hour and a maximum contract of \$50,000.00.

Gina Signorelli (supervision consultant) \$80 per hour and \$6,000.00.

Integrated Security & Investigative Specialists \$50 per hour and a maximum contract of \$20,000.00.

Lisa Lipsey (complaint consultant) \$100 per hour and a maximum contract of \$15,000.00.

Griffin & Furman (accountant) \$250 per month plus \$1,000 for AFR and a maximum contract of \$4,000.00.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to approve the offer of a contract to Kathie Pohlman (IPP) at \$110 per hour and a maximum contract of \$10,000.00.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to authorize Emily DeAngelo to sign contracts on behalf of the Board.

FARB

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to pay annual membership dues of \$175.00.

BOARD/STAFF MATTERS

Report on Office Workflow and Staffing

Board members reviewed a report provided by the staff of the workflow since the February meeting. There have been 79 retakes processed, 48 licenses issued/reissued due to score reports, 56 new applications, and 18 BACS applications. There were 5 Consent Agreement and Orders issued for unlicensed practice. 40 license verifications have been processed. Board members were advised that 12 complaints have been received of which 2 were not accepted.

Financial Disclosure

Board members were reminded that the Financial Disclosure report is due to the Board of Ethics by May 15, 2021.

TPN

Board members discussed a partnership with TPN Health for continuing education.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Hyacinth McKee and unanimously carried, to respectfully decline the offer because it not within the role of the Board.

Continuing Education

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Jamie Barney and carried by majority vote, to extend the allowance of all continuing education to be completed via distance learning through June 30, 2022. Ruth Weinzettle opposed the motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 10:11 a.m. for the following reasons:

to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person, provided that such person is notified in writing at least twenty-four hours before the meeting, and/or to discuss prospective litigation.

Votes for going into Executive Session: Ruth Weinzettle, yes; Jamie Barney, LCSW; Evan Bergeron, yes; Hyacinth McKee, yes; and Carla Moore, yes.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 4:25 p.m.

Hearing in the Matter of Administrative Complaint #2020-113

The respondent in this matter agreed to a replacement in the panel of board members. The hearing panel included John Shalett, Jamie Barney, Hyacinth McKee, Carla Moore and Ruth Weinzettle. Sheri Morris was present as legal counsel to the hearing panel. Madeline Carbonette was present as prosecutor. The respondent was present and not represented by an attorney. A court reporter with Court Reporters of Louisiana recorded the proceedings.

Hearing in the Matter of Administrative Complaint #2019-251

The respondent in this matter agreed to a replacement in the panel of board members. This matter was heard by a panel of board members which included John Shalett, Jamie Barney, Hyacinth McKee, Carla Moore and Evan Bergeron. Sheri Morris was present as legal counsel to the hearing panel. Madeline Carbonette was present as prosecutor. The respondent was present and not represented by an attorney. A court reporter with Court Reporters of Louisiana recorded the proceedings.

Impaired Professional Program

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to accept the report submitted by Kathie Pohlman, IPP Manager.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to remove MB-19 off the monitoring report.

Disciplinary Monitoring Report

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to release one individual from her Consent Agreement and Order because all terms are successfully complete.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to deny the request for changes to the requirements of Kimberly Parker's Consent Agreement and Order.

Complaints

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2019-162.

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2020-145 with a letter of education.

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2021-39.

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2021-76 with a letter of education.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to table Complaint #2021-104.

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to refer the respondent in Complaint #2021-124 to the Impaired Professional Program.

Applications

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to deny the RSW application submitted by Tavonjia Hills-Scott and to offer her a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Hyacinth McKee and unanimously carried, to approve Lisa Mansfield's application for LMSW conditional of a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice.

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve Letitia Manuel's application for LMSW conditional of a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Hyacinth McKee and unanimously carried, to approve the following applications for Registered Social Work:
Alexander, Jasmine
Brister, Bailie

Brown, Tiara
Bryd, Joyce
Carter, Jasmine
Cassimere, Jasmin
Ferrand-Rodgers, Rio
Fobbs, Irenna
Haney, Stacie
Hulbert, Simone
Jackson, Tamala
Jones, Jessica
Juluke, Todd
King, Amanda
Mason, Patricia
Mayho, Cardella
Oubre-Cain, Josephine
Thomas, Jonet
Williams, Shawndralette

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Hyacinth McKee and unanimously carried, to approve the following applications for Registered Social Work pending receipt of official bachelor's transcript:

Belgard, Josie
Downs, Earlanda
Havard, Leah
Henry, Brooke
Hill, Katrina
Kraemer, Malorie
Ray, Ricky
Woodridge, Deonesha

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the following applications for Licensed Master's Social Work, issue Certified Social Work credential and approval to take the ASWB Masters exam:

Delvisco, Sharon F.
Esters, Alexis D.
Feeny, Dana A.
Froeba, Elizabeth R.
Harris, Donna C.
Hamilton-Williams, Shurvella
Kitchen, Anna M.
Moore, John (Rein)
Newson, Cassandra
NKadi, Shelita (Rein CSW)
Obeta, Judith N.
Page, Bethanie N.
Peltier, Heather B.

Pleasure, Jacob A.
Randall, Chiera
Schwartz, Ashley M.
Sivier, Sydney
Vithanage, Darnell W.
Velasquez, Katie R.
Weinzettle, Eric J.

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to issue Licensed Master Social Work through endorsement to:

Barad, Ashley (End-NY)
Boyd, Rachel (End-TX)
Patterson, Jessica (End-MS)

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the following applications for Licensed Master's Social Work, issue Certified Social Work credential and approval to take the ASWB Masters exam pending receipt of official master's transcript:

Andries, Jennie
Armstrong, Briana
Bonvillain, Alaina
Bouquet, Hannah
Breaux, Hannah
Broussard, Taylor
Brown, Justyn
Buuck, Mallory
Carpenter, Mallory
Cave, Amy
Cayette, Shendrekia
Colar, Jaleia
Collins, Jamie
Daily, Ashlee
Delaney, Jade
Fisher, Melissa
Franklin, Iriele
Gulotta, Myra
Graves, Taylor
Hughes, Dejjion
Hudley, Maria
Liu, Julie
Melancon, Madeleine
Mercant, Jordyn
Molan, Sarah
Myers, Talyn
Osborne, James IV

Palmer, Cassie
Rodriguez, Katelyn
Senegal, Ashlin
Whitehead, Bret

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Clinical Exam:

Blasier, Andrea (Rein)
Darce, Melissa K.
Delahoussaye, Lauren
Francois, Erica N.
Hart, Paula (MSW testing)
Munoz, Olivia
Reichel, Whitney L.
Ziko, Rachel L.

Motion was made Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to issue Licensed Clinical Social Work through endorsement to the following applicants:

Bolek, Clare (End-MD)
Leach, Ann (End-AR)
Matta, Elizabeth (End-NY)

Compliance Hearings

There were three compliance hearings conducted in Executive Session. The hearing panel included Evan Bergeron, Carla Moore and Jamie Barney.

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to accept a 2020-2021 renewal application from Tiffanie Jones with payment of the renewal fee plus the lapsed license fee.

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to uphold the denial of supervision while employed at River Oaks and to accept the supervision while employed with Communities in Schools of the Gulf South, Inc.

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to approve the LCSW application of Sabine Alexander.

BOARD/STAFF MATTERS

Supervision

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to extend the allowance of virtual face-to-face supervision and acceptance of forms submitted electronically and with electronic signatures through June 30, 2022.

Appointment of committee members to review Chapter 7

John Shalett appointed Hyacinth McKee, Jamie Barney and Kathie Pohlman to this committee. He designated Dr. McKee as chairperson and requested that she recruit other committee members as she deems necessary.

Definition of what constitutes clinical content for continuing education

Board members agreed to adopt the description used by NASW-LA Chapter.

Appointment of Legislation Review Committee

John Shalett appointed Evan Bergeron, Ruth Weinzettle, Carla Moore, Emily DeAngelo and Holly Freeman to this committee. Mr. Shalett designated Evan Bergeron as chairperson. The first meeting is scheduled on April 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Update from Ayn Stehr on Practice Act bill and advising of a grant to work on an interstate compact for social workers

Ayn Stehr submitted an email advising that Senator Bouie agreed to put forward the Social Work Practice Bill in the 2021 Legislative Session. Ms. Stehr also informed the Board that NASW, ASWB and the Clinical Social Work Association were selected by The Council of State Governments for compact development activities for social workers.

Hearing of Administrative Complaint #2018-11

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2018-11.

Hearing of Administrative Complaint #2020-113

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to suspend the respondent's license until compliance with the Impaired Professional Program is met.


Hearing of Administrative Complaint #2019-251

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to issue a private reprimand and assess costs.

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Sanctions in the matter of Administrative Complaint #2019-10

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Hyacinth McKee and unanimously carried, to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Sanctions in the matter of Dominic Bell Administrative Complaint #2019-10.

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.


John Shalett, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson


Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer