

Timothy Page, M.S.W., Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
Louisiana State University School of Social Work

August 9, 2024

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to address a problem in the calculation of continuing education credits. The specific rule in question concerns section 317, Continuing Education Requirements, of the Professional and Occupational Standards for Credentialed Social Workers, subsection M.11. It states that "preparation of substantial written material with content applicable to social work practice" is accepted as continuing education credits. Examples of such work include "a social work article or book for publication, or a major grant application". For this, however, "no more than five hours continuing education" are awarded. Currently, this determination is made without regard for the amount of such work produced. My purpose here is to point out that this policy is not fair to the licensee and is at odds with the stated mission of the Board and the profession of social work.

Nearly all published social work scholarship is produced by academics working in higher education. The mission of the academic branch of the profession is to provide the knowledge base of social work practice and train future practitioners. The current policy ignores the fact that while a licensee's consumption of continuing educational materials, through their attendance in various forums, is awarded with full credit, the production of the materials used in these and other educational venues, upon which the licensees depend to obtain their education, is itself discounted and considered of lesser value than other forms of education. By arbitrarily limiting the total number of continuing education credits for scholarly publications to 5, social work academics are in effect penalized for the nature of work they do.

The production of social work scholarship, as anyone who has done this well knows, provides a depth of learning for the writer that is incomparably superior to the educational experience obtained in the typical continuing education offering. Producing published scholarship requires many hours of study and labor that typically, for any single project, involves months, if not years, of back-and-forth feedback and revision with reviewers. The awarding of continuing education credits for scholarly work should reflect this.

To remedy this situation, I therefore propose the following:

1. The 5 continuing education credits currently awarded for scholarly work should be applied to **each** article, book chapter, or grant application produced.
2. To be consistent, there must be a basic provision for the length of the work in question, with a distinction made between article or book chapter and entire book. If an author has produced a multi-chapter book it would be logical to make allowance for the difference between writing one chapter and writing several. Therefore, I propose that **each** chapter of a multiple-chapter book can be counted separately in the calculation of ceus.
3. When an entire book is produced, the writer can claim continuing education credits for that work beyond the year in which the book appears, so that the credits can be claimed to fulfill the requirements over **5 years**. This is a reasonable acknowledgement of the amount of work required for such a project.

I am thus writing now to propose these policy changes and to ask that in my specific case I be granted these exceptions to the current rules. In my situation, I now have a book coming to print this month (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers) entitled, *Psychosocial Theories of Human Growth and Behavior: An Evolution of Big Ideas*. This is a textbook for social work HBSE courses that grew out of my many years of teaching. It consists of 13 chapters and 440 pages. I wrote it after my retirement, hence it was not part of my employment. I worked on it for approximately 10-15 hours per week for over 5 years. To put it lightly, I would expect that this accomplishment would be valued at more than 5 ceus. I therefore request that I be allowed to claim 5 ceus for each chapter, and that this could be applied over the course of the next 5 years.

Thank you for your consideration of my personal request and for my recommendations for this important policy change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy F. Page', with a horizontal line above it.

Timothy F. Page
Professor Emeritus
Louisiana State University School of Social Work

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

Received
7/30/24

Louisiana Board of Social Work

Regarding: Request for Virtual Supervision

Social Worker: Angela Abel, License # 15791

Supervisor: Joseph Bodenmiller, LCSW BACS

July 30, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you to request that I receive virtual supervision for the remainder of my supervision hours. I have completed 70 hours of supervision with Joseph Bodenmiller; most of these hours have been in-person. I am experiencing a hardship due to having to drive 1 hour away to complete supervision each week and it takes a total of 3-3 ½ hours of my day. I am not able to continue to complete supervision during the workday hours, due to this taking too much time out of my day and having to ask for time off each week, because I work remotely in Ponchatoula.

The platform that is used by my supervisor, Joseph Bodenmiller, is Doxy.me and it is a HIPAA compliant platform/application that is used for virtual patient/client sessions. We have used this application before when virtual supervision was available. If there are emergency situations, Joseph is available by text or phone for a consult.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Angela Abel, LMSW

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

To: Sharon Barnette <_____.lisa.mount <
Subject: RE: Remote Supervision

Good Morning,

Thank you for your email. Please provide the following information:

- demonstrate undue hardship, disability or travel time,
- provide security information from the company regarding program/software,
- explain how confidential information will be protected, and explain how emergencies will be handled.

Sincerely,

Regina M. DeWitt

Administrative Assistant
Louisiana State Board of
Social Work Examiners
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
(225)756-3470, Option 4
Fax (225)756-3472

This message is for the named person(s) only. It may contain confidential, proprietary or legally privileged information. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any transmission error. If you receive this message in error, please immediately delete it and all copies of it from your system, destroy any hard copies of it and notify the sender. You must not, directly or indirectly, use, disclose, distribute, print, or copy any part of this message if you are not the intended recipient.

From: Sharon Barnette <_____.lisa.mount <
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 5:07 PM
To: Social Work <socialwork@labswe.org>; lisa.mount <
Subject: Remote Supervision

Good Afternoon,

I am Sharon Barnette, LMSW, licensee 16573. I am requesting that I be allowed remote supervision. Lisa Mount, LCSW-BACS has been providing supervision to me. I only have 12 hours to complete. I am relocating to Baton Rouge and starting a new job on August 19th. I plan to take the Clinical as soon the board approves me to do so. Lisa Mount has requested the opportunity to provide remote supervision as well. Please allow us to complete the remaining supervision hours remotely.

Respectfully,

Sharon Barnette, LMSW
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Social Work

From: Social Work
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 11:06 AM
To: Sharon Barnette
Subject: RE: Remote Supervision

Hi Sharon,

Thank you for the clarification. We still require the following information:

- provide security information from the company regarding program/software,
- explain how confidential information will be protected, and explain how emergencies will be handled.

Regina M. DeWitt

Administrative Assistant
Louisiana State Board of
Social Work Examiners
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
(225)756-3470, Option 4
Fax (225)756-3472

This message is for the named person(s) only. It may contain confidential, proprietary or legally privileged information. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any transmission error. If you receive this message in error, please immediately delete it and all copies of it from your system, destroy any hard copies of it and notify the sender. You must not, directly or indirectly, use, disclose, distribute, print, or copy any part of this message if you are not the intended recipient.

From: Sharon Barnette <sharon@gnham.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 10:47 AM
To: Social Work <socialwork@labswe.org>; lisa mount <lisa.mount@gnham.com>
Subject: Re: Remote Supervision

Hi Regina,

As I am relocating to Baton Rouge, I would have to travel 2.5 hours for face-to-face supervision. With me working a 40 hour week, it not be possible for me to continue supervision considering Lisa Mount's busy schedule as well. Please allow Lisa and I complete my last 12 hours of supervision remotely.

Respectfully,
Sharon Barnette, LMSW.

[Get Outlook for Android](#)

From: Social Work <socialwork@labswe.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 7:56:50 AM

Social Work

From: Sharon Barnett
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 9:22 AM
To: lisa mount; Social Work
Subject: Re: Request for Supervision to be done Virtually

Thank you, Lisa.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: lisa mou
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 9:16:45 AM
To: socialwork@labswe.org <socialwork@labswe.org>; Sharon Barnette
Subject: Re: Request for Supervision to be done Virtually

Good Morning,

I just realized that I stated she starts her new job on September 19. She will actually start on August 19. Sorry about that mistake.

On Fri, Aug 9, 2024 at 8:55 AM lisa mount < > wrote:
Good Morning,

My name is Lisa J. Mount, MSW, LCSW-BACS (Lic # 8162). I am currently providing supervision for Sharon Barnette, LMSW (Lic # 16753) in the Alexandria area. Ms. Barnette has completed 86 hours of supervision at this time. I am requesting that we be permitted to complete her supervision virtually, as she is facing a family emergency and has had to unexpectedly move to the Baton Rouge area to assist in providing support for her family. She has secured a job in the Baton Rouge area and she will begin that position on September 19, 2024. She and I would like to resume supervision at that time in a virtual format.

I will use the secure platform of WebEx to offer supervision virtually. I have talked with Ms. Barnette about the risks and benefits of virtual supervision. She is willing and agrees to take steps to ensure privacy during sessions, as do I. I will also lock the Webex meeting so no individuals may accidentally log into my private webex room during our session. This is a platform I have used in other areas of my career and personally since 2020 and feel very comfortable with managing the safety features and using the platform.

Ms. Barnette is very committed and dedicated to her work as a social worker and it is her goal to become an LCSW. I really hope that we can finish the last 10 hours virtually so that she can move forward with her career with as little turbulence as possible, while she also deals with her family crisis. I feel that we will be able to uphold the best practice standards in the virtual format as I have a lot of experience with the platform and Ms. Barnette is dedicated to upholding the values of social work, as am I. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I may be reached by email or by phone: 337-591-0291

Thank you,

PAGE BREAK

* * * * *

Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners

Regarding: Request for Virtual Supervision

Social Worker: Erica Joshua, License # 13178

Supervisor: Joanna Spurgeon, LCSW, BACS

Date: August 22, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to request a change in my supervision due to several ongoing challenges that have significantly impacted my ability to attend in-person supervision. Specifically, the distance I need to travel (172 miles total) combined with rising gas prices and my current workload and relocation has created substantial logistical and financial hardships. These factors have made it increasingly difficult to maintain consistent in-person supervision, which has led to me canceling a few sessions recently. I have been working with my supervisor for a couple months already and have established a positive working relationship. I would prefer not to disrupt supervision progress by switching to a new supervisor. To better manage these challenges and ensure that I can continue to benefit from supervision without compromising my responsibilities, I would like to request the possibility of virtual supervision sessions. Conducting supervision remotely would greatly alleviate the difficulties associated with travel and would also allow me to balance my work commitments more effectively. I am committed to the quality and integrity of my work and believe that virtual supervision would be a practical solution that supports both my professional development and my well-being. Our plan is to utilize Microsoft teams which is end to end encrypted and to ensure that both parties are in a private location throughout the session and cannot be overheard. In addition, myself and my supervisor will never use names or other identifying information during the session. Thank you for considering my request. I hope this request is approved and allows me to continue my supervision under these new circumstances.

Sincerely,

Erica Joshua, LMSW

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

August 6th 2024

To LABSWE:

I am requesting partial electronic clinical supervision due to my recent office location change. My BACS supervisor and I's primary offices are now 30 minutes away from each other. This new travel time will affect scheduling of appointments and work productivity. I am requesting partial because some sessions, depending on other obligations, may be able to occur in person. We will continue to meet in person as time and schedules allow, but we will need the option for electronic supervision at times.

I work at the same agency as my BACS so we will use Google Meets with invitations on our work emails for security purposes of confidential information. We will use the same platform and practices as our agency does for telehealth counseling and medication management appointments. We will use first names only to protect identifying information for electronic supervision sessions when an urgent case staffing arises. However, we plan to use electronic supervision sessions for LCSW exam practice questions and save case staffing for in person visits. We will also both meet in our own secure offices during virtual meetings to ensure no interference with a white noise machine in use.

Next are some steps that Start Corp takes to ensure the privacy of our data and information,

- 1) EHR/EMR software is cloud based, with security protocols in place by the software provider such as encryption and 2FA.
- 2) Company files are stored on Google Drive with access based on company email address logins, also protected by 2FA. Advanced email protection is enabled to guard against spam and phishing attempts. START has a Business Associate Agreement with Google.
- 3) Local office networks are secured with SonicWall security appliances, which block shady websites and help defend the company network from bad actors.
- 4) Chromebooks and mobile devices are strictly monitored through Google and additional 3rd party mobile management software and can be disabled if there's a security breach or a stolen/lost device.

Lastly, I am able to reach out to my supervisor via phone or email, Lauren Fitch, at any time if there is a reason we need to reschedule or there are questions.

Paige LeBouef LMSW

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

Regina Dewitt

From: Leah Mendoza <leahmendoza@fp-hsa.com>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 11:55 AM
To: Regina Dewitt
Subject: Zoom Supervision-Leah Mendoza

August 9, 2024

RE: Leah Mendoza-Zoom Supervision

To whom it may concern:

I am requesting approval for my supervision to be conducted via zoom. I work directly with Florida Parishes Human Services Authority within their clinic in Mandeville, LA. FPHSA has generously offered to pay for my supervision. My supervisor, Linda Hartdegen, is in the FPHSA office in Slidell, LA, which is 20 + miles away. Being that it is a 1-hour travel time there and back, I am requesting to have our meetings on Zoom. Confidential information will be protected since we will both be in our own private office space during our meetings. If there is ever an emergency, we will still be able to meet in confidentiality since our meeting days are flexible and if we are at home, we both have private office areas in our homes. Thank you for your time, and I hope this request will be approved.

Thank you,

Leah A. Mendoza, LMSW

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

> Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 7:56 PM
> To: Blake Williamson <bwilliamson@labswe.org>
> Subject: Written Request for Remote Supervision

>
> Good afternoon,

>
> I am writing to request remote supervision using electronic communication rather than on a face-to-face basis due to an undue burden of hardship. I am currently employed with the Department of Children and Family Services, Foster Care Department in East Baton Rouge. Supervision is typically held two to three times a month during working hours requiring me to travel from the office to site of face-to-face supervision. Travel time from the office located at 160 S. Ardenwood Baton Rouge, LA 70806 to the site of supervision takes approximately an hour in total each trip. The undue hardship of travel time interferes with my ability to perform my job duties to keep children safe and thriving by developing case plans, providing supportive counseling and other supportive services for clients, arranging the provision of services from community resources based on the case plan, interviewing clients and families, composing correspondence to compile social histories, and completing psychosocial assessments. I am kindly requesting an hardship exemption be granted in order to best serve the children and families I work with involved in the foster care system.

>
> Respectfully submitted,

> Georgette Sananikone, MSW, LMSW

Regina Dewitt

From: Georgette sananikone <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 4:10 PM
To: Regina Dewitt
Cc: Blake Williamson
Subject: Re: Written Request for Remote Supervision

Good afternoon Ms. Dewitt,

My BACS supervisor is Carmen E. Spooner. Ms. Spooners LCSW-BACS number is 4956. Carmen can be reached via email at c.elizabeth.spooner.lcsw@gmail.com. For the purpose of remote supervision, SimplePractice platform will be utilized. It is HIPAA compliant. If the system crashes, Zoom will be utilized as a backup method. Both systems are HIPAA compliant. Please advise if additional information is needed for the request.

Thank you,
Georgette Sananikone, MSW, LMSW

> On Aug 13, 2024, at 1:37 PM, Regina Dewitt <rdewitt@labswe.org> wrote:
>
> Hi Georgette,
>
> Thank you for your email. Please provide your BACS supervisors information along with the following information:
>
> . provide security information from the company regarding program/software,
> . explain how confidential information will be protected, and explain how emergencies will be handled.
>
> Sincerely,
> Regina M. DeWitt
> Administrative Assistant
> Louisiana State Board of
> Social Work Examiners
> 18550 Highland Road, Suite B
> Baton Rouge, LA 70809
> (225)756-3470, Option 3
> This message is for the named person(s) only. It may contain confidential, proprietary or legally privileged information. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any transmission error. If you receive this message in error, please immediately delete it and all copies of it from your system, destroy any hard copies of it and notify the sender. You must not, directly or indirectly, use, disclose, distribute, print, or copy any part of this message if you are not the intended recipient.
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Georgette Sananikone <[redacted]>

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

Derrasia Williams
271 Grandwood Dr. Apt. 13
Patterson, LA, 70392

8/5/2024

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Dear Members of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to formally request the Board's approval for virtual supervision to fulfill my supervision requirements for obtaining my Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) credential.

I reside in Patterson, Louisiana, a rural area where there is a significant shortage of Licensed Clinical Social Worker-Board Approved Clinical Supervisors (LCSW-BACS). Despite my efforts, I have been unable to find an LCSW-BACS within a reasonable commuting distance who is available to provide the necessary supervision. This challenge has made it difficult for me to progress in my professional development and meet the requirements set forth by the Board.

Given the advances in technology and the increasing acceptance of virtual platforms for professional purposes, I believe that virtual supervision is a viable and effective alternative. Virtual supervision would allow me to receive high-quality supervision from a qualified LCSW-BACS who may be located outside of my immediate geographic area, thus ensuring that I am able to continue my professional growth without being hindered by geographic limitations.

I am committed to complying with all guidelines and standards established by the Board for virtual supervision to ensure that the supervision I receive is equivalent in quality and effectiveness to in-person supervision. I am prepared to provide any additional information or documentation that may be required to support this request.

The current LCSW-BACS I have been in consistent communication with is Mrs. Crystal Atkins #12245

Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to your favorable response and am eager to continue my journey toward becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with the support of virtual supervision.

Sincerely,

Derrasia Williams, LMSW #18528

Regina Dewitt

From: Crystal Atkins
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2024 1:14 PM
To: Derrasia Williams; Regina Dewitt
Subject: Re: Fwd: Virtual Supervision Request Letter

Good Afternoon Regina,

As part of the supervision process, both Derrasia Williams (Supervisee) and Crystal Atkins (BACS Supervisor) will utilize the Zoom platform for virtual meetings. Zoom has been selected due to its compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and its provision of a Business Associate Agreement (BAA), ensuring that the platform meets necessary privacy and security standards for handling Protected Health Information (PHI).

Confidentiality and Protection of Personal Information

In order to safeguard the confidentiality of all individuals discussed during supervision sessions, the following measures will be strictly adhered to:

- 1. Anonymization of Information:** The identities of individuals, including clients, will be protected by omitting names, addresses, dates of birth, or any other identifiable information during discussions. All case reviews will reference clients using non-identifiable terms to maintain their privacy.
- 2. Secure Communication:** All supervision sessions will take place via the HIPAA-compliant version of Zoom. Both participants will ensure that they are in a secure and private location where unauthorized individuals cannot overhear or access the content of the conversation. In addition, Zoom meetings will be password-protected, and no recordings will be stored.
- 3. Emergency Protocols:** In the event of an emergency or critical incident that requires immediate intervention, the on-site supervisor, a Provisional Licensed Professional Counselor, will be contacted for assistance. Emergency protocols will be followed to ensure client safety and maintain ethical supervision practices.
- 4. Access to Zoom:** Ms. Derrasia Williams will have full access to request and schedule supervision meetings via the Zoom platform. It is her responsibility to ensure that all sessions are conducted through the HIPAA-compliant version of Zoom.

By following these protocols, both parties commit to maintaining the highest standards of confidentiality, ethical responsibility, and compliance with federal privacy regulations.

Best Regards,

Crystal Atkins, MSW, LCSW-BACS

On Sunday, August 18, 2024, 12:57 PM, Derrasia Williams <

> wrote:

Derrasia Williams, LMSW

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

Social Work

From: LABSWE Complaints
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 9:32 PM
To: Social Work
Subject: Contact Us Form Submitted

First Name: Angela

Last Name: Carter

Phone Number: - - -

Email Address: r - - - - - n

Question:

I, Angela S. Carter, submitted 20 hours of CEU's as required by LABSWE. The 20 contact hours are live virtual clock hours. I received an email from the board stating that 10 hours needs to be in-person CEU's.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend in-person seminars because I was caring for a sick loved one. I did not want to risk contracting a disease such as COVID and as a result transferring it to my beloved sister. My sister passed Friday, May 4, 2024. I'm requesting a waiver and asking the board to accept the contact hours already sent due to my loss. Unfortunately, I am not a tech person. I will send a copy of the obituary via email or fax but it won't be attached to this email.

Sincerely,

Angela S. Carter, LMSW, 5984

The Life and Legacy



Karen Smallwood Matthews

1952-2024



Karen Smallwood Matthews was born on January 23, 1952 to Percy and Ruth Walker Smallwood, the second of nine children in their union.

Karen was an only child for her sister and five of her siblings. She set the standard for academic success as she graduated in the top 10% of her class at C. W. Flowers State College in 1970. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting at Southern University in Baton Rouge in 1974 as a Cum Laude Honors graduate. She received her Certificate in Public Accounting (CPA) in June, July 29, 1983.

Karen met her husband, Joseph, during her senior year of college while both were pursuing their undergrads in Accounting and Business Administration. Karen and Joseph were married on November 8, 1975. Their children were born in their home in Baton Rouge and Kelsey in Baton Rouge. Karen delighted in both of her children as they were the culmination of her lifelong dream of being a wife and mother.

Karen and Joseph spent 49 years in matrimony. They were a couple who lived and worked together as a cohesive unit. Joseph was Karen's rock as he made sure she kept every medical appointment. Joseph gave day Karen's side during her medical care, cooked, and handled her daily life. Joseph would confer with her about her food preferences and ultimately agreed with whatever she desired. Joseph was by Karen's side until her final moments, all the while comforting and reassuring her until her final breath was taken.

Karen worked in the banking and financial sector for entire professional career. She was sought after by professional organizations for her numerous roles of Vice President at some institutions and Chief Financial Officer at others.

Karen spent her life in service to family and friends. With the assistance of her one-year younger sister, Wanda, she would be a fully responsible for the care of her younger siblings.

As his life began to sunset, Karen moved her father into her home to accommodate his final chapter. Karen and her siblings and family members were met by coordinating his medical care and ensuring that the health care was available 24 hours a day. Karen made sure the medications were all up to date and that his food preferences were freshly prepared with his care by either Wanda or her. She and Wanda, (Our Dad said he had never received such tender loving care) and her two sons, her mother and his wife, Ruth (Vicki) Smallwood.

Karen's good work was rewarded when she was honored with an award for her exceptional care as Karen had given to her father. One of the ways by her, she would say, Karen was amazed at how quickly Mom would turn up and how when she would say "MOM" she would then wait for a request. Mom would move with the agility of a young woman. Karen made it her goal to make her father's final moments as comfortable as possible. It was not an easy task for anyone, but she did it with grace and dignity.

Karen was preceded in death by her father, Percy Smallwood, Jr. in 1984 and her mother, Ruth Smallwood, in 1994. She is survived by her mother, Ruth Smallwood, Sr. and her siblings, Wanda Smallwood, Albert Smallwood, and Wanda Smallwood, Jr. She is also survived by her children, Joseph R. Matthews, Kelsey Matthews, and Wanda Matthews.

Karen's funeral service will be held on Monday, January 29, 2024, at 11:00 AM at the funeral home of Wanda Matthews, 11155 Old Highway 90, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70807. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The family will receive friends at the home of Wanda Matthews, 11155 Old Highway 90, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70807. Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.gardenofmemories.com.

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

Rec'd 8/30/24
- RD

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Dear Members of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to respectfully request an extension of time to complete my required in-person Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for the renewal of my social work license.

Over the past three months, I have been out of the state of Louisiana. I left on June 5th and returned on August 11th, 2024. Please find attached my flight itinerary for your reference. While I was out of state, I was able to complete the 10 required online CEUs. However, since my return in August, I have encountered difficulties in finding sufficient in-person CEU opportunities in New Orleans.

JAMES R. MSY → **MDW**
New Orleans to Chicago (Midwest)

Confirmation # **ZAHBYB** Confirmation date: 04/19/2024

PASSENGER Powell Digangi
RAPID REWARDS # 254600104
TICKET # 528228228020
BUT. POINTS EARNED 0

Four Itinerary

Flight: Wednesday, 08/07/2024 Est. Travel Time 2h 20m New Orleans to Chicago

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES
23914	MSY 08:55AM New Orleans	MDW 09:15AM Chicago (Midwest)

American

Let's get ready to travel

We look forward to welcoming you on board soon. To make everything easier, we have useful information to help you before and during your trip.

Confirmation code: **FLAFFL**

Your trip to New Orleans on Sunday, August 11, 2024

Manage your trip →

I have diligently searched for available in-person CEUs but have found them to be scarce, likely due to the ongoing challenges in organizing such events post-pandemic. As of now, I still need to complete 7 in-person CEUs to fulfill the renewal requirements.

I want to assure the Board that I am in good standing with my professional license and have met all other renewal requirements. My business, Beam: Your Workforce Benefit, is dedicated to providing crucial social work interventions to an important demographic, and I take great pride in my work and my role within the social work community.

Given these circumstances, I kindly request an extension of time to complete the remaining in-person CEUs. Once I have completed these requirements, I will promptly proceed with the renewal of my license and payment of all associated fees.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration of my request. I am committed to maintaining the highest standards of professional practice and look forward to continuing to serve the community as a licensed social worker.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information or documentation.

Sincerely,

Powell DiGangi

LMSW

powelldigangi@gmail.com

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

Social Work

From: Ruth Landis <
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 11:46 AM
To: Social Work
Subject: Waiver for CEU's

To Whom it May Concern,

I am respectfully requesting a waiver for my CEU hours for 2024 to be extended to all online courses. My husband and I started a renovation on our home in 2021. This was through the Pandemic and, as happened to many, our costs for materials and labor more than doubled, the contractor had trouble getting workers and the time to complete the work took 2 years rather than the 6 months we were told.

In the course of this work my husband's income dropped by more than half. I started working part time but, that income was insufficient to make up the difference. As a result we had to stop work on the house, sell it and move into a rental. Needless to say, given the lack of income and my inability to pay, as well as, have time to take the CEU's I was unable to afford and gather the requisite number of hours. I have a job that involves me seeing elderly clients in a nursing home and would not want to have to stop providing services to them. I am hoping to complete my 20 CEU hours online between now and 8/31. I was able to complete all CEU hours for the year 2023 however, things have deteriorated from there.

I respectfully request that grant me this waiver.

Sincerely

Ruth W. Landis, MSW, LCSW, BACS
1004 Joseph Street
New Orleans, LA 70115

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

LaShanda LaSha Ellis
301 Britton Street
Rayville, LA 71269

08/02/2024

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
18550 Highland Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Dear Board of Social Work Examiner members:

I, LaShanda LaSha Ellis, am an applicant for the Licensed Clinical Social Work (LCSW) exam. I began my journey to become an LCSW in March of 2023. Recently, I called the Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners (LABSWE) to get an estimated date for eligibility to apply for testing. I knew I would be eligible to take the test early, within six months of completing the requirements. During the call, I was informed that one of my required documents was incomplete and that the Board could only backdate the hours I completed within the last 60 days. I was in awe because I was under the impression that everything was complete. I spoke with Sara, who informed me that my BACS supervisor (Ms. Deborah Doublin) needed to complete her part. Ms. Deborah and I recalled speaking with someone at the LABSWE office in Baton Rouge, who walked us through the process until completion, although the system (Certemy) is showing otherwise. The hours in question are from September 11, 2023, until May 25, 2024. This is a total of 37 weeks in which I have worked 40 hours per week, totaling 1480 hours. I am attaching a letter from Ms. Deborah Doublin, an ethically sound, respected, and established LCSW-BACS. I am seeking approval for the 1,480 work hours completed and all supervision hours obtained during this period; therefore, I do not fall behind in my hours because I am ready to test and pass my exam; so, I can practice as an independent Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in our area. I know the significant impact my work can have on the community, and I am committed to making a difference. I have been studying since I passed my LMSW exam in February 2023. I am ready to be fully licensed to continue to build my career and practice as an LCSW, providing behavioral health services in rural and extremely rural areas. I kindly ask the board to consider my request to accept work and supervision hours from September 11, 2023 - May 25, 2024, towards meeting the licensure criteria.

Kindest regards,

LaShanda Ellis, LMSW

LaShanda Ellis 8/2/2024

Deborah Doublin, LCSW-BACS, LMFT, CCS
1210 Stubbs Avenue
Monroe, La 71201

August 1, 2024

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
18550 Highland Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Dear Members of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners,

I am writing to strongly advocate for the acceptance of all employment and supervision hours completed by Ms. LaShanda Ellis. These hours, from September 11, 2023, to May 25, 2024, are of utmost importance. Over a total of 37 weeks, Ms. Ellis diligently worked 40 hours per week, accumulating a total of 1480 hours. I have provided the required BACS supervision for Ms. Ellis since March 3, 2023, and continue to do so. There seems to have been a misunderstanding regarding receiving the invite through Certemy to complete the "Acknowledgement, Structure and Focus of Supervision, Job Description, and Attestation as part of Supervision Contract 2." The invite was sent to the email rivercitypcs@bellsouth.net, which is not used for BACS supervision documentation or correspondence and was therefore overlooked. However, mistakes happen, and this was a simple oversight. I have completed two prior "Acknowledgement, Structure and Focus of Supervision, Job Description, and Attestation as part of Supervision Contract 2," and documentation of supervision hours that can be verified under the email

Ms. Ellis has consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic, a commitment to professional development, and a genuine passion for social work. Her dedication to continuous learning and growth is commendable. Ms. Ellis is committed to making a difference in rural communities. The significance of LCSWs in rural areas profoundly impacts the community. Rural areas often have limited access to behavioral health services, including counselors, therapists, psychiatrists, and psychologists. Clinical social workers fill this gap by providing counseling, therapy, and other mental health services to individuals in need.

I kindly request that LABSWE acknowledge and accept 1,480 work hours completed and all supervision hours obtained from September 11, 2023, to May 25 so that Ms. Ellis does not fall behind in her hours.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.



Deborah Doublin, LCSW-BACS, LMFT, CCS

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

July 26, 2024

To the LABSWE:

My name is Dorothy Alexander, LMSW. I am writing to convey my sincerest apologies for the oversight of the Supervision Contract 2 deadline. I understand deadlines are important to observe, not only in this situation, but also in our everyday work as social workers. However, I would like to give an explanation to the oversight in hopes that future events like this can be avoided.

When my supervision started in June 2021, I was working at another agency. I resigned from that agency and moved to my current agency in December of 2021. In the beginning my supervision was started on paper, but shortly after Certemy was introduced as a new tool for the board to use. Certemy did have its challenges when it was first introduced and still does present with challenges. The first contract was completed in a timely manner, however, from the time my first agency completed the form to my second agency needing to complete the form on Certemy, the format changed. It was not only confusing for myself, but my agency supervisor as well. Certemy has not been the most user-friendly website. My agency supervisor was under the impression, as was I, that she had complete her task. It was not until recently I realized Certemy was still showing parts of the contract as still in process. On July 25, 2024, my supervisor was able to sign and complete the contract, but only after over 30 minutes of step-by-step guidance of how to accept, locate, and complete the form.

I do accept responsibility and apologize for not being aware of this issue. After learning of this issue, I requested assistance on behalf of my agency supervisor and myself, which occurred July 25, 2024. I am asking the board to excuse the period from January 7, 2022 to May 25, 2024 of my supervision contract not being completed in the allotted timeframe. It is my hope that I will be allowed to complete the remainder of the application process to procure my LCSW licensure. While I accept responsibility for my actions, I hope this letter brings attention to the troubles Certemy presents and might serve as feedback to improve the process for others in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,
Dorothy Alexander, LMSW

7-25-2024

Good Morning,

To the LABSWE board, my name is Tawana Smith, LCSW-BACS. I have been supervising Dorothy Alexander throughout her entire supervision period. This letter is a letter of support for Dorothy in applying for the request to sit for the LCSW test. Dorothy and I began working right when the transitioning of Certemy was in the initial phases of coming online. Unfortunately, there was an error, which is typical and often expected through transition periods. The task supervisor inadvertently didn't sign the document she signed today in the appropriate time frame. Dorothy was new to this process, and the expectation of the task supervisor signing was unclear at the time.

I understand and respect rules and the follow-through with regulations, but there are times when allowance can be made. Dorothy is an exceptional social worker, deeply dedicated to her work and the people she serves. I suspect and believe the board (members of the board) understand, appreciate and respect those same qualities. I am asking for the board to please allow Dorothy Alexander, LMSW to be allowed to submit the appropriate paperwork to request her testing date. She is ready and has taken at least two of Dr. Digiglensky's twice, along with other test preparation materials. We have also discussed and role-played taking the LCSW exam.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter of support. Thank you for being gracious and considering allowing Dorothy to complete what she started and apply to take the Licensure exam. We need all the good, ethical, and quality social workers we can get for our workforce, profession, and, most importantly, the people we serve. Dorothy's work is a testament to this need.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me at

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tawana E. Smith, LCSW-BAC". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "T".

Tawana Smith, LCSW BACS

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

August 22, 2024

My name is Shemika Bailey, LMSW, and I am a social worker in Bossier City applying for my LCSW licensure. Currently my LCSW application is pending final review. Up until 8-9-24 I was under the impression that everything in my Certemy account was up to date. I was informed otherwise by Sara Janet Banks on 8-9-24 that some of the hours I submitted will need board approval to be counted, because I did not submit a within 60-day employer change. I am writing to request the board review my case to count these face-to-face and work hours, which occurred between 07/18/23 to 06/14/24 (58 face-to face/ 1160 work hours) at my current employer, Pelican Bayou Counseling Agency. I will further explain my request described below.

I had previously worked at Unlimited Alternatives to Change, LLC, I switched jobs and began employment at Pelican Bayou Counseling Agency last year, on 7-18-23. I continued receiving face to face supervision from my BACS Supervisor, LaSheka Shine. However, I did not submit within 60 days of employer change at Pelican Bayou Counseling Agency in Certemy. This was an oversight on my part and a misunderstanding of what was required. I was just made aware of what I was missing when receiving the email from Sara. I would not have known, because in Certemy I had nothing notifying me or telling me I was missing anything. My BACS supervisor and I both have been in touch with Certemy customer support throughout my supervision process as things were not always updating, my supervisor has even emailed LASBWE on concerns that were not showing up or updating in Certemy. My work supervisor prior to Pelican had trouble completing her portion in Certemy and had to attempt multiple times, even when she thought she had completed it. The system is not user friendly and continuously has issues with the inputting process and sometimes things I have thought were complete or done, have not. Example- my early testing application said pending for weeks, then I went back in some other days and played around with it and there was a step I was missing, but it had said it was pending verification.

Disclaimer: I have had the same clinical supervisor throughout the entirety of my supervision: LaSheka Shine, LCSW-BAC

I am truly not trying to make excuses for misunderstanding the requirement, I thought my new job verifying my hours was providing proof of my work. I thought the only reason a new contract was needed was for a new BACs supervisor. LaSheka Shine has been my BACS supervisor the entire time and was notified as well that I changed jobs during supervision. I have made every effort to stay on top of my Certemy account constantly checking it and staying current and even in supervision we would review to make certain everything was up to date.

I have since submitted my second supervision contract, and on 8-20-24 I got email from LABSWE Team, "we wanted to inform you that we have approved your submission". I also got an email from Ms. Sara Banks informing me that I may write a letter to board requesting approval of lost hours from 07/18/2023 to 06/14/2024. All the hours that I worked with Pelican Bayou Counseling Agency I will lose without approval from the board to waive the 60-day rule. If I were to lose the hours that are out of compliance, that is a big portion of my hours. I have put in so much time and effort to make sure I was doing the things I needed to do. Certemy is not so user friendly, I was checking and rechecking it and still missing something. Had I known to submit the within 60- day of employer change there is no way I would not have submitted it timely as I have been completing all other requirements. And had I got an error message or anything redlining me in Certemy I would have asked additional questions. My verified hours for Pelican Bayou were even shown accepted in Certemy. I have invested so much time, effort, and money there is no way I would knowingly not do it, I am all in.

My hope is that you will approve all my hours, both work and supervision, because of the difficulty of navigating Certemy both for myself and my supervisors along the way and others that I have discovered after getting my email on 8-9-24 through previous board meeting minutes.

Please take into consideration that I had the same BACs supervisor the entire time and she was aware of my employee change and thought my Certemy account complied. I did the best I could. I would suggest so no one else must experience this horrific situation that maybe in future halfway mark or before test approval is granted a review of some sort is done to assure things are complying since according to Ms. Sara Banks on 8-20-24 "your contract and LCSW application are

not intertwined to disrupt the other being completed and are separate entities.”
And in my mind, I am thinking it’s all my LCSW application information so why
wouldn’t it be intertwined, learning that information was mind blowing to me.
Certemy is not able to catch all aspects/ guidelines required by the LABSWE and
giving false completion and accepted fields misleading customers such as myself.

I am requesting approval to count the hours I accrued from 07/18/2023-
06/14/2024- In total, 58 face to face supervision hours and 1160 work hours. I
have submitted along with this letter, a letter from LaSheka Shine, LCSW-BACS
on my behalf.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shemika Bailey, MSW, LMSW'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line underneath the text.

Shemika Bailey, MSW, LMSW

Communication



3018 Old Minden Rd Ste 1111A
Bossier City, La 71112

Email: info@ldsconsulting.com
NPI:1790237048

August 22, 2024

Re: Shemika Bailey (5415)-

Atten: Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners,

This letter is to provide clarification and advocacy of the supervision of Shemika Bailey. Ms. Bailey started supervision on 8/4/2022 where she participated in supervision with no breaks. She due to her diligent work she met the qualifications for early testing and was approved 3/12/24 to test. Ms. Bailey then went on to pass her LCSW exam on 7/3/24 on her 1st try. During a supervision stated that she was changing jobs, we reviewed the information to ensure she had no issues, and she stated that she submitted all of what she needed to the Certmey. The new job Pelican Bayou entered initial hours on 2/13/24 into the system with no issue or rejection of not having an attached contract. There were no prompts on either her profile or mine that stated anything was missing or incomplete. After hearing all the issues and complications other supervisees were having with Certemy, I decided to follow up with the board to ensure that Ms. Bailey was not missing anything and was good to be cleared once she passed her test. 4/15/24 Ms. Sara Banks responded informing me that Mrs. Bailey was cleared for early testing and just needed to complete her supervision but that the completion of supervision should not be completed before 8/4/24. I encouraged Ms. Bailey to continue with supervision until officially cleared with LCSW license reflecting in the system and she has. It is my professional opinion that any delay in Ms. Bailey being granted her LCSW due to this issue.

It is our priority as social workers to train, nurture the profession, and advocate. I would like to advocate for her approval. If you have any questions, require additional information or concerns, please feel free to contact me at our office at _____

Sincerely,

LaSheka Shine, LCSW-BACS, MAC

LaSheka Shine, LCSW-BACS, MAC

Owner/Clinical Practitioner

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

August 18, 2024

Dear Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners Board Members:

I appreciate you taking the time to address my issue of completing the "Professional Experience Verification Record" in a timely manner within 60 days of a job change. I received an email from Sara Banks on Friday, August 9, 2024, notifying me that my second supervision contract requirement was not submitted within the 60-day period and as a result of that my hours of supervision would not count from 8/26/2022 to 1/2/2023. I was also instructed to write a letter to the board for consideration on those hours that did not meet the 60-day requirement.

Please see the attached copies of the email correspondence sent to Seleana LaChapelle regarding the issue of not reporting my job change timely which includes the screen shots from my current work supervisor, Patricia "Pat" Brown. I started working for West Jefferson Medical Center on August 29, 2022 and Patricia "Pat" Brown completed the paperwork on October 3, 2022. Patricia Brown made a screenshot of the information and sent it to me because she was out of the office at that time and wanted me to see that it was completed. I thought this issue had been resolved with Seleana LaChapelle. I have also included correspondence with Maddy Andras about changing jobs, asking her about the process. I was aware of the 60-day requirement to report a job change and wanted to make sure that I was following procedure.

Hopefully, after reviewing the emails and the copy of the screenshot showing that my current supervisor, Patricia Brown, submitted her part within the allotted time. I hope that you can see from the email exchange that I had concluded the matter had been resolved. Please consider allowing the 17.5 hours between 8/26/2022 to 1/2/2023 to count for my supervision so that I may move forward with taking the LCSW test. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Angela R. Bellanger, LMSW

Angela R. Bellanger, LMSW

August 18, 2024

Dear Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of my employee, Angela Bellanger, LMSW. Mrs. Bellanger received an email from Sara Banks on Friday, August 9, 2024, notifying her that her second supervision contract requirement was not submitted within the 60-day period and as a result of that her hours of supervision would not count from 8/26/2022 to 1/2/2023. She was also instructed to write a letter to the board for consideration on those hours that did not meet the 60-day requirement.

She has sent attached copies of the email correspondence sent to Seleana LaChapelle regarding the issue of not reporting her job change timely. I, Patricia Brown, LMSW am currently her supervisor. I can assure that Mrs. Bellanger has completed the necessary hours to be able to set for her LCSW test. Angela Bellanger started working for West Jefferson Medical Center on August 29, 2022 and I personally completed the paperwork on October 3, 2022. I sent a screenshot of the information and sent it to Angela because I was out of the office on medical leave at that time and wanted her to see that it was completed. Screen shot is also attached below.

Please allow the 17.5 hours between 8/26/2022 to 1/2/2023 to count for her supervision so that she may move forward with taking the LCSW test. If I can assist in speeding this process along, please contact me at .

Respectfully,

Patricia Brown, LMSW
Patricia Brown, LMSW

Case Management Department Social Services Manager
West Jefferson Medical Center

1101 Medical Center Blvd.

Marrero, LA 70072

DS

OS

FL

PL

LCMC Health

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

SaraJanet Banks

From: Allison Adler <allisonadler@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 2:08 PM
To: SaraJanet Banks; Social Work
Subject: Out of State Supervision Request
Attachments: Out of State Supervision - NAC.pdf; Out of State Supervision - Bellevue .pdf

To whom it may concern,

I am reaching out to file a formal request for the board to review at the up coming September meeting for out of state supervision to be approved and counted towards my LCSW.

Attached are two files:

- supervision completed at New Alternatives for Children by Liz Haskel. Per the form 41 hours of supervision were completed at my time there
- supervision completed at New York City Health + Hospitals - Bellevue by Megan Hedges. Per the form 14 hours of supervision were completed.

In total, the request is to have **55 total hours** completed out of state to be counted towards my clinical supervision.

Best,
Allison Dasso, LMSW - 18020

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

Jasmine Jackson
1710 South 9th Street
Monroe, La 71202

Email: [REDACTED] @m

August 26, 2024

LABSWE
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Re: Appeal for Supervision Hours

Dear LABSWE Board Members,

I am writing this appeal letter for your review and consideration of approval of my supervision hours earned thus far. As of 6/18/2024, I completed by final supervision hours and all documents were submitted accordingly. To say that was a major accomplishment was an understatement; however, on 8/12/2024, I received an email from Sara Janet Banks from the board stating that I did not complete a new Supervision Contract within 60 days of a change in my employment. As a result, I would only receive credit for hours completed within 60 days of the contract being signed. Upon receipt of this notice, I was absolutely taken aback by this because I was certain that I had notified the board of the change in my employment that occurred on 2/13/2023.

Upon changing employment, I followed protocol, and my BACS encouraged me to complete the proper steps through Certemy and to complete a new supervision contract and employee verification form. After uploading employment verification documentation to Certemy, I received no notification or correspondence stating that this was not the proper method and no supervision contract was available to complete or posted on my account. It was unclear whether additional information or contacts were needed to verify my employment change. My BACS and I thought this was how we were supposed to notify the board of the employment change.

It wasn't until Ms. Banks contacted us that we found out that we had to inform the board via phone or email, and afterward, a new contract would be posted to my Certemy account, which was not clearly stated in the handbook or on certemy. Throughout my time in clinical supervision, my BACS and I maintained consistent communication with the board.

On 12/7/2023, we emailed Mr. Blake Williamson, and my charts were reviewed. On 3/4/2024, we contacted Ms. Regina Dewitt to inquire about my supervision hours, and my file was reviewed. Lastly, there was a long entry error in my charts on 4/2/2024, and we contacted Ms. Dewitt again to correct the issue. After numerous chart reviews, I was not made aware of any mistakes that had been made. I was completely oblivious to any of this until 2 months after I completed supervision and a week after I was granted permission from the board to take the clinical examination.

I have worked hard these last two years to complete the clinical supervision process. I have also invested a substantial amount of money into my clinical supervision as well. If these hours are not granted to me, I risk losing 2,868 supervised hours and 67.25 face-to-face contact hours. I

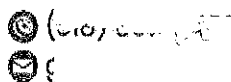
humbly request grace and understanding in this matter because there was a lack of understanding of how this process works.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Jackson



700 University Avenue
Stubbs Hall, Suite 207
Monroe, Louisiana 71209



Louisiana State Board of Social Worker Examiners (LABSWE)
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

September 2, 2024

Re: Letters of Support – Jasmine Jackson

Greetings LABSWE Board Members,

This letter is being written on Jasmine Jackson's behalf concerning her supervision hours completed and the discrepancies noted with the supervision contract. Ms. Jackson has been under my supervision for over two years and recently concluded her supervision hours on June 18, 2024. During our time together, Ms. Jackson has diligently and conscientiously completed her certemy and supervision requirements properly and on time. I can attest that Ms. Jackson and I have contacted the board multiple times to inquire about general hours and supervision requirements and even obtained approval to sit for her state board exam early. So, her certemy account has been reviewed on multiple occasions.

I hope the board can understand our concerns when we receive notice from Ms. Sara Janet Banks at the board concerning Ms. Jackson's failure to submit her supervision contract following her change of job in 2023. As a result, the supervision hours completed from February 2023 until recently would not account for the total hours completed. This news has devastated Ms. Jackson and me because we assumed we made the proper steps in notifying the board, including documented conversations during our supervision sessions, uploading the employment verification document onto the certemy platform, and consulting with LABSWE representatives regarding her file and other matters. In Ms. Jackson's defense, the LABSWE Rules, Standards, and Procedures (Chapter 5) were reviewed, and the language was unclear. It did not specifically specify that the supervisee should call or email the state board concerning changes in employment and further procedures, as indicated in communication with Ms. Banks.

Realizing the certemy process is still relatively new, and we all are adjusting to this new process, I am requesting that you all reconsider your ruling to grant Ms. Jackson's supervision hours to count in its totality so she can move forward. In addition to learning of this news, Ms. Jackson has diligently worked to prepare for the ABSWE examination. She has taken additional steps to prepare for the new journey, including early testing approval. Again, I hope this letter of support helps her case and that you will consider her position.

Kindest regards,

Christian Specks, LCSW-BACS

Christian Specks, LCSW-BACS

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

SaraJanet Banks

From: Anthony O'Donnell <anthony.odonnell@tulane.edu>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 10:35 AM
To: SaraJanet Banks
Cc: rparque@tulane.edu
Subject: Requesting board approval for 32 clinical supervision hours

Good morning,

Due to a misunderstanding about the Certemy system, I was late in submitting my supervision contract for clinical supervision. I had already completed 39 hours of supervision with my BACS Reginald Parquet by the time I successfully submitted my contract of supervision on April 14 of 2022, and have been informed that the board can only count back 60 days from that date, meaning 32 of my hours (collected between April 20, 2021 and February 13, 2022) currently require board approval to be counted toward my license. I apologize for failing to verify completion of this important step, and humbly ask the board to allow the hours I collected prior to submitting my contract to count toward licensure. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Anthony Critelli-O'Donnell, LMSW
License # 16405

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

SaraJanet Banks

From: Jade Stevens <
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 9:54 PM
To: Social Work
Cc: SaraJanet Banks; Regina Dewitt
Subject: Request for Approval for Supervision Work Experience Hours and LCSW Exam
Attachments: email from Sara Banks Timeframe in which time loss occurred.pdf; email communication LASWB and Certemy.pdf; Supervision Contracts via Certemy with explanations.pdf; Record of Supervision Alvin Anderson LCSW BACS.pdf; Record of Supervision Jovel Finley LCSW BACS.pdf

09/03/2024

Dear Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Jade Stevens LMSW, and I am writing to request the Board's review and approval of my completed 96 hours of supervision and over 3,000 hours of work experience, which commenced in May 2022 and was completed in July 2024.

Throughout my journey with supervision, I have had a total of five supervision contracts, of which two have already been accepted. I am specifically requesting the Board's approval for the three remaining contracts that were initially denied (see attached email from licensing analyst). Below, I provide detailed information regarding these contracts and my request:

1. **Supervision Contract 1 with BACS Jovel Finley at Nu Visions Behavioral Health 01/01/23-05/30/23:**

I began part-time employment with Nu Visions Behavioral Health in January 2023, and the supervision contract was submitted March 16, 2023, and accepted by Jovel Finley on March 21, 2023. I am requesting that the Board grant me supervision and employment credit for the period starting 60 days prior to the submission of the contract.

The total amount of supervision hours during the period 1/26/23 – 5/30/23 was 18.5 hours.

The total amount of work experience for Nu Visions Behavioral Health was 396 hours.

**2. **Supervision Contract 2 with Jovel Finley at Volunteers of America
06/05/23-07/27/23**:**

I began employment with Volunteers of America on June 5, 2023, and the supervision contract was submitted on September 20, 2023. The contract was submitted late due to unforeseen hospitalization of my mother who was admitted into ICU suffering from an aneurysm on May 30, 2023. I began employment due to the tentative start date scheduled previously. I struggled during that moment, but I didn't want to miss the opportunity to work full time at Volunteers of America and to continue my journey in becoming a LCSW. During the hardship my family faced with my mom being in ICU for 54 days, I continued to maintain my ethical responsibilities on the job and continued supervision with BACS Jovel Finley until September 21, 2023, for Volunteers of America. My agency supervisor was informed of my supervision status with BACS Jovel Finley on June 5, 2023. BACS Jovel Finley continued to log supervision records into Certemy as I maintained a written log as well. I didn't complete the supervision contract timely with thoughts I could do it prior to completing supervision and/or, if/when I change supervisors. I was unaware of the time frame for submitting the supervision contract and I was not made aware until I reached out to Regina Dewitt Administrative Assistant concerning the Supervision Contract with BACS Jovel Finley at the conclusion of our supervision September 20, 2023, when I resigned from Nu Vision Behavioral Health. I am requesting supervision and work experience hours credit for the period starting June 5, 2023. I have attached the relevant documentation for your review and approval.

The total amount of supervision hours for the period 6/5/23 – 7/27/23 was 12 hours.

During this period, I engaged in supervision with BACS Jovel Finley concurrently for a Supervision Contract with Nu Vision Behavioral Health, which began on January 26, 2023, concluding September 23, 2023 at resignation of employment.

The total amount of work experience for the period 6/5/23 – 7/27/23 was 272 hours.

During our supervision, Jovel Finley LCSW-BACS initially input each of our supervision logs into the Certemy system. However, at the end of our supervision, because I had not yet completed all requested supervision hours, I noticed that Jovel Finley LCSW-BACS only logged a portion of the hours requested. To address this, I spoke with Regina Dewitt Administrative Assistant who informed me that I'd have to delete the initial request for 91 hours and request only the 44 hours that was completed. I requested Jovel Finley LCSW-BACS to re-enter the hours that she had previously logged to reflect only the portion completed informing her of the error. Jovel Finley LCSW-BACS initially was not willing to re-input all the hours into the Certemy system as requested.

I contacted the Board of Social Work and was advised by Regina Dewitt Administrative Assistant to submit the paper supervision logs directly into my digital wallet in Certemy. Regina Dewitt Administrative Assistant then completed the supervision logs on Jovel Finley LCSW-BACS behalf. This allowed me to send the one hour needed to begin supervision logs with my new supervisor Alvin Anderson LCSW-BACS. Documentation of all my communications regarding this matter is attached. I respectfully request that the Board consider 18.5 hours of supervision with Jovel Finley at Nu Vision Behavioral Health and 12 hours of supervision at Volunteers of America.

3. **Supervision Contract 2 with Alvin Anderson at New Beginnings Behavioral Health 08/22/23-04/03/24:**

I started part-time employment with New Beginnings Behavioral Health on August 16, 2023, and the supervision contract was submitted on December 11, 2023, and accepted by Alvin Anderson LCSW-BACS on December 15, 2023. My employer informed me that the request received from Certemy was complete. I was unaware that the necessary signatures for the contract were not completed because my employer and agency supervisor Lisa Wineburg LCSW, informed me that all documents requested were completed. It was later discovered that the employment verification was completed, but not the actual contract. I only became aware of this in June 2024 when I spoke with Sara Banks Licensing Analyst 1. After learning of this oversight, I reached out to Certemy, who assisted me in resending the contract to my agency supervisor. We had to send it to a different email address, and once we did, she signed it immediately. I am requesting supervision and employment credit from the date the supervision contract was submitted December 11, 2023, as this is the date I began supervision with BACS Alvin Anderson for New Beginnings Behavioral Health and the date my employer and agency supervisor acknowledged supervision with BACS Alvin Anderson.

The total amount of supervision hours for the period 12/11/23 – 4/3/24 was 18.5 hours.

During this period, I engaged in supervision with BACS Alvin Anderson concurrently for a Supervision Contract with Volunteers of America, which began on October 7, 2023, and has since been approved.

The total amount of work experience for the period 12/11/23 – 4/3/24 was 241 hours.

Attached to this email, you will find the following documents for your review:

1. Supervision logs from each of my supervisors, detailing the hours and content of supervision sessions.
2. Documentation of communications with the Board and Certemy regarding the submission and processing of these contracts.

Since the beginning of my supervision journey, I have maintained regular contact with members of the Social Work Board regarding the progress of my documentation in the Certemy database. While the process was complex, I ensured that every task was completed as required. I believed that all tasks had been promptly addressed, based on the communication and instructions received from the Board and Certemy.

Given the diligent effort I have put into fulfilling the supervision and work experience requirements, I respectfully request that the Board consider my hours and grant approval. Additionally, I would like to request approval to take the Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) exam.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your favorable response.

Sincerely,

Jade Stevens MSW. LMSW

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

Karely Poche LMSW #16689

5199 HWY 577

Pioneer, LA 71266

Dear LABSWE,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to request approval to participate in an alternative to face-to-face supervision due to significant hardships that I am currently facing. As a school social worker, for the past two years I have received in-person supervision from Mrs. Rebecca Brown, LCSW, BACS #2798. As of July 2024 Mrs. Brown has retired and left my small rural district of West Carroll Parish to seek other supervision for myself, their only school social worker in the district. As per my special education director, she expressed great difficulty finding in-person supervision from a LCSW, BACS in my area willing to provide in-person supervision. Due to my small community it took my district over a month to find me appropriate supervision. Mr. Andrew Wilson #8660 has reviewed my profile and my work challenges and is willing to provide supervision, however, he is located roughly two and a half hours in Shreveport, Louisiana. My ability to travel two and a half hours for supervision is increasingly difficult due to financial constraints. It is understood that supervision towards licensure requires board approval for supervision. In order to fulfill my responsibilities and commitments effectively in my district with 1,508 students it is imperative that I work towards my LCSW licensure.

Virtual supervision would greatly alleviate this burden by allowing me to continue receiving the necessary guidance and support without the added stress and challenges of in-person attendance. It would enable me to maintain my productivity and meet my obligations while managing my current circumstances more effectively.

Social Work

From:
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2024 9:02 AM
To: Social Work; Karely Poche; Emily DeAngelo
Subject: RE: Karely Poche LMSW #16689 Approval Request for Virtual Supervision

Good morning, I have a paid zoom account that has systems in place where information shared is safe and is not at risk for being hacked, Karely will be provided her own unique ID and passcode. My phone number was provided to supervisee in case of emergencies. I am always available to counsel and supervision with my clients. Thanks

Andrew Wilson, LCSW-BACS
Social Work Professional Services, LLC
2219 Claiborne Ave.
Shreveport, La. 71103

On 09/06/2024 7:53 AM CDT Social Work <socialwork@labswe.org> wrote:

Hi Karely,

Thank you for your email. Please provide the below requested additional information:

- provide security information from the company regarding program/software,
- explain how confidential information will be protected, and explain how emergencies will be handled.

Thank you,

Regina M. DeWitt

Administrative Assistant

Louisiana State Board of

Social Work Examiners

18550 Highland Road, Suite B

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

PAGE BREAK

*** * * * ***

REC'D SEP 06 2024

Application for Continuing Education Approval Organization

Section A: Organizational Information

Next Generation Therapy Services
 Name of Organization
Amanda Carroll, LCSW - BACS
 Name of Director/President
PO Box 5000, Bossier City, LA 71171
 Mailing Address City/State Zip
1605 Benton Rd., Suite F, Bossier City, LA 71111
 Physical Address (if different from above) City/State Zip
318 / 584 7280 318 / 309-7944
 Telephone Fax
acarroll@nextgenerationtherapyllc.com www.nextgenerationtherapyllc.com
 Email Address Website

Organization applying for Continuing Education Approval Organization status must have a significant and continual affiliation with the social work profession. Please indicate that which applies:

Professional Social Work Organization Social Work Service Provider
 CSWE Accredited School of Social Work

Organization applying for Continuing Education Approval Organization must have three (3) letters of references from any combination of the following:

Professional Social Work Organization Social Work Service Provider
 CSWE Accredited School of Social Work

Section B: Continuing Education Program

Review and approval of continuing education applications from continuing education providers must be completed by a credentialed social worker. Identify the social worker assigned to administer this process for the organization.

Amanda Carroll, MSW, LCSW - BACS
 Name/Social Work Degree/Social Work Credential
Owner / Psychotherapist
 Relationship to Organization
PO Box 5000, Bossier City, LA 71171
 Mailing Address City/State Zip
1605 Benton Rd., Ste F, Bossier City, LA 71111
 Physical Address (if different from above) City/State Zip
318 / 584 7280 318 / 309 7944
 Telephone Fax
acarroll@nextgenerationtherapyllc.com
 Email Address

Section C: Approval Guidelines, Process and Agreement

Protocol for receiving request for approval from education presenters:

- Organization will provide LABSWE Continuing Education Approval Application to education presenters upon request.
- LABSWE Continuing Education Approval Application may be mailed, faxed, sent electronically and/or published on Organization website.
- Organization will accept only LABSWE Continuing Education Approval Applications, completed in its entirety and accompanied by required documentation.

Process by which Organization will study and assess the proposed education offering:

- Organization will review application and supporting documentation to determine that it meets all standards and guidelines established in "Criteria for Approving Continuing Education Offerings" and "Guide for Assessment of Continuing Education."

As each organization is structured and staffed differently, organizations shall determine timeline for administering the continuing education program.

- Describe time limit set for making a decision on an educational offering's suitability:

All complete applications shall have a final decision within 3 business days.

As each organization is structured and staffed differently, organizations shall determine their own fees, if any, charged for these services.

- Describe fees agency will charge to process Continuing Education Applications:

The fee for processing applications will be \$40.

Section D: Authority

Submission of this signed application certifies that the Organization has studied the "Criteria for Approving Continuing Education Offerings" and "Guide for Assessment of Continuing Education," and determined that the Organization is prepared to assess continuing education opportunities by these guidelines on a timely bases; and has ample storage to maintain all continuing education records for a minimum of three years, and in accordance with Louisiana law. Organization understands that if approved, the organization will be given authority to pre-approve social work continuing education for three (3) years. After three (3) years, the organization shall reapply to the Board if interested in maintaining designation as a pre-approving body. Organization agrees to comply with scheduled LABSWE Continuing Education audits and submit a list of all approved programs to the board office for current collection period by July 15 of each year. Organization agrees to notify LABSWE within thirty (30) days if any information submitted on this application changes. Organization understands that approval is granted at the discretion of the Board and may be revoked if Organization is found to be out of compliance with any aspect of established guidelines.

This designation also designates the organization as an approved provider of continuing education. This designation will be authorized for three (3) years from the date LABSWE approves the application.

Amanda Carroll, LCSW-BACS
Signature of Director/President

09/03/2024
Date

Submit completed and signed application, along with three (3) reference letters, to:

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

For LABSWE office use only:

Application Received _____ Application Reviewed _____ Application Approved/Denied _____

Approval Expires _____

Revised 5/16

August 10, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Nakia Thomas. I'm a Licensed Social Worker in the State of Louisiana writing to recommend that Next Generation Therapy Services be considered for the designation of Continuing Education Approval Organization. The owner, Amanda Carroll, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 10 years of social service experience. She's highly trained and motivated to impact the future of the Social Work field.

Next Generation Therapy Services is a mental health service provider in the Shreveport/Bossier community that not only offers counseling/therapy but serves as a resource for their community as well. There are non-profit organizations that host annual events with Next Generation such as holiday gift give-away socials and First Time Homebuyers Classes. Adding this organization as a Continuing Education Approval would be an asset to the community and the State of Louisiana as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nakia Thomas, LCSW". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "N".

Nakia Thomas, LCSW

Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners
18550 Highland Rd. B
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

August 30, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Diana Estrada Richardson. I'm licensed by Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council as a Masters' Level Social Worker. I have known Amanda Carroll, LCSW-BACS for approximately 2 years. She and her organization would be a great candidate for CEU Approval Organization due to their ethical practices and commitment to the Social Work Profession.

Sincerely,

Diana Richardson

Diana Estrada Richardson, LMSW
Texas BHEC # 104018

August 12, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Frederica Johnson, LPC. I'm a social service provider/mental health professional in the North LA area. I would like to write on behalf of Amanda Carroll, LCSW (Next Generation Therapy Services). She would be a great asset to Social Service professionals if added as a Clinical Education Unit Approval Organization/Provider.

Amanda is reliable and pays attention to detail. She practices ethically and has great communication skills as well. Her therapy practice is a host for community service events such as the Annual Holiday Party. They have sponsored/hosted First Time Home Buyers' Classes as well. Next Generation is a mental health provider who cares about the community and citizens of Louisiana. It is my recommendation that the Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners add them to the list of Clinical Education Unit Approval providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'FJ', written over a horizontal line.

Frederica Johnson, LPC, NCC