

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
October 25, 2024**

Jamie Barney, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. on Friday, October 25, 2024. The meeting was conducted at the Board office and streamed via video conference, and all interested parties were provided with the information to join the meeting.

Bora Sunseri conducted a roll call. Board members present during the roll call included Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS, Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS, Melissa Haley, LMSW, Trinity George, RSW, and Evan Bergeron, Esq. Sheri Morris, Legal Counsel, and Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, were also present at the meeting.

Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS, was absent. There is one vacant position on the board.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Agenda

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to accept the agenda as presented.

Presentation of Consent Agreement and Orders

In the matter of Alexandria Zemanovic, File #2024-104

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agreement and Order for Alexandria Zemanovic.

In the matter of Shirley Ryland, File #2024-112

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agreement and Order for Shirley Ryland.

In the matter of Will Francis

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agreement and Order for Will Francis.
Public comment made by Michele Guidry.

Executive Session

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 8:50 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: Bora Sunseri, yes; Jamie Barney, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; Evan Bergeron, yes; and Trinity George, yes.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 1:47 p.m.

Votes for coming out of Executive Session: Evan Bergeron, yes; Jamie Barney, yes; Bora Sunseri, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; and Trinity George, yes.

Compliance Hearings

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of LaShanda Ellis to appeal the board's decision to deny her supervision completed more than 60 days from receipt of a Supervision Contract with Deborah Dublin, LCSW-BACS, for employment at Cognitive Development Center. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Trinity George, and Evan Bergeron. LaShanda Ellis participated in person.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to uphold the original decision to deny supervision completed during the period of September 11, 2023 through May 25, 2024.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Shemika Bailey to appeal the board's decision to deny her supervision completed more than 60 days from receipt of a Supervision Contract with LaSheka Shine, LCSW-BACS, for employment at Pelican Bayou Counseling Agency. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Trinity George, and Evan Bergeron. Shemika Bailey participated in person; Lasheka Shine participated via zoom.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to deny supervision completed between July 18, 2023 through December 11, 2023, and approved the in-person supervision completed after December 11, 2023.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Jasmine Jackson to appeal the board's decision to deny supervision completed more than 60 days from receipt of a Supervision Contract with Christian Specks, LCSW-BACS, for employment at Wellpath. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Bora Sunseri, and Jamie Barney. Jasmine Jackson participated via zoom.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried to approve supervision completed during the period February 13, 2023 and June 18, 2024.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Jade Stevens to appeal the board's decision to deny supervision completed more than 60 days from receipt of a Supervision Contract with Jovel Finney, LCSW-BACS, while employed at Volunteers of America and with Alvin Anderson, LCSW-BACS, for employment with New Beginnings Behavioral Health Services. The hearing panel included Trinity George, Bora Sunseri, and Jamie Barney. Jade Stevens participated via zoom.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried to approve supervision while employed by NuVisions Behavioral Health from January 26, 2023 through July 19, 2023, while employed by Volunteers of America from June 5, 2023 through July 27, 2023 and while employed by Behavioral Health Services prior to November 5, 2023 are approved, with the exception of the two hours during sessions in excess of two hours.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Leah Mendoza to appeal the board's decision to deny her request for remote supervision. The hearing panel included Jamie Barney, Evan Bergeron, and Bora Sunseri. Leah Mendoza participated via Zoom.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried to approve the request for remote supervision with Linda Hartdegen, LCSW-BACS.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Victoria DeLaRosa to appeal the board's decision to deny her supervision completed prior to having an approved contract on file while

employed at St. Tammany Parish School System. The hearing panel included Jamie Barney, Melissa Haley, and Bora Sunseri. Victoria DeLaRosa participated via Zoom.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried to approve supervision completed during the period of October 17, 2022 and May 29, 2024 and to approve her application for the LCSW.

Correspondence

- i. Margaret Eaton, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to allow all continuing education hours to be completed via distance learning for the collection period ending August 31, 2025.
- ii. Dana White, LCSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to grant a continuing education extension through 8/31/2025, and allow all continuing education hours to be completed via distance learning for the collection period ending August 31, 2025.

Impaired professional program

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

Disciplinary Report

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried to release Marrene Beatty, LCSW-BACS, Gwendolyn Charles, LCSW, and Portia Witt, LCSW from their Consent Agreement and Orders for successfully completing all terms

Complaints

- i. **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Evan Bergeron to dismiss Complaint #2023-106. The motion was unanimously carried.
- ii. **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Evan Bergeron to dismiss Complaint #2024-138 with a letter of education. The motion was unanimously carried.
- iii. **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Evan Bergeron to dismiss Complaint #2025-13. The motion was unanimously carried.
- iv. **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Evan Bergeron to dismiss Complaint #2025-30. The motion was unanimously carried.

Applications

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to defer and request additional information for the LCSW endorsement application submitted by Dori Fromer, MSW.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to issue a CSW, and grant approval to take the Masters exam conditional of signing a Consent Agreement and Order for Kayla Johnson, MSW.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to defer and request additional information for the LMSW endorsement application submitted by Mayra McCray, MSW, RSW.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following applications for Registered Social Work.

Borders, Gracie
Chretien-Diggs, Felecia
Collins, Rondell
Cowens, Shayvona
Dixon, Shirley
Franklin, Jasmine
Garner-Coffie, Bobbie
Hebert, Jessica
Johnson, Asten
Leslie, Sydene
Lewis, Deborah
Lyle, Megan
Manning, LaTanya
Pimpleton, Kenneth
Powell, Glinda
Pruitt, Sherry
Randle, Angela
Rodney, Devon
Washington, Bria
Williams, Tania

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following applications for Reinstatement of the RSW.

Bush, Kenyatta
DeDon, Sheila
Johnson, Jocyelynn Dawson
Johnson, Tiffany
McNeal, Rodney
Weary, Shonteka

Motion was made by Trinity George, 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.

Allen, Tiquincia
Alsobrook, Wanda
Barber, Maile (early test approval)
Bies, Kathryn (early test approval)
Booth, T'Mea
Brown, Keeondra
Celestine, Ashinle
Chevalier, Porshia
Crochet, Chloe (early test approval)
Davis, Ashleigh
DeCuir, Dimond
Fannin, Georgia (early test approval)
Fondren, Brittany (early test approval)
Graupe, Ashton (early test approval)
Heller, Dusty
Holton, Mignon (early test approval)

Hypolite, D'juan
Jackson, Tamar
Johnson, Courtney
Junda, Kelly
Knighten, Mackenzie
Lambert, Kayla
Lau, Daniel (early test approval)
LeBouef, Breana
Lee, Macy
Levy, Brieze (early test approval)
Love, Melanie
Luttrell, Taylor
Mallory, Carol
Moreaux, Sophie (early test approval)
Motes, Martin (early test approval)
McKinsey, Jr., Benny
Nwufoh, Jacqueline
Parker, Krista
Randle, Stephen (early test approval)
Rosezine, Anthony
Schreeder, Jordan Jacinto (early test approval)
Surette, Kate (early test approval)
Wagner, Miranda (early test approval)
White, Santianna

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the following Endorsement applications for Licensed Master's Social Work.

Biggs, Ericka
Thomas, Patrick
Walker, Bonnie
White, Heather

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the following Reinstatement applications for Licensed Master's Social Work.
Disalvo, Nicole

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Clinical Exam.

Babineaux, Trinaee
Barrett, Candra (early test approval)
Carreon, Summer (early test approval)
Cocchiola, Amber (early test approval)
Granderson, Letrise Scott
Jackson, Breonka
Jarreau, Taylor
Kerdyk, Leigh (early test approval)
Kimbrell, Fay
McDonough, Meagan
Morgan, Clarice
Mullen, Abigail (early test approval)

Musgrow, Jardashai
Narcisse, Christian
Olasin, Morgan
Plauche, Julia
Purcell, Ruth
Roy, Kaitlyn
Roy, Paolo
Schmidt, Megan
Seals, LaFonia (early test approval)
Sivier, Sydney
Stansbury, Denise
Sweet, Nicole (early test approval)
Williams, Virginia (early test approval)
Zuppardo, Leslie (early test approval)

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for Reinstatement of the LCSW.
Senn, Lynn

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the following Endorsement applicants for issuance of the LCSW.

Aderibigbe, Denise
Anderson, WenDee
Candey, Kaylob
Duncan, April
Ellard, Karen
Elma, Linda
Elster, Elizabeth
Gordon, Johnice
Green, Eula
Holguin-Grado, Marisa
Hurst, Katherine
Jaffe, Leanne
Johnson, Elizabeth
Merrill, Crystal
Pritchett, Angelita
Ryan, Kimberly
Sparks, Ryan
Spotsville, April
Stone, Jackson
Vernatter, Misha

Personnel- employment contract

Agenda item deferred

Minutes

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held September 13, 2024, and September 14, 2024.

BOARD/STAFF MATTERS

A. Report on office workflow and staffing – report attached to minutes

- B. Update on promulgation of rules/OLRC- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to proceed with rules determined do not need approval of OLRC.
- C. Schedule 2025 meeting dates- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to schedule the following meeting dates for 2025:
January 10
January 11- strategic planning
February 7
March 21
April 25
April 26- strategic planning
May 30
June 27
August 8
August 9-strategic planning
September 12
October 17
November 21
- D. Move strategic planning meeting scheduled for December 7 to January 11, 2025- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried to move the strategic planning meeting to January 11, 2025.
- E. ASWB Delegate Assembly- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to vote for the following individuals:
Carla Moore, president elect; Endsley Real, secretary; Adrienne Ekas and Stephan Viehweg directors at large licensed social worker, Vikki Erickson, director at large board administrator, Scott Stephens, director at large public member; Brian Brumley, director at large open; and Whitney Cassity-Caywood, Elizabeth Crone and Fran Franklin to the nominating committee. Melissa Haley abstained.
Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to vote in favor of resolutions one and two as well as the recommended change to the bylaws. Melissa Haley abstained.

Financial

- A. Occupational Licensing Review Program- Special open enrollment for the period January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley and unanimously carried, to authorize the Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with OLRP.
Public Comment made by Julie Shreve.
- B. Rob Furman, CPA- provided a verbal summary of the board's financial position at the end of Fiscal Year 2023-2024. He also presented the Statement of Assets, Liabilities & Equity, Statement of Revenues & Expenses, and Statement of Revenues & Expenses Budgetary Comparison for the periods ending June 30, 2024, July 31, 2024 and August 31, 2024. **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried to accept the reports as information.

Correspondence


- a. Care Associates- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Care Associates to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.

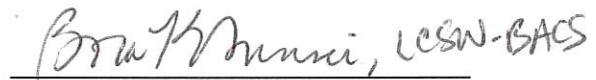
- b. Family and Youth Counseling Agency- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Family and Youth Counseling to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- c. LEI Behavioral Services, LLC- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by LEI Behavioral Services, LLC to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- d. Next Generation Therapy Services- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Next Generation Therapy Services to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- e. NOLA Public Schools- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried; to approve the application submitted by NOLA Public Schools once a signed letter of reference has been submitted by DePaul Community Health Centers.
- f. Open Health Care Clinic- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Open Health Care Clinic to be a continuing education pre-approval organization. Jamie Barney was recused from the discussion and vote.
- g. Vibrant Minds Therapy & Counseling- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Vibrant Minds Therapy & Counseling to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- h. Dr. Cassandra Smith, LCSW-BACS- board reviewed the letter provided with the IOC exam recommendations
- i. Jackie Kellett, LCSW-BACS- board reviewed request to rescind letter of recommendation for a BACS application. The board advised Ms. Kellett that they cannot remove a letter of recommendation for someone who has already been granted status. The board advised Ms. Kellett she can submit a complaint.
- j. Pamela Sund, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to refund the renewal fee paid on 8/24/2023 due to the license not being renewed.
- k. Kermindra Maberry, LCSW-BACS- Board advised the situation as presented has the potential to be a conflict of interest and dual relationship. Ms. Maberry was advised to review Rule 113(A), and 113(B).
- l. Victoria Prather, LCSW- Board advised Ms. Prather to seek peer consultation or legal counsel for the situation presented. She was further advised to be mindful of the Rules regarding exploitation.
- m. Gretchen Roy, LCSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to allow the training completed in August, 2024 to be used for the collection period ending August 31, 2025.
- n. Michelle Adema, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to allow the supervision that was completed outside of the four-year requirement to count towards the LCSW supervision requirement.
- o. Victor Bermudez, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to accept the supervision hours that were completed prior to submitting an updated Supervision

Contract without a loss of supervision credit and to send a letter of education to BACS.

- p. Allison Bullach, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to deny the request for supervision and offer a compliance hearing.
- q. Allison Dasso, LMSW-**Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the supervision provided by Meghan Hedges, LCSW-BACS without a loss of supervision credit.
- r. Caroline DiPreto, LMSW -**Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri to approve the supervision completed, Melissa Haley amended the vote to include a letter of education to the BACS. Trinity George objected to the motion and a roll call vote was taken. Evan Bergeron, Melissa Haley, and Bora Sunseri voted in favor of the motion. Trinity George voted against the motion. The motion to approve the supervision with a letter of education to the BACS carries by majority vote.
- s. Eva Lessinger, LMSW - **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to accept supervision that was completed prior to submitting a supervision contract and offer her a compliance hearing.
Public comment made by Michele Guidry.
- t. Chiera Randall, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to accept supervision that was completed prior to submitting a supervision contract and offer her a compliance hearing.
- u. Carlee Swindle, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to accept supervision that was completed prior to submitting a supervision contract and offer her a compliance hearing.
- v. Courtney Celestine, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision with Sianna Nacoste-Caldwell, LCSW-BACS.
- w. Lacey Scarborough, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision with Rachel Rhodes, LCSW-BACS.

Motion made by Bora Sunseri to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 p.m.


Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS
Vice Chairperson


Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer

Workflow Report Presented on December 6, 2024

Since October 25, 2024 Meeting

Requests for early testing – Masters	8
Requests for early testing – Clinical	7
Early testers issued LMSW	1
Early testers issued LCSW	7
LMSWs issued (not early testers)	37
LCSWs issued (not early testers)	22
BACS issued	10
Retake applications approved	68
Supervision Contracts approved	50
Other supervision approvals	30
Background checks mailed to LSP	45
License verifications	51
In-person CE waiver requests – out of state	3
In-person CE waiver requests – medical	4
Open Book Exam Invites 10/25 – 12/03	9
Open Book Exam Passed 10/25 – 12/03	12
Open Book Exam Failed 10/25 – 12/03	1

Received 15 complaints between 10/21/24 and 11/22/24

Written response	7
Investigation	1
Under consideration	1
Not accepted – not a social worker	4
Not accepted – no violation	2

Other activities:

2 licensing presentations provided to SLU 11/18/24

IdentoGO – effective 11/25/24

