



## Our Mission

The legislature declares that, in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state against unauthorized, unqualified and improper practice of social work, it is necessary that a proper regulatory authority be established and adequately provided for.

FALL 2024

# News | Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

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## From The Chair

*Dr. Hyacinth McKee LCSW-BACS*

*An Invitation...*

As we close the 2024 year and bring into 2025, the invitation is to reflect on whether intention and impact were aligned this past year. In reviewing the purpose of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, which is protection of the public, it is important to assist with continued sharing of information to the public about the profession of social work and its service to the public. First and foremost, SOCIAL WORK IS A PROFESSION. To cite Google artificial intelligence, “a profession is a field of work that involves a high level of education, training, and expertise, and is governed by a code of ethics”. The expansion of this AI definition includes that a profession has a fiduciary relationship with clients. The Social Work profession has a history of one hundred plus years with beginnings

starting from settlement houses, social justice advocacy to clinical treatment evolving into sports social work and environmental justice. With its diverse array of specializations and scopes of practice, social work continues to expand the magnitude of this definition and depth of its expertise as it firmly secures itself into the permanency of the professional workforce in the United States and around the world.

If we believe the above to be true, it is troubling that in 2024 collectively, we continue to experience a challenge when articulating what we do for the public--- to the public. In more clearer terms, when asked “what is a social worker?” by a member of the public, it appears that we find ourselves explaining the difference between who we are as social workers as compared to other allied professions (i.e. counselors, psychologists, LMFTs).

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BOARD MEMBERS

## INTERSTATE COMPACT Update

### ACT 791

The first official meeting for the Interstate compact was held via zoom in September 2024. The meeting was comprised of twenty-two commissioned state delegates who discussed bylaws, data systems, ex officio members, and initial operating funds. The Association of Social Work Boards committed to providing initial foundational funding for the interstate compact to cover start up costs.

The Commission considered which social work organizations would be able to have representatives serve as ex officio members of the Commission, alongside the delegates representing states that have adopted the Social Work Licensure Compact.

The Commission will meet in February 2025 to adopt bylaws and initial rules governing the interstate compact. Our board chair will serve as the delegate and commissioner for Louisiana. The expectation is that states will be able to start offering multi-state licensing as an option to licensees who qualify late 2025 or early 2026. For more information please visit: <https://swcompact.org/>

### LABSWE Interstate Compact Survey Results

In October 2024 the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners sent out a survey to all licensees to gather information regarding interest in the social work compact. It appears that most licensees in our state are very interested in participating in the Interstate Compact. Here are the results:

#### Constant Contact Survey Results

Campaign Name: Social Work Licensure Compact Survey  
 Survey Starts: 2818  
 Survey Submits: 1343  
 Export Date: 11/13/2024 06:37 PM

Will you apply for Multistate licensure?				
Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
• YES			1122	83%
• NO			221	16%
	<i>Total Responses</i>		1343	100%

Please indicate which type of license that you hold.				
Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
• RSW			119	8%
• CSW			56	4%
• LMSW			309	23%
• LCSW			859	63%
	<i>Total Responses</i>		1343	100%

If your answer is No, please check which one applies:				
Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
• I am not eligible.			24	9%
• I am not interested.			166	66%
• I am interested but not eligible.			58	23%
	<i>Total Responses</i>		248	100%

Do you hold a license in another state/jurisdiction?				
Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
• YES			339	25%
• NO			1004	74%
	<i>Total Responses</i>		1343	100%

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS



*Continued from cover:*

**From The Chair:**

*Dr. Hyacinth McKee LCSW-BACS*

This may not happen to all of us, but some of us experience this interaction. Ironically, we are often compared to other human service professions and now that Human Services is a discipline itself, is a conferred degree that is offered at universities, even more explanation of “what we do” as professionals occurs. In my experience, I do not find that Medical Doctors (MDs) or Lawyers, Attorneys (JDs) have that same challenge as they appear to share what they do, and it is received with an understanding and acceptance by the public. One can argue that due to the distinction of their disciplines and the specificity of their practice, it is easier for those professions to articulate their work. It could also be perhaps that doctors and lawyers have been around for hundreds of years and therefore their interaction with the public has been longer, hence, more understood. So, let’s observe a similar profession, like psychologists. Psychology has been around since the late 1800s, however was professionalized in 1917 and by the 1930s with creation of the American Association for Applied Psychology (Benjamin, 2005). The profession of psychology and social work have very similar birthdays, yet psychology is not quickly often compared to other human services disciplines as we as social work often endure. AI Google also noted that a profession has membership in a professional regulatory body. Our profession has a wide range of professional regulatory bodies. We have numerous social work associations, over fifty plus licensing regulatory jurisdictions not to mention many student- led social work associations on the collegiate level inclusive of affinity groups and grass-root organizations with an emphasis on social work practice.

As I reflect on the numerous times in my career that I have had to explain what we do as social workers and how we are not counselors or psychologists, I could not help to finally come to terms with the fact that if we continue to have to explain who we are, then perhaps our public truly does not know. This responsibility of knowledge of what the “profession of social work does and its contribution

to society”, public protection, and public service does not rest upon the public—our clients. The responsibility continues to remain that of the profession of social work to educate and clarify. I am certain that in the minimal research that I have conducted on Medical Doctors, Lawyers/Attorneys, Physical Therapists, Nurses, and other professionals the one thing that they seem to be able to convey to the public was uniformity. After researching the many jurisdictions and state licensing of social workers, it was discovered that our profession has a multitude of different license identifiers. With the many types of practice, outlining the multiple varying scopes and massive numbers of different license letterings, distinctions and designations from LICSW to LCSW to LMSW to LICSW-IP, to CSW to RSW to LIMSW, no wonder it has been a challenge for the public to fully grasp who we are and what we provide to them. Certainly, in no way should this memo from me serve as being harsh judgment to us as professionals. The intention is for the impact to be--- that collectively, WE as professional social workers can come together to reflect, embrace our differences but work to ensure that our public knows who are serving them and who are protecting them. Our public must know that they are receiving services from PROFESSIONAL social workers. These points of view can exist simultaneously. Our intention can align with our impact. We as social workers can be a “unified profession” that serves and protects our public. We, as professional social workers, can strive to work together to solidify uniformity in our profession. Effortlessly, without hesitation when someone, some entity, some legislature, some organization or some system hear the words SOCIAL WORKER, without question, they will know that we are a profession that protects. This is the invitational charge for 2025 and beyond.

*“Professional is not a label that you give yourself—it’s a description you hope others will apply to you.”*

-David Maister

*Happy Holidays,  
Dr. Hy*

References:

Google Artificial Intelligence, November 2024

Benjamin L. T., Jr (2005). A history of clinical psychology as a profession in America (and a glimpse at its future). Annual review of clinical psychology, 1, 1–30. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.clinpsy.1.102803.143758>

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

## Rules Update NOVEMBER 20, 2024

We are continuing our efforts to promulgate rules including but not limited to continuing education, inactive and emeritus status, and telesupervision. Please stay tuned for the Notice of Intent and public comment period.

### **Title 46: Professional and Occupational Standards**

#### **Part XXV. Credentialed Social Workers**

Standards of Practice & General Provisions (LAC 46:XXV Chapters 1 and 3)

**EFFECTIVE November 2024**

#### **Chapter 1. Standards of Practice**

##### **§103. Purpose**

A. The Standards of Practice/Code of Conduct provide a basis upon which to assess and measure the professional conduct of social workers.

**Amended to simplify.**

##### **§117. Conduct**

E. A social worker shall notify the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners within thirty calendar days of any arrests or charges, to include DWI and DUI, regardless of final disposition. Minor traffic offenses such as speeding and parking tickets do not need to be reported.

**Amended to increase the report time of arrests or charges.**

#### **Chapter 3. General Provisions**

##### **§315. Board Members**

B. Officers. The board shall elect annually at its May or June board meeting, a chair, vice-chair, and secretary/treasurer.

**Provides for additional time for the Board to elect officers.**

##### **§329. Discrimination Prohibited**

A. The board shall not deny a license, certificate, or registration or otherwise discriminate against any applicant based upon the applicant's race, religion, creed, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, or differing abilities.

B. The board shall not discriminate against any person based upon the person's race, religion, creed, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, or differing abilities.

**Enacts the Board's anti-discrimination policy.**

##### **§331. Public Comment at Board and Committee Meetings**

A. "Public comment" is defined as verbal or written comments given at a board or committee meeting pertaining to an agenda item specific to that meeting.

B. Members of the public may give public comments at meetings of the board or its committees pursuant to this section.

C. Written public comments may be submitted prior to the meeting via email. Emails will be received up to the close of business on the day prior to the meeting. All emails must be submitted to the address designated by the Board and must include the agenda item number, the commentor's name, and a brief statement. If the commentor wishes to speak during the meeting, they must so state in their email.

D. Verbal public comments may be submitted during the meeting. If attending virtually, commenters may seek recognition using the appropriate function on the virtual platform used by the board or committee to broadcast its meeting. The commentor may speak using their microphone after the chair has recognized them. All participants will be muted upon entry. Any participant that speaks without being acknowledged by the chair or that does not have their device muted will be muted by the moderator. The chair will announce when the floor is open for comments. Verbal comments are limited to 2 minutes per commentor.

E. All comments submitted are recorded and are public record.

F. Public comment will be allowed at the beginning of each meeting prior to any votes by the board or committee. Once the public comment period is closed, it will not be reopened unless permitted by the chair.

G. The Board may provide reasonable accommodation to members of the public who request such accommodations within 72 hours before a meeting of the board or committee.

**Enacts public comment procedures to comply with R.S. 42:17.2.**



# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS



## § 333. Board Meetings

- A. The board shall post its notices and agendas on the board's website at least 24 hours prior to each meeting.
- B. The board shall provide for participation in open meetings via electronic means for any individuals with disabilities recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and/or that individuals caregiver.
- C. The board shall provide the requestor with the accommodation, including the teleconference and/or video conference link, for participation via electronic means following the receipt of the request.
- D. The board shall maintain on its website a remote request form and shall provide a copy of this form via fax, mail or email in response to any written request for accommodation.
- E. A board member shall be allowed to participate and vote in a meeting via teleconference as defined in R.S. 42:17.2.1.

**Enacts procedures to comply with R.S. 42:14(E) through R.S. 42:17.3 as amended by Act 393 (2023), relative to participation by individuals with disabilities recognized by the ADA and/or their caregivers.**

## 2025 BOARD MEETING DATES



**All meetings are held at the Board Office. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person (space is limited) or via zoom. Registration is required and the link to register is emailed at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.**

- 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

## Medicare Telemental Health Coverage

Several telehealth flexibilities implemented during the pandemic are set to expire December 31, 2024. One of these flexibilities enables Medicare beneficiaries to seek mental health services via telehealth without requiring an in-person visit. A report was received from the Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers that there are now two possible avenues for getting the telemental health extension passed: one is connecting the two-year extension to the pharmacy benefits managers bill (no number yet); another is for the passage of H.R. 8261, which is a stand-alone bill for the telemental health extension.

For more information please reach out to LACSW

[www.lacsw.org](http://www.lacsw.org)

**Don't Forget!**

**LABSWE has a Facebook page.**

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# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

## ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORK BOARDS

### *Sunny Andrews Award*



Our Board Chair, Dr. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS, received the prestigious Sunny Andrews Award for Outstanding Commitment to Social Work Regulatory Board Service on November 9th during the ASWB Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly. The award is named for a past president of the association and is awarded annually to one volunteer member of a social work regulatory board service. The criteria for recognition include:

- Upholding the integrity of a member board's functioning and processes
- Enforcing the ethical performance of a member board
- Giving selflessly of personal time and effort to support the work of a member board

*"This recognition is for Louisiana, for our social work licensing board and staff for the hard work it does for our state and stakeholders."*

-Dr. Hyacinth McKee LCSW-BACS

*Pictured left to right: Carla Moore, LMSW, ASWB Director At Large, Dr. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS, LABSWE Board chair, award recipient, and Emily DeAngelo, LABSWE Administrator*  
For more information please visit: <https://www.aswb.org/2024-awards/>

## 2ND ANNUAL

### SOCIAL WORK COLLABORATION MEETING

A meeting of the leaders of Social Work in the state of Louisiana took place on Thursday, December 5, 2024. The purpose of the meeting is to engage in collaborative thought partnership on matters pertaining to the social work profession and its intersection with public protection. An invitation was extended to all associations of social work in the state of Louisiana. Attendees included National Association of Social Workers-LA Chapter and Louisiana Association of School Social Workers.

*Pictured: Shelly Weaver, LCSW-BACS, President NASW-LA, Dr. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS, LABSWE Chairperson, and Dr. Bridgette Webster, LCSW-BACS, President LASSW*

## Staff Shout Out

### Work Anniversaries in 2024

**We appreciate the work that you do!**

**Emily DeAngelo:** 27 years – April

**Sharon Duronslet:** 1 year – June

**Blake Williamson:** 1 year – August

**Sara Banks:** 2 years – September

**Regina DeWitt:** 22 years – September