

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
February 7, 2025**

Hyacinth McKee, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:31a.m. on Friday, February 7, 2025. 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, Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS, Trinity George, RSW, Melissa Haley, LMSW, and Evan Bergeron, Esq., Consumer Member. Sheri Morris, Legal Counsel, and Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, were also present at the meeting.

Public Comments

Public comment made by Erica Buckner regarding correspondence she submitted.

Agenda

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to adopt the agenda as presented.

Minutes

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 10, 2025.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley, and carried by majority vote, to approve the minutes of the strategic planning meeting held January 11, 2025. Jamie Barney objected to the vote and Trinity George abstained.

Executive Session

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 8:43 a.m.

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; Hyacinth McKee, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; Trinity George, yes; and Evan Bergeron, yes.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 1:21 p.m.

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

Presentation of Consent Agreement and Order

In the matter of Nequondra Caleb, RSW, File #2025-33 - **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agreement and Order for Nequondra Caleb. Hyacinth McKee recused from the vote.

Impaired Professional Program

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to adopt the monthly and mid-year reports submitted by Kathie Pohlman, IPP Manager.

Disciplinary Monitoring

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to release two individuals from their Consent Agreement and Order for successfully completing all terms.

Compliance Hearings

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Christopher Rubadue to appeal the board's decision to deny his supervision completed with Ginger Parsons, LCSW-BACS, for the period of October 21, 2022, through February 17, 2023. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Jamie Barney, and Evan Bergeron. Christopher Rubadue and Ginger Parsons participated via zoom.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to deny supervision completed prior to February 17, 2023, with Ginger Parsons, LCSW-BACS.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Claire Garrett to appeal the board's decision to deny her request for approval of remote supervision with Doug Leyda, LCSW-BACS more than 60 days prior to approval of the Supervision Contract beginning on August 29, 2024, and approval to continue remote supervision with Doug Leyda, LCSW-BACS due to a hardship. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Jamie Barney and Evan Bergeron. Claire Garrett participated via zoom.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision with Doug Leyda, LCSW-BACS, completed from August 29, 2024, and request for approval to continue remote supervision.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Erica Pusateri to appeal the board's decision to deny her supervision completed from December 9, 2022, through October 15, 2024, more than 60 days prior to submission of a supervision contract. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Jamie Barney, and Evan Bergeron. Erica Pusateri and Abby Ortego, LCSW-BACS, participated via zoom.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to deny supervision completed from December 9, 2022, through October 15, 2024, with Abby Ortego, LCSW-BACS.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Ryan Averitt to appeal the board's decision to deny his supervision completed from June 1, 2022, through September 24, 2024, more than 60 days prior to submission of a supervision contract. The hearing panel included Bora Sunseri, Jamie Barney, and Evan Bergeron. Ryan Averitt and Mark Nienaber, LCSW-BACS participated in-person.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and carried by majority vote, to deny supervision completed from June 1, 2022, through September 24, 2024, with Mark Nienaber, LCSW-BACS. Bora Sunseri objected to the motion.

Executive Session Correspondence

- i. Alexandra Berstein, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision.

- ii. Candice Gibson, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to schedule a compliance hearing for the March meeting.
- iii. Rynika Polk, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to deny supervision credit from August 29, 2023- July 25, 2024, due to not receiving a supervision contract within 60 days of the first supervisory session and offer a compliance hearing, to grant a two year extension from February 7, 2025 to complete the supervision requirements and to approve her request for remote supervision.

Complaints

- i. **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney and seconded by Evan Bergeron to dismiss Complaint #2025-38. The motion was unanimously carried.
- ii. **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Jamie Barney to dismiss Complaint #2025-46. The motion was unanimously carried.
- iii. **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Bora Sunseri to dismiss Complaint #2025-48. The motion was unanimously carried.
- iv. **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded Bora Sunseri to dismiss Complaint #2025-50. The motion was unanimously carried.
- v. **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Bora Sunseri to dismiss Complaint #2025-78. The motion was unanimously carried.

Applications

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

Bordelon, Madison
 Brown, Isheia
 Brown, Monique
 Guillory, Katie
 Harrison, Lousie
 Hawthorne, Abigail
 Humphries, Madelyn
 Meziere, Becky
 Poydras, Oscar
 Williams, Jazzmine
 Williams, Shane

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, 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.

Barnes, Ivy
 Brower, Terrence
 Burgess, Regionta
 Darce, Alexandra
 David, Kelsey (early test approval)
 Day, Jr., Bradley
 Dixon, Esperanza
 Fuselier, Maggie
 Garner, Dana
 Jain, Neha
 Logsdon, Jessica (early test approval)

McBride, Larkin
Rider, Tonya
Selman, Cheriesa
Stills, Alyecia
Thompson, Avana (early test approval)
Webb, Reginique
Williams, Courtney

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

Abrams, Gina
Andrade Carbo, Fabiolo
Pena-Martinez, Deyanira
Pennywell, Shalina

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

Addison, Alissa (early test approval)
Adema, Michelle
Bellanger, Angela
Bullach, Allison (early test approval)
Clark, Andrea (early test approval)
Cox, Nathaniel
Galindo, Ysela
Hrnjak, Anna
Landor, Miyoka
Mixon, Alliah
Rowan, Bianca
Shelmire, Debvin
Tadman, Ellen (early test approval)
Verdun-Blanco, Valerie
Warren, Kaye

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

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

Gillespie, Angela
Hoy, Chelsea
Humphrey, Verna
Jackson, Mary
Lynch, Joyce
Pippins, Brittany
Smith, LeRoyce
Spencer, Jennifer

Board/Staff Matters

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

- B. Report on pre-approval organizations for continuing education- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to revoke Changing Directions, LLC, OPS Family Care, LLC, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, and Sankora Institute's continuing education approval status for failing to submit the annual list of workshops that their organizations approved and sponsored.
- C. Compact Commission meeting- Dr. Hyacinth McKee advised the Board and public that she was elected to serve as Member-at-Large for the Compact Commission.
- D. Update on promulgation of rules – Sheri Morris informed the Board and public that Chapter 10 subsections were changed from even to odd numbers as per the LA Register's requirements and that this is considered a technical change.
- E. Review of sanction schedule for unlicensed practice- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to adopt the sanction schedule effective February 7, 2025, and to use this schedule for pending files that have not already been addressed.
- F. 2025 ASWB Education Meeting- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve all board members and one staff person to attend the meeting.
- G. 2025 Administrators Workshop- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to send Emily DeAngelo to the ASWB Administrator's Workshop. ASWB will be covering the costs associated with attending this workshop.
- H. Schedule for requesting bids for professional services- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to advertise contractual positions in four-year intervals and staggered. This year the Board will request proposals for an IPP Manager and an accounting firm, next year will be for a Supervision Consultant and Complaint Consultant, year three will be an investigator and general counsel, and year four will be for complaint counsel.

Financial

- A. Board members considered comparison tables for revenue and expenses for September 2023 and 2024, October 2023 and 2024, November 2023 and 2024, and December 2023 and 2024. Board members reviewed the Statement of Assets, Liabilities & Equity, Statement of Revenues & Expenses, and Statement of Revenues & Expenses Budgetary Comparison for the periods ending November 30, 2024 and December 31, 2024. **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney to adopt the financial statements for November 30, 2024 and December 31, 2024.
- B. Amended Budget for FY24-25- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to approve amending the budget for FY24-25 by \$7000 for printing expense for a total of \$14,000 and by \$171,000 for legal expenses for a total of \$381,000.
- C. Proposed Budget for FY25-26- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the proposed budget for FY25-26.

REVENUES

Electronic Commerce Fee	34,485	
Interest Income	20,000	
License Fees	133,750	
Miscellaneous	15,000	
Renewal Fees	543,750	
Restitutions	15,000	
Total		761,985

Other Assets

Investment checking account	925,000
--------------------------------	---------

EXPENSES

Salaries	296,705
-----------------	----------------

Related Employee Benefits

Retirement (34.74% ER contribution)	103,075
Medicare	4,302
Group Insurance	37,876

Total	145,253
--------------	----------------

Total Salaries & Benefits \$441,958

Travel

Administrative (in-state mileage)	250
Administrative (in-state other)	250
Board (in-state mileage)	10,000
Board (in-state other)	2,000
Administrative (out-state other)	3,000
Board (out-state other)	8,000
Conference registration fees	3,000
Total	26,500

Operating

Supplies	5,000
Rent	55,000
Printing	7,000
Postage & Delivery	12,000
Dues & Subscriptions	6,000
Maintenance	5,000
Meetings	20,000
Insurance	3,000
Bank Charges/CC Fees	25,000
Telephone/Internet	4,200
Security	600
Equipment Rental	6,000
Miscellaneous	1,000
Continuing Education	5,000
Total	154,800

Professional Services

Accounting	9,600
Legal	300,000
Auditor	2,335
Complaint Consultant	30,000
Computer Consultants	145,000

Court Reporter	5,000
Impaired Professional Program	30,000
Supervision Consultant	15,000
Investigators	40,000
Consulting (other)	10,000
Newsletter	1,000
Payroll	2,500
Total	590,435

Acquisitions

Computer/Office Equipment

Total 10,000

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$1,223,693


- D. ASWB Membership Dues \$250- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve payment of \$250 for ASWB annual membership fee.
- E. Covalent Logic Statement of Work- supervision data migration- Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the statement of work for supervision data migration.

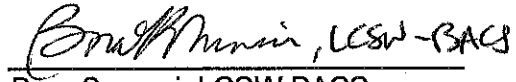
Correspondence

- A. O'Brien House - **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by O'Brien House to be a continuing education pre-approval organization. Jamie Barney abstained from the vote.
- B. The Red Shoes- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by The Red Shoes to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- C. Tulane School of Social Work- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Tulane School of Social Work to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- D. Angela Abel, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision.
- E. Piper Dixon, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to deny the request for remote supervision and offer a compliance hearing.
- F. Brytney Kennedy, LMSW- **Motion** was made Bora Sunseri, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision.
- G. Kamiron May, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision.
- H. Karely Poche, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to deny the request to accept credit for supervised work experience submitted prior to obtaining an approved Supervision Contract and offer a Compliance Hearing.
- I. Annie Leggett, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to approve the supervised work experience completed since supervision began September 19, 2019.

- J. Erica Buckner, LCSW- Board members referred Erica Buckner to La R.S. 37:2706 for the scope of practice of an RSW. Members of the board clarified when the word "shall" is used in statute it means that those actions are mandatory and not permissive. RSW's cannot practice independently. They are required to be employees of an agency.

Motion made by Jamie Barney to adjourn the meeting at 3:58 p.m.


Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson


Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer

Workflow Report Presented on February 7, 2025

Since January 10, 2025 Meeting

Requests for early testing – Masters	7
Requests for early testing – Clinical	4
Early testers issued LMSW	11
Early testers issued LCSW	7
LMSWs issued (not early testers)	10
LCSWs issued (not early testers)	15
BACS issued	9
Retake applications approved	47
Supervision Contracts approved	40
Other supervision approvals	22
License verifications	28
In-person CE waiver requests – out of state	6
In-person CE waiver requests – medical	7
Open Book Exam Invites	5
Open Book Exam Passed	4
Open Book Exam Failed	0

Received 14 complaints between 01/07/25 and 02/03/25

Written response	8
Investigation	0
Under consideration	3
Not accepted – not a social worker	1
Not accepted – no violation	2

State offices closed January 20 – 23, 2025.

