

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
April 28, 2023**

Hyacinth McKee, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. on Friday, April 28, 2023. The meeting was conducted at the Board office and streamed via video conference, and all interested parties were provided the information to join the meeting. Sheri Morris, Legal Counsel, and Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, were present for the meeting.

Bora Sunseri conducted roll call. Board members present at the time of roll call included Evan Bergeron, Esq., Hyacinth McKee, LCSW, Bora Sunseri, LCSW, Melissa Haley, LMSW, and Trinity George, RSW.

Jamie Barney, LCSW, was absent.
There is one vacant position.

AGENDA

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agreement and Order presented by James Raines in the matter of William Garibaldi IV, LCSW. Hyacinth McKee recused herself from the discussion and vote.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held March 24, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Professional Development Network
Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the Continuing Education Pre-approval Application submitted by Professional Development Network.

- b. Robert Brisco, CSW
Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to deny Robert Brisco's request for reconsideration of the board's compliance hearing decision (rehearing) in accordance with the rules as they relate to timeliness for making such a request.

- c. Kaitlyn Roy, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to deny Kaitlyn Roy's request for supervision credit with Brandi Conrad, LCSW-BACS, to be backdated to July 25, 2022.

FINANCIAL

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to renew membership with CLEAR and pay the \$260 annual dues.

BOARD/STAFF MATTERS

- a. Report on office workflow and staffing is an attachment to the meeting minutes.
- b. Report on the ASWB Spring Education Meeting – Hyacinth provided a report on the ASWB Education meeting that was held in New Orleans, LA on April 19- April 22, 2023. Louisiana served as the host state for this international meeting. The staff did a great job to ensure that members and participants of the meeting were introduced to the culture of Louisiana. Information was shared regarding the importance of data and its use in regulation. Hyacinth is a member of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Committee for ASWB and presented survey data to its membership on DEIJ in regulation.
- c. Survey request from The Council of State Governments regarding the Social Work Licensure Compact – at this time the board declines participation in the survey.
- d. LADOJ Occupational Licensing Review Program
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to not participate in fiscal year 2023-2024. The board will re-evaluate it next year.
- e. Continuing Education Ad Hoc Committee update – The CE committee met on April 19, 2023, and reviewed the proposed new Chapter 11 focusing on 1103 and 1105. The members also reviewed and discussed the following and made recommendations regarding: Approval Organizations for Social Work Continuing Education, Application for Continuing Education Approval Organization, Application for Pre-approval of Social Work Continuing Education Program Credit, and the Guidelines for approving Continuing Education Programs. The committee also discussed, and a motion was made, and passed, to impose an application fee for those providers and organizations who complete the Continuing Education Approval Organization Application. The committee will review and revisit the Guidelines for Approving Continuing Education Programs and discuss uniformity, record keeping, and auditing procedures for approval organizations at the next meeting to be held on June 1, 2023.
- f. Policy and Procedure Ad Hoc Committee update – Melissa Haley advised that she is working to set up the first meeting and that it will probably be held on June 1, 2023.

COMPLIANCE HEARINGS

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Amber Cocchiola to appeal the board's decision to deny 32 hours of supervision that were obtained in 2007. The hearing panel included Bora Sunseri, Evan Bergeron, and Melissa Haley. Amber Cocchiola presented at the board office for the hearing.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Kristie Robinson to appeal the board's decision to deny 28 hours of supervision that were obtained in 2017 and 2018. The hearing panel included Bora Sunseri, Evan Bergeron, and Melissa Haley. Kristie Robinson participated virtually.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Arlene Huling to appeal the board's decision to deny 32 hours of group supervision that were obtained in 2015 and 2016. The hearing panel included Bora Sunseri, Evan Bergeron, and Melissa Haley. Arlene Huling participated virtually.

BOARD/STAFF MATTERS

g. Rules Committee reports

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to adopt change to §111 and move forward for promulgation.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and carried by majority vote, to adopt change to §117 regarding the time to report an arrest and to move forward for promulgation.

YAYS 4

NAYS 1

ABSENT 1

NOT VOTING 0

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to adopt change to §331 regarding public comment and to move forward for promulgation.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and carried by majority vote, to amend §1103(C) to require a LCSW to review and approve clinical continuing education.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to amend proposed §1103(I) to read, The Board may charge an application fee not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars for applications and reapplications to become a continuing education approval organization.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to amend proposed §1103(B) to add "or agency head".

Defer discussion on proposed §1105 to strategic planning meeting.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to adopt proposed §913 and move forward for promulgation.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to adopt proposed §981 and move forward for promulgation.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to adopt amendments approved today and move those forward.

CORRESPONDENCE

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to add Stevie Schlessel's request regarding supervision to the agenda.

YAYS 5

NAYS 0

ABSENT 1

NOT VOTING 0

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to deny Stevie Schlessel's supervision credit for the period of August 8, 2022 through January 23, 2023 for late submission of the supervision agreement and to offer her a compliance hearing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 11:31 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: Evan Bergeron, yes; Trinity George, yes; Bora Sunseri, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; and Hyacinth McKee, yes.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 2:00 p.m.

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

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DELIBERATED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Compliance Hearings

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve Amber Cocchiola's request.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve Kristi Robinson's request.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve Arlene Huling's request.

A compliance hearing was conducted in Executive Session at the request of Willie Devereaux to appeal the board's decision to deny his RSW application. The hearing panel included Bora Sunseri, Evan Bergeron, and Melissa Haley. Willie Devereaux participated virtually.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve Willie Devereaux's RSW application.

Disciplinary Monitoring

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

Impaired Professional Program

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

Complaints

Motion was made by Trinity George and seconded by Evan Bergeron, to dismiss Complaint #2022-37. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trinity George and seconded by Evan Bergeron to dismiss Complaint #2022-63. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trinity George and seconded by Evan Bergeron to dismiss Complaint #2022-118 and to send a letter of education to the agency's Executive Director. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2023-48. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2023-83. The motion was unanimously carried.

Applications

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to deny the LCSW endorsement application submitted by Brittany Lacour, to offer her a compliance hearing, and to issue an approval to sit for the ASWB Clinical examination.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW endorsement application submitted by Alexa Sipiora, to offer her a compliance hearing, and to issue an approval to sit for the ASWB Masters examination.

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

Adam, Paige
Alexander, Elvilin
Amar, Gabriel
Bookhardt, Shirlen
Butler, NaShawn
Coleman, Tremeka
Felton, Estell
Garner, Sara
Hessel, Kelly
Hunter, JaQuita
John, Brianna
Kamara, Khadija
Mayo, Brandon
Mansfield, Tikela
Marshall, Latasha
Pollard, Kimlery
Ross, Immesha
Salton-Hobson, Patricia
Spivey, Ambrea
Sostenes Millan, Cinthia
Trowbridge, Kristin

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

Dennis, Janese
Dugas, Charlesha
Moore, Shatoria
Robertson, Jr. Ben
Sauls, Kellie
Sparks, Kiera

Stewart, Dominique
Wright, Jennifer

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

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, 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.

Alexander, Sarah (early test approval)
Beebe, Amanda (early test approval)
Berteau, Lori (early test approval)
Bowens, Lamar
Chaves, Amanda
Clark, Tiffany
Cooks, Ne'Kedra
Couvillion, Emily (early test approval)
Davis, Reagen
Drew, Rebecca
Felder, Renada
Fendlason, Heidi (early test approval)
Foster, Debbie
Garcia, Briana (early test approval)
Goins, Kiara (early test approval)
French, Brittany
Hasson, Motunrayo
Henderson, Ashtyn (early exam approval)
Jackson, Keisha
Jeffcoat, Peyton (early exam approval)
Kam, Monica
Kneisler, Jonathan
LeBouef, Paige
Louviere, Angela (early exam approval)
Magee, Zariah (early exam approval)
Malbrough, LaJeanne
Newman, Sandi
Ocmond, Marcus (early exam approval)
Oge, Mary Katelyn (early exam approval)
Operario, Madelyn (early exam approval)
Richard, Maureen
Roberson, Sierra (early test approval)
Schexnayder, Lindsey (early test approval)
Sciambra, Patrick (early test approval)
Shedrick, Janice (early test approval)
Shepherd, Quankeia
Sorapuru, Kierra
Sovcik, Frances
Stephens, Kari (early test approval)
Sykes, Joshua (early test approval)
Tetzlaff, Vanessa

Trepovicht, Abigail (early test approval)
Weddle, Jillian (early test approval)
Willett, Madison (early test approval)
Yancey, Jordan (early test approval)

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following reinstatement application for Certified Social Work.
Langevin, Michael

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following reinstatement application for Licensed Master's Social Work.
Smith, Tirzah

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following endorsement applications for Licensed Master's Social Work.
Cravens, Kenshara
Edwards, Beri
Howard, Elizabeth
Sipiora, Alexa
Turner, Caroline

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

Boyd, Oanh (early test approval)
Claiborne, Tylar
Collins Brown, Emelda
Dixon, Kayla
Doomes, Brianna (early test approval)
Egler, Kaeli (early test approval)
Gruenig, Maddison (early test approval)
Hines, Bria
Hoover, Donna
Jewell, Erin
Jones, Ashley
Lasserre, Megan
Linam, Barrett
Marcello, Sarah
Plaeger, Sarah
Powell, Sierra
Reed, Jamarcus
Schaffer, Jordan (early test approval)
Sheppard, Lanique
Smith, Traci (early test approval)
Spencer, Latoya
Spurlock, Adirana
Thomas, Shacorye

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the following reinstatement applicants for Licensed Clinical Social Work.

Greene, Jr., Leon
Johnson, LeJeune

Knepper, Mary
Lawson, Jr., Reginald
Marks, Larissa
Wallace, Leslie

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the following endorsement applicants for Licensed Clinical Social Work.

Brown, LeeShawn
Cooper, Ciera
Fowler, Doreen
Gominger, Katy
Grady, Qyonna
Hamilton, Meredith
Lacour, Brittany
Lamin, Faimatta
MacGibbon, Heather
Moquim, Mariam
Moriarty, Shana
Sutherland-Johnson, Andito
Vance, Sabrina
Wade, Holly
Williams, Eureka

Meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.



Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson



Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer

Workflow Report April 28, 2023

Since March 24th meeting

Retake applications	69
Background checks mailed to LSP	24
LMSWs issued – passed exam	26
LCSWs issued – passed exam	25

Supervision Contract	n/a
Record of Supervision	n/a
Evaluation of Supervision	n/a
Professional Experience Verification Record	n/a

License Verifications	48
BACS Applications	7
Early testing for MSW students	24
Early testing for LMSWs in supervision	10

Received 8 complaints between 03/18/23 and 04/25/23

Written response	3
Investigation	0
Pending review of complaint consultant	3
Consult with legal	1
Not accepted – not a social worker	1
Not accepted – no violation	0

Regina provided a Q & A session with soon-to-be MSW graduates via zoom on 04/11/2023.

The n/a in the above sections means the count is not available. This information is as of April 25, 2023.