

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners  
July 16, 2021**

Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:31am on Friday, July 16, 2021. The meeting was conducted at the Board office and streamed via conference and all interested parties were provided the information to join the meeting. The allowance of a video conference is authorized by Proclamation 30 JBE 2020, Section 4 as extended by subsequent executive proclamations including 75 JBE 2020. Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, and Sheri Morris, Legal Counsel, were present for the meeting. Holly Freeman and Maddy Andras were present at the start of the meeting.

Jamie Barney, LCSW, conducted roll call. Board members present at the time of roll call included Evan Bergeron, Consumer Member, John Shalett, LCSW, Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, Hyacinth McKee, LCSW, Carla Moore, LMSW, Jamie Barney, LCSW, and Ada Nelson, RSW. No board members were absent. Evan Bergeron left the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Members of the public in attendance that we are aware of are on the attached list.

**AGENDA**

Motion was made by John Shalett, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to amend and approve the agenda as amended with the addition of Board Announcements.

**BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ruth Weinzettle announced that Holly Freeman is leaving LABSWE. Maddy Andras was introduced as LABSWE office staff that started in June 2021. Emily DeAngelo and Maddy Andras are the only staff persons onsite. The public were informed that we are working to resolve the staffing matters and ask patience.

Change in platforms to the use of Certemy. Board is aware of concerns and shares the concerns. Aware that these changes are conflicting with the renewal of licenses. Frequently asked questions will be sent by email from Emily DeAngelo today that hopefully will assist.

Evan Bergeron made announcement on obtaining CEUs for attendance at board meeting. Read from agenda. "Attendees of the public portion of the meeting can obtain 1 hour of continuing education in ethics and 1 general hour of continuing education. A certificate will be available on LABSWE website for you to save and upload to next year's renewal's workflow or in your digital wallet."

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ruth Weinzettle provided explanation of public comments. There is a maximum of 3 minutes per person. Persons must be recognized to make a comment. When there is a motion, there will be a pause for public comment prior to any vote.

The board heard 11 comments from the public. Comments made in the Zoom chat were read aloud by Evan Bergeron. Those comments are attached.

Earlene Watts was recognized. "I have uploaded CEUs due by 8/31/2021. How often do we need to upload our CEUs? Yearly or every 3 months. I'm assuming we can upload sooner." Emily DeAngelo informed that CEUs must be completed annually. Earlene Watts advised to follow-up with staff with email or call to board office.

Emily DeAngelo and Ruth Weinzettle provided explanation that it would be more efficient to email questions about Certemy to [socialwork@labswe.org](mailto:socialwork@labswe.org). Recommendation made for licensees to email questions.

No additional public comments were made at this time.

### **MINUTES**

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by John Shalett to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 4, 2021. After no public comments were made, motion was unanimously carried.

**Motion** was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Evan Bergeron to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 5, 2021. After no public comments were made, motion was unanimously carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Care NOLA**

**Motion** was made by Carla Moore, seconded by John Shalett to delay approval of the application submitted by Rachel Eriksen for Care NOLA until Marin Casselli's credentials are provided and reviewed. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

#### **Empowering You Social Work Services, LLC**

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Hyacinth McKee to approve the application submitted by Rachel Swafford for Empowering You Social Work Services, LLC. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

#### **Sankofa Center, Inc.**

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Jamie Barney to delay approval of the application submitted by Larry Hayes for Sankofa Center, Inc until verification of signatures for two of the letters of support can be made. The letters from Victoria Lewis and Angela Wiggins Harris consist of the name typed in a different font but does not have a wet signature. There were 4 public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **Start Corporation**

**Motion** was made by John Shalett, seconded by Evan Bergeron to approve the application submitted by Casey Guidry for Start Corporation. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. Jamie Barney recused herself from the discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **Paulette Dawson, LCSW**

Paulette Dawson submitted an inquiry regarding clients watching a progressive muscle exercise on YouTube that she created. She was advised that out of an abundance of caution she may have clients complete an informed consent form prior to recommending the watch the YouTube video, or she may request that the video not be monetized. There was 1 public comment relevant to this matter that is available in the Zoom chat attached to the minutes.

### **Calandra Wilson, LMSW**

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Hyacinth McKee to approve the request by Calandra Wilson to remove the disciplinary flag. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **Hortensia Vincent**

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Evan Bergeron to allow the applicant to submit 2 renewal applications, 1 for the previous renewal period and 1 for the current renewal period. Applications will be reviewed upon receipt. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **Dejion Hughes, CSW**

**Motion** was made by John Shalett, seconded by Hyacinth McKee to approve the request submitted by Dejion Hughes for a waiver of the 90-day wait to retake the LMSW exam. Dejion Hughes was recognized to make a public comment and clarified that he needs to pass the exam to maintain employment. No additional public comments. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **Monique Reno, LCSW-BACS**

Monique Reno submitted an inquiry regarding “implied consent” in relation to enrolling consumers into services. Inquiry as to if the social worker telling the consumer about the services, role and consumer agreeing to answer assessment questions is equivalent to the consumer is implying consent. Board advised that informed consent is required, not implied consent. This situation appears to be a violation of Rule 111(F)(1) and is not an ethical practice for social workers.

### **Carolyn Read, LCSW-BACS**

Carolyn Read submitted a letter regarding the licensure renewal process. Concerns by Carolyn Read and other licensed professionals acknowledged. Emily DeAngelo and Ruth Weinzettle informed that a FAQ will be released in writing on board website that will address inquiries.

**Da’Nethia Saunders, LCSW-BACS**

De’Nethia Saunders submitted a letter regarding the licensure renewal process. It was addressed during the discussion by Carolyn Read.

**Anthony Batiste, RSW**

Anthony Batiste submitted an inquiry regarding providing individual therapy to a child in addition to couple’s therapy. Board members advised that this practice is not prohibited but may not be best practice. Mr. Batiste was told that this requires clinical judgment and the therapist should seek supervision.

**Suzette Ermler, LMSW**

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Carla Moore to approve the request submitted by Suzette Ermler to accept the employment as mitigation specialist as social work practice. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Paulette Riveria, MD, MPH, MBA**

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Evan Bergeron to approve the request submitted by Paulette Riveria, a Consultant with the Louisiana Department of Health, to send a survey to licensees relative to impact of COVID-19. There were 3 public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Marlene Lucas, LCSW-BACS**

**Motion** was made by John Shalett, seconded by Hyacinth McKee to deny the request submitted by Marlene Lucas for an exception to Rule 503(F) which limits supervision groups to 5 supervisees. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Gina Rossi, LCSW-BACS**

Board members considered the comments made by Gina Rossi, LCSW-BACS, regarding Certemy and the distribution of information relative to the licensing platform. The members of the Board agreed to add an evaluation of Certemy and a discussion of the transcription of meetings to the next Strategic Planning meeting agenda.

**BOARD/STAFF MATTERS****Palliative Care Task Force**

Board members reviewed an update from Edgar Guedry relative to this matter.

**Open Meetings Checklist**

Board members received a report from Sheri Morris regarding open meetings. Ms. Morris explained what a rolling or walking quorum is and clarified that all meetings of the Board must be open to the public.

**Legal Sufficiency Review**

Sheri Morris went over her review and recommendations of the changes being proposed to LAC 46:XXV.301, 317, 325, 327 and Chapter 9.

## **Committee Appointments**

Board members discussed implementing a policy in which they reappoint committees annually. It was suggested that this would include putting notice out to obtain interested persons.

## **IPP Committee Report**

**Motion** was made by John Shalett, seconded by Evan Bergeron to defer the IPP Committee report to the August meeting. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion** was made by John Shalett, seconded by Ada Nelson and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 12:09 p.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: John Shalett, yes; Ruth Weinzettle, yes; Ada Nelson, yes; Jamie Barney, yes; Hyacinth McKee, yes; and Carla Moore, yes.

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 5:25 p.m.

## **Presentation of Consent Agreement and Order**

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Jamie Barney to accept the amended consent agreement and order presented by Madeline Carbonette, AAG, in resolution of Complaint #2021-98. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

## **Compliance Hearings**

**Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Hyacinth McKee to approve the LCSW application submitted by Sharonda Ruffin. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Hyacinth McKee to approve the RSW application submitted by LaToya Comeaux-Grant. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Hyacinth McKee to approve the RSW application submitted by Patrick Pollard with conditions. Applicant can be issued the RSW if he completes 7.25 hours of continuing education in ethics. In addition, he must complete 20 hours of continuing education in ethics by December 31, 2021, and pay \$1,000 fine by December 31, 2022, by making \$250.00 payments per quarter. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **Impaired Professional Program**

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Ada Nelson to accept the report submitted by Kathie Pohlman, IPP Manager. There were no public comments. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **Complaints**

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Ada Nelson to dismiss Complaint Numbers 2021-119, 2021-120, 2021-131, 2021-142, 2021-151, 2021-153 and 2021-193. There were no public comments. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **Applications**

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by John Shalett to defer a decision on Tukey'a Jarvis's application and request clarification of legal name. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by John Shalett to deny the application submitted by Daniel Lightell and to offer him a compliance hearing. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Ada Nelson to approve the application submitted by Joyce Benion and to issue approval to sit for the ASWB Masters exam. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Ada Nelson to approve the application submitted by Terri Boykin and to issue approval to sit for the ASWB Masters exam. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried. Hyacinth McKee recused herself from the discussion and vote.

**Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Ada Nelson to deny the application submitted by Katherine Colson and to offer her a compliance hearing. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried. Ruth Weinzettle recused herself from the discussion and vote.

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to approve the following applications for Registered Social Work:

Abiola, Danita  
Allen, Tiana  
Battiste, Evelyn  
Brooks, Nekita  
Brumant, Mackisha  
Caleb, Jakayla  
Cash, Kandace  
Coleman, Koren  
Collins-Williams, Tracey

Cooley, Taryn  
Drake, Mary  
Dupuy, Leah  
Evans, India  
Faulk, Tessua  
Glenn, Nora  
Hartley, Amanda  
Hawkins, Kojerion  
Jackson, Keisha  
Joseph, Ciarra  
King, Rachel  
LaPrairie, Alexis  
Lee, Nicole  
Leger, Destinee  
Levingston, Gabreonna  
McLurkin, Caitlin  
Moller, DeAnna  
Moore, Brittney  
Moses, Saelisa  
Ortiz, Ashley  
Poche, Karely  
Price, Tonya  
Richards, Andra  
Robert, Doris  
Rodney, Robin  
Wagner, Amanda  
Washington, Briana  
Williams, Laura  
Wimberly, Raneshia

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Carla Moore 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:

Banes, Lanz  
Bridges, Ashlyn  
Cage, Tia (passed M exam)  
Cancienne, Jeanne  
Dunn, Cierra  
Ensmenger, Abigail  
Field, Patrick  
Franklin, Jasmine  
Frey, Jacquelyn\*  
Gaines, Cierra  
Green, Zanetta  
Griffin, Kala  
Hai, Hang

Hall, Cynthia  
Hardy, Doretha  
Hartman, Tyrian  
Jackson, Jasmine  
Johnson, Myesha  
Keller, Jamara  
King, Shauntell  
Klister, Zachary  
McGill, Brionne  
Macklin, Riley (passed M exam)  
Maddox, Tiffani (Rein)  
Manning, LaTanya  
Mickel, Kuri  
Moody, Kashenna  
Osborne, Kayla  
Pillette, Kayla  
Potter, Brittany  
Ragusa, Danielle  
Randle, Angela  
Robinson, Allison  
Robinson, Myoshia  
Ross, Alexis  
Smith, Shaquana  
Starck, Tamar  
Smith, Kiva  
Walker, Letecia  
Whisnant, Britney  
Williams, Kelvanisha  
Williams, Erica

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to issue Licensed Master Social Work through endorsement to:  
Cone, Cara (End-MS)  
Sullivan, Eileen (End.-NY)

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Clinical Exam:  
Cook, Kelli (Rein.)  
Crawford, Todd  
Fore, Tyler  
Octave, Arielle  
Reliford-Salley, Shundra  
Washington, LaSonja  
Weeks, Shawnene  
Wilcox, Kristen



**Motion** was made Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to issue Licensed Clinical Social Work through endorsement to the following applicants:

Heintz, Jackie (End-CA)  
Moller, Heather (End-MS)  
Morales, Phoenix (End-TX)  
Pierce, Ciara (End-GA)  
Reyes, Michelle (End-MD)  
Williams, Devin (End-MS)  
Yates, Natalie (End-NC)

**Review of draft Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law and Sanctions for Administrative Complaint Numbers 2017-28 and 2020-140**

**Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Hyacinth McKee to adopt Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law and Sanctions and to issue the Order in the matters of Administrative Complaint Numbers 2017-28 and 2020-140. There were no public comments relevant to these matters. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Personnel Matter**

**Motion** was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Jamie Barney to approve a 4% salary increase to Emily DeAngelo and Regina DeWitt effective with July 2021 payroll.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48pm

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Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW-BACS  
Chairperson

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Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS  
Secretary-Treasurer