

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
March 24, 2023**

Hyacinth McKee, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, March 24, 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 Hyacinth McKee, LCSW, Bora Sunseri, LCSW, Melissa Haley, LMSW, and Trinity George, RSW.

Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, Jamie Barney, LCSW, and Evan Bergeron, Esq., were absent.

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 ORDERS

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agreement and Order presented by James Raines in the matter of Luke Klein, RSW, Complaint #2023-59.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve the Interim Consent Agreement and Order presented by James Raines in the matter of Caleb Stephens, Complaint #2023-100.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held February 24, 2023. Melissa Haley abstained from the vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Winters Mental Health and Consulting – Application for CE Approval Organization (reinstate)
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Winters Mental Health and Consulting.

- b. Victory Addiction Recovery Center- Application for CE Approval Organization (reinstate)
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Victory Addiction Recovery Center.

- c. Professional Development Network-Application for CE Approval Organization
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to not accept the recommendation letter submitted by Kristen Chawla and to advise Professional Development Network that they need to have a letter of recommendation from an individual outside of their organization submitted for consideration.
- d. Cypress Clinical Counseling, LLC- Application for CE Approval Organization
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Cypress Clinical Counseling.
- e. Grounded Wellness Collaborative, LLC- - Application for CE Approval Organization
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Grounded Wellness Collaborative.
- f. Katie Dotie, LCSW-BACS- request to extend group supervision with Kim Franklin, LMSW
Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to deny allowing Kim Franklin, LMSW, to receive more than 48 hours of group supervision.
- g. Arlene Huling, LMSW- request to accept supervision completed in 2016
Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to deny the supervision hours obtained in 2015 and 2016.
Public comment was provided by Jennifer Hannon.
- h. Peyton Eschette, LMSW- question regarding ethical practice
Board members caution against dual relationships that could lead to allegations of exploitation. It is recommended that the social worker consult with the school and or school district policies relative to obtaining payment for services provided to students outside of employment.
- i. LSU School of Social Work- Request for approval of 6.5 hour BACS workshop
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve the supervision workshop scheduled on March 31, 2023.

- j. Freedom Therapy Center, LLC- Application for CE Approval Organization (reinstate)
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Freedom Therapy Center, LLC.
- k. NW Regional Association of Black Social Workers- Application for CE Approval Organization (reinstate)
Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by the NW Regional Association of Black Social Workers.
Melissa Haley abstained from the discussion and vote.
- l. Herzing University MSW Program- Application for CE Approval Organization
Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the application conditional of receiving two letters of recommendation from Louisiana social workers.
- m. Anna Silva, LMSW- requesting reinstatement at the LCSW level
Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to deny Anna Silva's request to be reinstated as a LCSW and to offer her a compliance hearing.

FINANCIAL

- a. Financial statements for the periods ending 12/31/2022, 01/31/2023, 02/28/2023
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the financial statements for the periods ending 12/31/2022, 01/31/2023, and 02/28/2023.
- b. Professional Service Contracts
 - Accounting Services – Griffin and Furman, LLC
Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the offer of a contract to Griffin and Furman, LLC, at a cost of \$300 per month plus \$900 for the preparation of the AFR for a total contract amount of \$4,500.
 - Complaint Counsel – Breazeale, Sacshe & Wilson, LLP
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the offer of a contract with Breazeale, Sacshe & Wilson, LLP at the fee schedule set by the Attorney General and for a maximum contract amount of \$70,000.
 - Board Counsel – Daigle, Fisse & Kessenich, PLC
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the offer of a contract with Daigle, Fisse & Kessenich, PLC, at the fee schedule set by the Attorney General and for a maximum contract amount of \$50,000.

Complaint Consultant – Lisa Lipsey, LCSW-BACS

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve the offer of a contract to Lisa Lipsey at an hourly rate of \$100 and a maximum contract amount of \$20,000.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve the offer of a contract to Kathie Pohlman at an hourly rate of \$115 and a maximum contract amount of \$20,000.

Melissa Haley abstained from the discussion and vote.

Supervision Consultant – Gina Signorelli, Esq., LCSW-BACS

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the offer of a contract to Gina Signorelli at an hourly rate of \$100 and a maximum contract amount of \$10,000.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to advertise contract positions on an alternating basis every two years.

Public comment was given by Jennifer Hannon.

- c. FARB Membership Renewal - \$175

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to renew the board's membership with FARB.

Public comment was given by Austin Matthews.

BOARD/STAFF MATTERS

- a. DOJ Training on Open Meetings Law

Lauryn Sudduth, Assistant Attorney General, provided an informative presentation on open meetings law and covered topics such as quorum, executive session, consent agendas, roll call votes, recordings, and public comments.

- b. Report on office workflow and staffing is attached to these minutes.

- c. Legislation Review Committee

Hyacinth McKee volunteered to chair this committee.

- d. Continuing Education Ad-Hoc Committee

Hyacinth McKee appointed Trinity George, Ada Nelson, Cecelia Ryder, and Ebony Allen and designated Trinity as committee chair. The first committee meeting is tentatively scheduled on April 19, 2023. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will be conducted at the board office.

- e. Policy and Procedure Ad-Hoc Committee

Committee chair Melissa Haley advised that she will be contacting committee members to schedule the first meeting.

- f. Technology Ad-Hoc Committee
Committee chair Bora Sunseri provided a summary of the meetings held with various tech companies. She is researching procurement requirements with the help of Sheri Morris and will provide an update at the next meeting.
- g. Justice 3D: Empathy-Based Interviewing
Emily DeAngelo suggested sending the board's investigators to this training. Board members agreed to reconsider once cost to attend is set.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 11:39 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: Trinity George, yes; Bora Sunseri, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; and Hyacinth McKee, LCSW, yes.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 2:31 p.m.

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

Impaired Professional Program report and meeting with Kathie Pohlman, IPP Manager

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the report provided by Kathie Pohlman.

Disciplinary Monitoring Report

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to release Ada Craige-Roberson from her Consent Agreement and Order because she completed all requirements.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to advise Ada Craige-Roberson that her BACS designation will be reconsidered after she completes the required training and submits the application and letters of recommendation.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to deny Ada Craige-Roberson's request to remove the disciplinary flag from the board's website.

Complaints

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2021-31 with a letter of education.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to forward Complaint #2021-191 to complaint counsel for consideration.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2022-80 with a letter of education.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2023-47.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2023-52.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2023-56.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2023-63.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2023-67.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2023-75.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2023-75.2.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2023-84.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2023-97.

Requests for supervision credit

Amber Cocchiola, LMSW

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to deny credit for supervision completed by Amber Cocchiola more than four years ago and to offer her a compliance hearing.

Kristie Robinson, LMSW

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to deny credit for supervision completed by Kristie Robinson more than four years ago and to offer her a compliance hearing.

Request regarding continuing education

Yvette Robinson, LCSW – request regarding September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024 continuing education collection period

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to grant Yvette Robinson approval to complete all continuing education for the 2023 – 2024 collection period via distance learning due to her extenuating circumstances.

Applications

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to deny the RSW application submitted by Willie Devereaux and to offer him a compliance hearing.

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

Brown, Gabrielle
Bruno, Rachelle
Crawford, Yasmine
Greenhouse, Kevin
Hawkins, Rayshun
Hunstock, Myke
Hunt, Kandis
Jackson, Laurie
Knight, Wendell
Leal, Felicia
McMasters, Skyla
Osiagwu, Ngozika
Peevy, Amanda
Stepter, Markeith
Taylor, Christen
Thomas, Adrienne

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

Dorsey, LaShawn
Johnson, Tiffany

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 the Certified Social Work credential and approval to take the ASWB Masters exam.

Alexander, Shonn

Anderson, Kailyn
Barrow, Angelique
Barton, Madelyn
Benion, Britney
Benjamin, Marquita
Cobb, Roy
Cogg, Aviance
Brown, Terri
Davis, ShaQuinta
Franklin, Casey
Goudy, Latonya
Gray, Sarah
Grigsby, T'Niya
Hawkins-Courtney, Tameka
Hill, Maia
Huber, Andrea
James-Sanders, Natasha
Knight, Wendell
Lafont, Jenna
Lambert, Myesha
Lemieux-Bowman, Kashenna
Martin, DeMeisha
May, Kamiron
Neuman, Alana
Rehman, Sarah
Scarborough, Lacey
Thomas-Declouet, Jessica
Tucker, Shantell

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.

McCovery, Rhoda
Nelson, LaBrea

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

Alexander, Karla
Andries, Jennie
Baker, Sandriekia
Baptiste, Kendra
Basinger, Sarah
Boyer, Tamika
Broussard, Kristi
Caire, Neal
Carodine, Shakea

Chilton, Jr. Robert
Drake, Takeasha
Flowers-Dumes, Sharmaydeen
Grafton, Straley
Hall, DeiAnna
Juneau, Hannah
Lally, Amanda
Lemieux-Bowman, Kashenna
Lewis, Tyra
McCoy, Leslie
Mitchell, Sarah
Moore, Jenefier
Mosier, Tara
Murphy, Elizabeth
Oldani, Alexandra
Quattlebaum, Sarah
Palmer, Cassie
Raby, Victoria
Roy, Madeline
Saybe, Elizabeth
Skapik, Allison
Smith, Miranda
St. Cyr, Shamone
Trim, Patricia
Trosclair, Jessica
Wallace, Max
Williams, Darrell
Wilson, Wilbert

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve the following endorsement applicants for Licensed Clinical Social Work.

Alexander, Shanequa
Sutherland, Gabrielle
Williams, Deanna

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 2:49 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: Trinity George, yes; Bora Sunseri, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; and Hyacinth McKee, LCSW, yes.


Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 3:29 p.m.

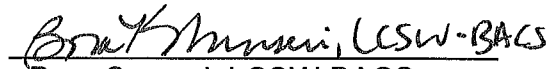
Votes for coming out of Executive Session: Trinity George, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; Bora Sunseri, yes; and Hyacinth McKee, yes.

Compliance Hearing

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW application filed by Kenneth Jackson, Jr., and to issue registration as a Registered Social Worker subject to the following, within 12 months he will pass the Open Book Exam, complete 12 pre-approved hours of continuing education in social work ethics, and pay a fine of \$500. He may file an application for LMSW after all conditions are complete.

Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.


Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson


Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer

Workflow Report March 24, 2023

Since February 24th meeting

Retake applications	61
Background checks mailed to LSP	42
LMSWs issued	18
LCSWs issued	9

Supervision Contract	30
Record of Supervision	38
Evaluation of Supervision	40
Professional Experience Verification Record	36

License Verifications	40
BACS Applications	9
Early testing for MSW students	15
Early testing for LMSWs in supervision	10

Received 16 complaints between 02/21/23 and 03/17/23

Requested written response	4
Sent for investigation	1
Pending review of complaint consultant	2
Not accepted – not a social worker	1
Not accepted – no violation	8

This information is as of March 17, 2023.