

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
April 26, 2025**

Hyacinth McKee, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, 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, Liam Doyle, Consumer Member, and Melissa Haley, LMSW. Sheri Morris, Legal Counsel, and Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, were also present at the meeting.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Agenda

A request was made to amend the agenda to add correspondence related to emeritus status and BACS supervision to agenda item VI.C. **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to adopt the agenda with the amendment.

Cicero Licensing & Web Accessibility Compliance Proposal

The Board is currently working with Covalent Logic to relaunch its previous licensing platform with the addition of a supervision component. Since starting this endeavor, Covalent Logic has rolled out an upgraded platform. Board members received a proposal for upgrading to the new Cicero Licensing Website and Licensing Portal. In addition to this proposal the Board considered the proposal to bring its website to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 which make web content more accessible to people with disabilities in accordance with the state's Policy and Procedure Memoranda (PPM) Number 74.

Licensing Platform Update

Emily DeAngelo advised that Covalent requested a two-week data freeze to transition the data from Certemy. Licensees will be sent notice that there will be no access to Certemy beginning May 18, 2025.

Building Lease

Board members were notified that the lease on our office is set to expire April 30, 2026.

Retention Schedule

Emily DeAngelo requested a review and a discussion about the Board's current retention schedule, particularly the documentation that has been deemed permanent to determine if the record should continue to be permanent. Hyacinth McKee, Board Chair, asked that the Policy and Procedure Committee review the retention schedule and make recommendations.

Rules

- A. The substantive changes made after consideration of the comments the Board received after publishing the Notice of Intent were published in the April 20th edition of the *Louisiana Register*. A public comment period and hearing are required. Written public comments on the substantive changes can be accepted until May 16, 2025 and the hearing will be conducted May 21, 2025.
- B. The Board considered correspondence from Will Francis, Gina Rossi and Shelly Weaver regarding Rules 331 & 333. Board members discussed the rules and determined that the rules are sufficient as written.

- C. Board members discussed the emeritus status and explained that the BACS designation is not carried into emeritus status.
- D. The Board briefly discussed items pending the Rules Committee and advised that Jamie Barney will be chairing the committee.


Financial


- A. Financial statements for the period ending February 28, 2025 – Board members reviewed the Statement of Assets, Liabilities & Equity, Statement of Revenues & Expenses, and Statement of Revenues & Expenses Budgetary Comparison for the period ending February 28, 2025. **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to accept the financial statement as information.
- B. Board members reviewed revenue and expenses for 2024 and 2025 that occurred in February as information.
- C. CLEAR 2025-2026 Membership Dues – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to not renew its membership with the Council on Licensure Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR).
- D. FY 2025-2026 Professional Service Contracts
Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Melissa Haley and unanimously carried, to offer contracts with the following proposed terms.
Breazeale, Sachse, Wilson – Complaint Counsel at an hourly rate of \$325/hour and a maximum contract amount of \$190,000.
Daigle, Fisse & Kessenich – Legal Counsel at an hourly rate of \$325/hour and a maximum contract amount of \$95,000.
Gina Signorelli – Supervision Consultant at an hourly rate of \$100/hour and a maximum contract amount of \$15,000.
Integrated Security & Investigative Specialists – Investigator at a rate of \$50/hour and a maximum contract amount of \$25,000.
Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Melissa Haley and unanimously carried, to offer a contract to Lisa Lipsey as Complaint Consultant at a rate of \$115/hour and a maximum contract amount of \$30,000.
- E. FY 2024-2025 Amendments to Legal Contracts
Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to amend the maximum contract amount for FY 24-25 with Daigle, Fisse & Kessenich from \$80,000 to \$95,000.
Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to amend the maximum contract amount for FY 24-25 with Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson from \$130,000 to \$175,000.

Legislation

Board members were provided with a list of legislation that may affect the Practice Act and/or LABSWE as a state agency or its employees. Liam Doyle, Consumer Member, volunteered to monitor legislation.

Motion made by Trinity George to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 p.m.


Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson


Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS
Vice-Chairperson