

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners  
January 14, 2011**

John McBride, LCSW, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 14, 2011, in the Conference Room at the Board office located at 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Emily Efferson, Administrator, and Regina Breaux, Administrative Assistant, were present for the entire meeting. Other individuals present for a portion of the meeting were Carmen Weisner, Jackie Shellington and Dolly Williams.

Michael Hickerson, RSW, conducted roll call. Board members present included Evelyn Jenkins, LCSW, John McBride, LCSW, Wade Tyler, LCSW, Naaman Stewart, GSW, and Michael Hickerson, RSW. Hope Himel-Benson was absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Carmen Weisner, Executive Director of NASW-LA Chapter, reported that the brochure has been mailed for their annual conference. She stated that they have received positive feedback regarding the additional sessions that have been added. Ms. Weisner also reported that they are still waiting on a response from the governor's office to appoint Dr. Tyler's replacement for board member position.

**AGENDA**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to accept the agenda as presented.

**Minutes**

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept the minutes as presented for the December 10, 2010, board meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by **Scott Embley, LCSW**. Mr. Embley submitted a request that the board create a policy for situations where a grievance is filed at the agency level and waiving the person's right to confidentiality so the social worker who is named in the grievance would be allowed to report information to defend him/herself. Members of the board agreed to forward Mr. Embley's concern to their legal counsel for an opinion. Once the board office receives an opinion from legal counsel it will be shared with Mr. Embley.

Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by **Terry Knauf, LMSW**. Ms. Knauf submitted a letter to the board expressing her concerns over the limited testing sites in Louisiana to take the ASWB Clinical level examination. Members of the board instructed staff to contact ASWB concerning this situation.

Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by **Brian Applewhite, LMSW**. Mr. Applewhite requested the board to accept supervision that he completed in Louisiana. He stated that he did not complete and submit the proper paperwork within the allowed time. Members of the board informed Mr. Applewhite that they will consider his supervision once he submits the proper paperwork along with the LCSW application.

#### **CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to suspend **Michelle Hammond's** Certified Social Worker credential for failure to complete the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order. Ms. Hammond is required to cease her practice of social worker until her credential is reinstated by the board.

#### **FINANCIAL**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to approve the purchase of a new computer for the board office.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to renew membership with ASWB.

#### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP**

Jackie Shellington, LCSW, reported that the topics of discussion of the behavioral health professional working group meeting included determining professional competence at the point of licensure, and specifying what makes a LPC competent to diagnose and treat consumers. Ms. Shellington advised that the BHPWG would like to have an advisory group for mental health boards that will review any proposed legislation and work out any disagreements between the boards prior to the legislature hearing from the boards. The Psychology and Medical Examiners Boards are continuing to express their concerns regarding competency issues with a license that has no practice restrictions. The BHPWG is recommending that the legislature appoint an advisory committee.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 9:39 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 for investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

Votes for going in to Executive Session: John McBride yes; Evelyn Jenkins, yes; Michael Hickerson, yes; Naaman Stewart, yes; and Wade Tyler, yes.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 10:22 a.m. to make the following motions:

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to authorize George Papale to file a lawsuit against LASERS if necessary.

## **BOARD/STAFF ISSUES**

### **Review of Changes to the Rules, Standards and Procedures**

George Papale commented on the redundancy of the language in the proposed rules regarding background checks and the prohibition of bartering being reported under the Fee section of the rules and under Social Work Relationships. Mr. Papale recommended that the board contact the Legislative Office to request that Licensed Master's Social Worker be changed to Licensed Master Social Worker.

### **NASW Conference**

Members of the board were reminded to register for the sessions that they want to attend at the upcoming conference.

### **RFP for Ethics Continuing Education Course**

Michael Hickerson presented a draft copy of a RFP for an ethics workshop that the board plans to sponsor. Members of the board will continue to refine the contract.

### **IPP Policy Manual**

Evelyn Jenkins presented the board with a copy of the revised IPP policy manual. Members of the board would like to incorporate the actions that will be taken if a participant is non-compliant with the program.

### **Update on Background Checks**

Regina Breaux reported that the Criminal Records Department at the Louisiana State Police Office has not entered the ORI number issued by the FBI. Until the ORI number has been issued background checks will not be processed. Emily Efferson contacted Brenda Wood, Criminal Records Analyst 5, and explained the urgency of this being processed. Ms. Wood assured Ms. Efferson that it would be entered within the week.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 11:40 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 for investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

Votes for going in to Executive Session: John McBride yes; Evelyn Jenkins, yes; Michael Hickerson, yes; Naaman Stewart, yes; and Wade Tyler, yes.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 11:55 p.m. to make the following motions:

#### **Monitoring Reports-Disciplinary**

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept the disciplinary monitoring report.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the supervision report submitted by Darlene Abbott, LCSW-BACS, on behalf of **Robin Cannatella, LCSW**.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to send **Elizabeth Oliveira, LMSW**, a certified notification that she must be in compliance with her Consent Agreement and Order within 30 days.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to request that **Angelique Tullos, RSW**, submit letters from past potential supervisors noting that they are unable to provide her with supervision in accordance with her Consent Agreement and Order.

#### **Board/Staff Issues**

Members of the board met with Hank Lalumandier, Building Owner, to discuss the renewal of the building lease and security concerns. Mr. Lalumandier agreed to install a security door, wall to separate the reception desk from the front entrance, and to remodel the restroom. Mr. Lalumandier requested that the board forward a letter of intention to renew the lease.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 1:50 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 for investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

Votes for going in to Executive Session: John McBride yes; Evelyn Jenkins, yes; Michael Hickerson, yes; Naaman Stewart, yes; and Wade Tyler, yes.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 2:55 p.m. to make the following motions:

#### **New Complaints**

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2011-55**, for investigation of possible violations of Rule 107A and La. R.S. 2717A (11) and 2717A (12).

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2011-56**, for investigation of possible violations of Rule 113B, 113B(3), 113A(6), 113B(1), and La. R.S. 2717A(7) and 2717A(11).

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2011-62** for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

#### **Monitoring Reports-Impaired Professional Program (IPP)**

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept the report submitted by Sherril Rudd, LCSW, IPP Manager.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to send **JC-07** to the Attorney General's office to draft an administrative complaint for failure to follow the terms of the Participation Agreement.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to send **MG-10** certified notification that she must be in compliance with her Participation Agreement within 30 days. If she is not in compliance within 30 days a complaint will be filed.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to request **JG-09** to correspond with the IPP manager in letter form. She was also advised that she is expected to complete her check-ins every day as per her Participation Agreement.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to send **JM-10** to the Attorney General's office to draft an administrative complaint for failure to follow the terms of the Participation Agreement.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to document in the minutes that participant **JW-09** is deceased.

#### **Compliance Hearing for Richard Brown, MSW**

Richard Brown requested a compliance hearing to appeal the board's decision to deny his application for the Licensed Master Social Worker credential. Mr. Brown had attorney Benjamin Brown present for the proceedings. The board denied the application because he documented on the application that he worked from 5/01/07 - 10/15/07 as a crisis counselor. Mr. Brown did not have a credential issued by LABSWE during this time. Mr. Brown stated that the job posting for the crisis counselor position only required the applicant to have a MSW. He further stated that when he was hired he was never asked if he held a credential. Mr. Brown testified that he has not been working within the scope of practice of a social worker. He stated that he has been contracting as a grant writer and doing budget analysis.

#### **Compliance Hearing for Chasity J. Kee, MSW**

Chasity Kee requested a compliance hearing to appeal the board's decision to deny her application for the Licensed Master Social Worker credential. Ms. Kee had attorney and husband Mr. Kee present for the proceedings. The board denied Ms. Kee's application because she indicated on her application that she has been working since May, 2010, as a social worker without the benefit of a credential issued by the LABSWE and that she was previously offered a Consent Agreement and Order in 2006 for working more than 120 days without a credential. Ms. Kee did not complete the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order that was issued in 2006. Ms. Kee testified that she did not complete the ethics portion of the Consent Agreement and Order because she moved out of state. She and Mr. Kee also stated that they did not receive the notification letters that were mailed to her from the LABSWE office.

#### **Compliance Hearing for Tamara Pierre, MSW**

Tamara Pierre requested a compliance hearing to appeal the board's decision to deny her application for the Registered Social Worker. Ms. Pierre's application for the Registered Social Worker was denied because she documented on her application that she has worked since 2005 without a credential issued by the LABSWE. Ms. Pierre testified that she enrolled into nursing school in 2005. She stated that she did not know that she had to be credentialed to perform as a grant writer for a social service agency.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 3:55 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 for investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

Votes for going in to Executive Session: John McBride yes; Evelyn Jenkins, yes; Michael Hickerson, yes; Naaman Stewart, yes; and Wade Tyler, yes.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 4:00 p.m. to make the following motions:

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to offer **Richard Brown, MSW**, a Consent Agreement and Order. The Consent Agreement and Order requires Mr. Brown to take and pass the Open Book Examination and complete five pre-approved hours of continuing education in social work ethics within 90 days. Once Mr. Brown signs the agreement he will be issued the Certified Social Worker credential and issued approval to take the ASWB Masters level examination for the Licensed Master Social Worker.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to offer **Chasity Kee, MSW**, a Consent Agreement and Order. The Consent Agreement and Order requires Ms. Kee to take and pass the Open Book Examination and complete eight pre-approved hours of continuing education in social work ethics. Once Ms. Kee signs the agreement she will be issued the Registered Social Worker credential.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to offer **Tamara Pierre, MSW**, a Consent Agreement and Order. The Consent Agreement and Order requires Ms. Pierre to take and pass the Open Book Examination and complete eight pre-approved hours of continuing education in social work ethics. Once Ms. Pierre signs the agreement she will be issued the Registered Social Worker credential.

### **New Complaints**

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2011-63**, for investigation of possible violations of Rule 117A and La. R.S. 2717A (7).

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2011-64**, for investigation of possible violations of Rule 113A(1), 113B(1), 107B and La. R.S. 2717A (5) and 2717A(7).

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2011-65**, for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Rules, Standards and Procedures and the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

### Pending Complaints

Hearing in the matter of **Complaint #2009-60** has been scheduled for February 18, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2009-111**, for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Hearing in the matter of **Complaint #2010-108** has been scheduled for February 18, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-143**, for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2011-02**, for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

### New Applications

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to deny the Licensed Clinical Social Work Endorsement application for **Mary E. Hart, MSW**. Ms. Hart has been offered a Compliance Hearing.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to deny the Registered Social Work application for **Nicole Bigham**. Ms. Bigham did not graduate from a CSWE accredited social work program. Ms. Bigham has been offered a Compliance Hearing.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to deny the Licensed Clinical Social Work Endorsement application for **Judith Cormier, MSW**. Ms. Cormier was granted approval to take the ASWB Clinical level examination. Ms. Cormier has been offered a Compliance Hearing.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to deny the Registered Social Worker application for **Josephine Oubre**. Ms. Oubre has been offered a Compliance Hearing.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to grant the following applicants registration as a **Registered Social Worker**:

Franklin, Enchante  
Nkengaka, Akamin

Gaddis, Jaffalyn  
Northcutt, Karen



Nugent, Rebecca  
 Robinson, Aerial  
 Thomas, Fikisha

Paul, Ashley  
 Smith, Stacey

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for **Certified Social Worker** certification and to grant approval for the applicants to sit for the ASWB Masters examination for licensing as a **Licensed Master Social Worker**:

Ahern, Shannon  
 Brown, Corine  
 Coleman, Sanara  
 Davis, Debra  
 Gaubert, Renee'  
 Griffin, Piper  
 Harris, Christopher  
 James, Lyndsey  
 Kinney, Heather  
 McLaren, Alana  
 Parmer, Mary Katherine  
 Russell, Rebecca  
 Thompson, Tiffany  
 Warren, Aileen  
 Wong, Asia

Bensel, Jayme  
 Clark, Ashley  
 Davenport, Charron  
 Duffy, Lauren  
 Harrington, Tyler  
 Ham, Mary  
 Harris, Melissa  
 King, Samantha  
 LaRoche, Danielle  
 Morris, Chiquita  
 Roy, Kailyn  
 Sheffield, Eliza  
 Walsdorf, Shannon  
 Williams, Jr., Stanford

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Clinical exam for licensing as a **Licensed Clinical Social Worker**:

Alexander, Iris  
 Downs, Felicia  
 Hall, Laure  
 Landry, Bridget  
 Roux, Christina

Bickham-Logan, Malinda  
 Garner, Sandra  
 Bergeron Jones, Carolina  
 Rosenthal, Joanna

#### **Compliance Hearing for Natalie Jarrell, MSW**

Natalie Jarrell requested a compliance hearing to appeal the board's decision to deny her renewal application for the Licensed Master Social Worker. Ms. Jarrell's renewal application for the Licensed Master Social Worker was denied because of her affirmative answers on her application. Ms. Jarrell is currently in an 18 month pre-trial program that began December, 2010. She stated that as of August 31, 2010, she had not completed her continuing education hours to renew her credential. She has now completed the continuing education hours to renew her credential and has begun collecting hours for the current collection period. Ms. Jarrell stated that she resigned from her place of employment in May, 2010. She testified that she completed a 7 day detox in Baton Rouge and 28 days in-patient in

Marksville. She further stated that she attends AA meetings two to three times a week, depending on the availability of a babysitter.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 4:56 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 for investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

Votes for going in to Executive Session: John McBride yes; Evelyn Jenkins, yes; Michael Hickerson, yes; Naaman Stewart, yes; and Wade Tyler, yes.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Naaman Stewart and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 5:05 p.m. to make the following motions:

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to grant **Natalie Jarrell, MSW**, the Registered Social Worker registration and to require entry into the IPP within 30 days of notification.

Motion made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

*John McBride LCSW*

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John McBride, LCSW  
Chairperson

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Michael Hickerson, RSW  
Vice Chairperson

*Hope Hamel-Benson LCSW*  
Hope Hamel-Benson, LCSW  
Secretary-Treasurer