

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
June 2, 2023**

Hyacinth McKee, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. on Friday, June 2, 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., Jamie Barney, LCSW, Hyacinth McKee, LCSW, Bora Sunseri, LCSW, Melissa Haley, LMSW, and Trinity George, RSW.

There is one vacant position.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments supporting virtual supervision were made by Gina Rossi, Austin Matthews, Avis Brown, Carmen Spooner, Tyshika Lofton, DeJion Hughes, Sarah Arnouville, Quaneisha Browning, and Michele Guidry.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meetings held April 28, 2023 and April 29, 2023. Jamie Barney abstained from the vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. NASW-LA Chapter – letter dated May 4, 2023
Shelly Weaver and Carmen Spooner were present for the discussion of this correspondence. Ms. Weaver advised that NASW posted a letter of clarification on Facebook to follow up to their posting of the letter dated May 4, 2023. On behalf of NASW-LA members they are on record as being in support of 100% virtual supervision. They posed questions about the supervision committee and about who will be considering requests for virtual supervision.
- b. Gina Rossi, LCSW-BACS
Board members received a letter with questions about the supervision committee, supporting documentation, and appeals as well as a list of states and what percentage of virtual supervision is accepted.
- c. Aurlisa Isom, LMSW
Aurlisa Isom submitted a written comment to the board regarding information that is presented in a meeting open to the public.
- d. New Beginnings Behavioral Health Services
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to approve the continuing education pre-approval application submitted by New Beginnings Behavioral Health Services.

- e. Heidi Breaux Consulting, LLC
Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the continuing education pre-approval application submitted by Heidi Breaux.
- f. Ashley Toney, LMSW
Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to approve Ashley Toney's position of Director of EPIC Hub and Spoke for supervision and work experience towards meeting the requirements to become a LCSW.
- g. Pamela Field, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to deny Pamela Field's supervision and to offer her a compliance hearing.
- h. Mary "Dasha" Shinnars, LMSW
Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Melissa Haley, and carried by majority vote, to approve virtual supervision between Mary Shinnars and Twilah Winters after August 31, 2023. Jamie Barney voted against the motion.
- i. Victoria Dupre, LMSW
Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve virtual supervision between Victoria Dupre and Colleen Simmons after August 31, 2023.
- j. Mitzi Ehrlich, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve virtual supervision between Mitzi Ehrlich and Asia Daiges after August 31, 2023.
- k. Toni Ferdig, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve virtual supervision between Toni Ferdig and Colleen Simmons after August 31, 2023.
- l. Danielle Tardo, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve virtual supervision between Danielle Tardo and Colleen Simmons after August 31, 2023.
- m. Kristyn Wood, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve virtual supervision between Kristyn Wood and Colleen Simmons after August 31, 2023.
- n. Claire Guidry, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve virtual supervision between Claire Guidry and Brandy Skidmore after August 31, 2023.

- o. Shaleah Celestin, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve virtual supervision between Shaleah Celestin and Jenny Nguyen after August 31, 2023.
- p. Jennifer Adams, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve virtual supervision between Jennifer Adams and Angela Moran after August 31, 2023.
- q. Gisset Elliott, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve virtual supervision between Gisset Elliott and Jamie Barnett after August 31, 2023 as well as approval to complete all continuing education via distance learning while she is in Germany.
- r. Briyonna Lewis, LMSW
Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to deny Briyonna Lewis's request for a waiver of the application fee.
- s. Julia Plauche, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve virtual supervision between Julia Plauche and Genevieve Durkin after August 31, 2023.
- t. Abigail Mullen, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and carried by majority vote, to deny virtual supervision between Abigail Mullen and Kellie Dejan after August 31, 2023. Melissa Haley objected to the motion and Hyacinth McKee abstained from the vote.
- u. Clarice Morgan, LMSW
Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve virtual supervision between Clarice Morgan and Rachel Swafford after August 31, 2023.
- v. Nicole Sweet, LMSW
Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve virtual supervision between Nicole Sweet and Worlita Jackson after August 31, 2023.
- w. Tamar Stark, LMSW
Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Hyacinth McKee, and carried by majority vote, to deny virtual supervision between Tamar Stark and Rachel Luria after August 31, 2023. Melissa Haley objected to the motion and Trinity George abstained from the vote.

Public comments regarding hardships were given by Gina Rossi, Kimberly Peterson, and Anne Williams.

Note: Jamie Barney conducted the meeting for the consideration of items i. through w.

FINANCIAL

- a. Financial Statement for the period ending March 31, 2023
Board members reviewed the financial statement and compared it to the budget. They also reviewed a side-by-side comparison of revenue and expenditures for the period ending March 31, 2022. Period ending March 31 revenue was \$540,958.52 and expenses \$535,406.59.
Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to approve the financial statement.

- b. Financial Statement for the period ending April 30, 2023
Board members reviewed the financial statement and compared it to the budget. They also reviewed a side-by-side comparison of revenue and expenditures for the period ending April 30, 2022. Period ending April 30 revenue was \$567,518.79 and expenses \$582,950.44.
Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the financial statement.

- c. Budget for FY July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to adopt the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

Revenues

LCSW	300 * \$100	30,000
LMSW	550 * \$75	41,250
RSW	300 * \$50	15,000
Retake Applications	600 * \$50	30,000
LCSW Renewals	4400 * \$75	330,000
LMSW/CSW Renewals	3000 * \$50	150,000
RSW Renewals	1800 * \$25	45,000
Electronic commerce fee		32,850
Enforcement actions		20,000
Interest		10,000
Miscellaneous		25,000
Total		729,100

Other Assets

Cash in Checking	400,000
Invested Funds	955,000
Total	1,355,000

TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER ASSETS \$2,084,100

EXPENSES

Salaries **289,223**

Related Employee Benefits

Retirement (41.3% ER contribution)	114,295	
FICA	4,967	
ER portion of life insurance (Pevey)	444	
Health Ins	49,178	
Total		168,884

Total Salaries & Benefits \$458,107

Expenses/ Travel

Administrative (in-state mileage)	500
Administrative (in-state other)	500
Board (in-state mileage)	10,000
Board (in-state other)	3,000
Administrative (out-state other)	3,000
Conference Registration Fees	3,000
Board (out-state other)	8,000
Total	28,000

Expenses/ Operating

Supplies	6,000
Rent	55,000
Printing	7,000
Postage & Delivery	12,000
Dues & Subscriptions	3,489
Maintenance	2,500
Meetings	25,000
Insurance	3,000
Bank Charges/CC Fees	25,000
Telephone/Internet	3,000
Security	500
Equipment Rental	8,000
Miscellaneous	1,000
Continuing Education	2,500
Total	153,989

Professional Services

Accounting	4,500
Legal	120,000
Auditor	2,015
Complaint Consultant	20,000
Computer Consultants	95,000
Court Reporter	5,000

Impaired Professional Program	20,000
Supervision Consultant	10,000
Investigators	30,000
Consulting (other)	10,000
Newsletter	1,000
Payroll	2,500
Total	290,015

Acquisitions

Computer/Office Equipment

Total **\$10,000**

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$940,111

Total Available Funds over Expenditures \$1,143,989

d. NASW-LA 2024 Annual Conference

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to pay the \$600.00 exhibit fee for LABSWE to exhibit at the 2024 conference.

COMPLIANCE HEARINGS

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Kaitlyn Roy to appeal the board’s decision to deny supervision for the period of July 25, 2022 through December 22, 2022 for late submission of the supervision contract. The hearing panel included Bora Sunseri, Evan Bergeron, and Jamie Barney. Kaitlyn Roy presented at the board office for the hearing.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Stevie Schlessel to appeal the board’s decision to deny supervision credit for the period of August 8, 2022 through January 23, 2023 for late submission of the supervision contract. The hearing panel included Hyacinth McKee, Evan Bergeron, and Jamie Barney. Stevie Schlessel participated virtually as well as her legal representatives, Marshall Page and Graham Ryan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 2:11 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: Jamie Barney, yes; Evan Bergeron, yes; Trinity George, yes; Bora Sunseri, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; and Hyacinth McKee, yes.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 5:02 p.m.

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

BOARD/STAFF MATTERS

- a. Report on office workflow and staffing – report follows the meeting minutes.
- b. NASW-LA 2023 Conference
Board members received a copy of the evaluation summary for their ethics presentation provided at the annual conference.
- c. CE Ad Hoc Committee update
It was noted that the meeting scheduled for June 1 was rescheduled to July 6 at 10:00 a.m.
- d. Policy and Procedure Ad Hoc Committee update
Board members were advised that the committee held its first meeting June 1 and that its next meeting is scheduled for July 21 at 1:30 p.m.
- e. Technology Committee update
Board members received information and quotes on three company’s licensing platforms as well as the recommendations issued by Agilify.
- f. Election of Officers
Motion made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to nominate Bora Sunseri as Secretary-Treasurer.
Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to close nominations and elect Bora Sunseri by acclamation.
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to nominate Jamie Barney as Vice Chair.
Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to close nominations and elect Jamie Barney by acclamation.
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to nominate Hyacinth McKee as Chair.
Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to close nominations and elect Hyacinth McKee by acclamation.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DELIBERATED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Correspondence

- a. Betty Armstrong, LCSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to waive continuing education requirements for 2022-2023 collection period.
- b. Tracie Thevenote, LCSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to waive the in-person continuing education requirements for 2023-2024 collection period.
- c. Daniel Aguillard, LCSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to waive the in-person continuing education requirements for 2023-2024 collection period.

- d. Michelle St. Raymond, LCSW-BACS
Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to deny the request for lack of specific contract with supervisee.
- e. Jacqueline Savoy, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and carried by majority vote, to deny the request for virtual supervision after August 31, 2023. Jamie Barney and Bora Sunseri objected to the motion. Melissa Haley abstained from the vote.

Compliance Hearings

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to hold the matter of Kaitlyn Roy open until the next board meeting.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to approve Stevie Schlessel's request for supervision credit.

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.

Disciplinary Monitoring

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

Complaints

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Jamie Barney, to dismiss Complaint #2022-114. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2023-85. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trinity George and seconded by Evan Bergeron to dismiss Complaint #2023-93. The motion was unanimously carried. (*The recommendation was to refer to disciplinary team.*)

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2023-98. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Evan Bergeron to dismiss Complaint #2023-101. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trinity George and seconded by Jamie Barney to refer Complaint #2023-108 to disciplinary team. The motion was unanimously carried. (*The recommendation was to dismiss.*)

Note: Mover intended to accept the recommendation of the reviewer; however, a clerical error occurred with respect to motions for complaints 2023-93 and 2023-108. See minutes for the July 7, 2023 meeting.

Applications

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW endorsement application submitted by Lashonda Davis, to offer her a compliance hearing, and to issue certification as a Certified Social Worker and approval to sit for the ASWB Masters examination.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to approve the LMSW application submitted by Rachel McConnell-Switzer conditional of receiving a notarized statement.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to deny the RSW application submitted by India Rachal and to offer her 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.

Bennett, Cortney
Biggs, Reese
Bonin, Baylee
Broussard, Lauris
Caesar, Tieranee
Coleman-Savannah, Taylor
Cooks, Shatterria
Daniels, Alannah
Dauzat, Abigail
David, Kelsey
Decastro, Jillian
Desselles, Bailey
Doucette, Latasha
Flesch, Chelsey
Garland, Elizabeth
Gore, Deja
Harris Trimiari, DeWanda
Hasty Ackerson, Jerrica
Jackson, Angel
Legard, Joi
Mattio, Shantta
McClendon, Ken'Sheavia
Mohon, James
Moore, Brea
Norwood, Jessica
Parker, Lorne
Paynes, Raneisha
Reyes, Maria
Rockhold, Leslie
Rose, LaQuita
Rosyion, Tremaine
Smith, Addie
Smith, Arthur
Thomas, Amanda
Thomas, Jasmine
Thompson, Shatterrika

Walker, Jalexus
Warrad, Rawan
Washington, Kayla
Wentz, Bradley
Winston, Rea'ianna
Woodson, Ernestine

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

Henderson, Kimberly
Nash, Josephine
Savoie, Holly
Verdin, Sade

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

Owen, Cari

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, 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.

Ardoin, Ashlynn
Baudier, Maisie
Bookhardt, Shirlen
Bradley, Anna
Braggs Gilliam, Brandi
Burris, Le'Eroyal
Cantrell, Paxton
Conrad, Lauren
Cousin, Jr. Damon
Cruz, Tiffany
Dawkins, Ronechia
Depner, Shelly
Dillon, Schentrel
Dixon, Piper
Folse, Hailey
Green, Asia
Harris, Wesley
Havard, Jaley
Isidore, Quanisha
Jacobs, Billyona
Johnson, Keonna
Jones, Seletta
Jones, Victoria
Keller, Deja
Landry, Russelle (early test approval)
Latino, Elizabeth
Long - Cohen, Temeka
Matasar, Miriam-Jennifer (early test approval)
Maturin, Claire
McGrew, Brooklyn

Miller, Claire
Miller, Melinda
Mitchell, Abby
Mosley, Janelle
Mouton, Alesheia
Murphy, Jessica
Neff, Lynasheia
Randolph, Lexus
Ready, Rebecca
Rosette, Kaylan
Ruffin, Akera
Samuel, Breanna
Scallan, Jr., Andrew
Southall, Brandon
Stanciff, Chardia
Stevenson, Kameron
Thomas, Anthony
Turner, Delasskin
Watson, Kalastika
White, Kaila
White-Taylor, Vernita
Willett, Madison (early test approval)
Williams, Destiney
Wood, Katie

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

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the following reinstatement application for Licensed Master's Social Work.
Font, Lindsey
Toney, Ashley
Weber, Nekia

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the following endorsement applications for Licensed Master's Social Work.
Guenther, Joan
Hagans, LaSonja
Howe, Tessa
Johnson, Nachosha
Washington, Carneisha

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Clinical Exam.
Allen, Jessica
Arredondo, Kelsey
Becnel, Sarah (early test approval)
Burnham, Erin
Casson, Angela
Cinquegrana, Olivia (early test approval)

Dinecola, Natalie
Fluence, Leslie
Hester, Carolyn
Janeau, Reion
Julien, Nina
Kemmerly, Kevin (early test approval)
Lemelle, Ashley
Love, Sheila
McCoy, Leslie (early test approval)
Parks, Michaelynn
Richard, Krystal
Smith, Miranda (early test approval)
Smith, Rahvi
Solis, Lee
Stallings, Arianne
Utterback, Paige
Varnado, Raegan
Walker, Nicole
Wirth, Kimberlye
Williams, Cyndee
Yonge, Destin (early test approval)


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


Hollingsworth, Patricia
Keen, Megan
Lanza, Staci

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

Adams, Yolanda
Baril, Denise
Bothner, Darlene
Campos, Lucia
Dinecola, Natalie
Hayes, Steven
Jackson-Wardlaw, Lisa
Jefferson, April
Johnson, Samuel
Mann, Jennifer
May, Tami
McCrary, Stephen
Meredith, Nicole
Pryor, Merissa
Rykiel, Christine
Smith, Rhonda

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.


Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson


Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer

Workflow Report June 2, 2023

Since April 28th meeting

Retake applications	53
Background checks mailed to LSP	61
LMSWs issued – passed exam	31
LCSWs issued – passed exam	14
Supervision Contract	26
License Verifications	78
BACS Applications	7
Early testing for MSW students	8
Early testing for LMSW	6
Mailing list requests	4

Received 7 complaints between 04/26/23 and 05/29/23

Written response	5
Investigation	0
Pending review of complaint consultant	1
Consult with legal	0
Not accepted – not a social worker	0
Not accepted – no violation	1

Administrative Coordinator 3 position has been offered and accepted. Start date is June 6th.

Licensing Analyst 2 position is being advertised by civil service.