

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
October 20, 2023**

Hyacinth McKee, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. on Friday, October 20, 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. Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, and Sheri Morris, Legal Counsel, attended 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, Trinity George, RSW, and Candice Sorapuru, LCSW. Evan Bergeron, Esq., joined the meeting at 11:05 a.m. and Jamie Barney, LCSW, at 12:45 p.m.

AGENDA

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to remove items 5(c) and 5(d) from the agenda. The agenda was adopted with the amendment.

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDERS

1. In the matter of Yolanda Owens, MSW, File #2022-115 – **Motion** was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to adopt the Consent Agreement and Order for Yolanda Owens.
2. In the matter of Harold Kirby, LCSW, File #2023-54 – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to adopt the Consent Agreement and Order for Harold Kirby.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held September 15, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Victoria Prather, LCSW-BACS- Board members recommended Ms. Prather seek legal counsel regarding the ethical practice of selling products to other mental health professionals.
- b. Theresa Ivey, LCSW – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to remove the disciplinary flag from the LABSWE website.
- c. Kimberly Rogers, MSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to remove the disciplinary flag from the LABSWE website.
- d. Shakayla Freeman, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried to, approve the request to complete all continuing education hours via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.

- e. Jewish Family Services of GNO- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to deny the application for Continuing Education Approval Organization. The board cannot accept a letter of reference from Gail Pesses who is currently serving on the Board of the agency.
- f. Sankora Institute- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Sankora Institute to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- g. Gina Rossi, LCSW-BACS- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request from Gina Rossi to complete 72 hours of group supervision with Ellen Dunn, LMSW.
- h. Babila Barrera, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision.
- i. Kimberly Bradshaw, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision.
- j. Shaleah Celestin, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision.
- k. Ashley Crockham, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision.
- l. Alyssa Perino, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision.
- m. Chloe Preston, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision.
- n. Lanessa Barabino, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried to deny the request to approve the supervision completed with Reginald Parquet, LCSW-BACS, and to offer a compliance hearing. Hyacinth McKee and Melissa Haley recused.
- o. Katheen Whalen, LCSW-BACS- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried to deny the request to approve the supervision completed with Christian Narcisse, LMSW, and to offer a compliance hearing.
- p. Luliana Charles, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried to deny the request to accept supervision contracts that were submitted late and to offer a compliance hearing.

- q. Destin Yonge, LMSW- Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and carried by majority vote, to deny the request to approve supervision with a late submission of the contract and to offer a compliance hearing. Melissa Haley and Candice Sorapuru opposed the motion.

FINANCIAL

- a. Contract negotiation update/revised proposal from Covalent- Sheri Morris provided an update.
- b. Funding for Administrator's attendance at ASWB 2023 Delegate Assembly- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried to approve funding for the Administrator to attend the 2023 Delegate Assembly. Funding includes airfare, hotel, meals, baggage fees, and mileage to and from the airport.

BOARD/STAFF MATTERS

- a. Auditing by LLA as it relates to Act 393 of the 2023 Regular Session- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to send Act 393 to the Rules committee for review.
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to send the correspondence from LLA to the Policy and Procedures committee for review.
- b. Emergency Rule (ADA)- an example Rule was provided by the Department of Administration.
- c. Report on office workflow and staffing – report attached to minutes.
- d. Schedule 2024 board meetings - **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to schedule the following meeting dates for 2024:
 - January 5-Board Meeting
 - January 6- Strategic Planning
 - March 8-Board Meeting
 - April 12- Board Meeting
 - April 13- Strategic Planning
 - May 17-Board Meeting
 - June 21-Board Meeting
 - August 2-Board Meeting
 - August 3- Strategic Planning
 - September 13- Board Meeting
 - October 25-Board Meeting
 - December 6- Board Meeting
 - December 7- Strategic Planning
- e. ASWB New Board Member Training- Melissa Haley attended ASWB's New Board Member Training October 1 – 3, 2023.

- f. ASWB 2023 Election Slate- Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the slate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 12:12 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; Evan Bergeron, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; Bora Sunseri, yes; Candice Sorapuru, yes; and Hyacinth McKee, yes.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 4:00 p.m.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Charlotte Butler, LCSW-BACS – **Motion** was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve request pending supportive documentation to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
2. Karen Caesar, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
3. Drauzin Kern, LCSW– **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
4. Charles Martin, LCSW-BACS– **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
5. Billie Sue Wallis – **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
6. Corey Baskin, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve request to continue remote supervision with her current supervisor.
7. Chelsea Boykin, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period and to continue remote supervision with her current supervisor.

8. Glory Deaton, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision with her current supervisor.
9. Reginald Parquet, LCSW-BACS- **Motion** was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried to deny the request to provide remote supervision to his supervisees.
10. Danielle Johnson, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried to approve the request for remote supervision pending the receipt of supportive documentation within 30 days.

Compliance Hearings

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Rachel McWilliams to appeal the board's decision to deny the Licensed Master Social Work (LMSW) reinstatement application she submitted. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Trinity George, and Candice Sorapuru. Rachel McWilliams participated in-person.

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to refer Rachel McWilliams to the Impaired Professional Program (IPP) and advise that she is required to follow all recommendations of the IPP Manager.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Leah Mendoza to appeal the board's decision to deny the CSW/LMSW application she submitted. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Trinity George, and Candice Sorapuru. Leah Mendoza participated in-person.

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to refer Leah Mendoza to the Impaired Professional Program for an evaluation to determine whether she can practice social work with reasonable skill and safety.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Hena Kausar to appeal the board's decision to deny the LCSW application she submitted. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Trinity George, and Candice Sorapuru. Hena Kausar and her supervisor Kathleen Whalen, LCSW-BACS, participated remotely via Zoom.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to uphold the decision to deny the application due to not completing the supervision requirements.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Rhama Leer to appeal the board's decision to deny the Registered Social Work (RSW) application she submitted. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Trinity George, and Candice Sorapuru. Rhama Lee participated in-person.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the application and issue Rhama Lee the RSW registration.

IMPAIRED PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to accept the report submitted by Kathie Pohlman, IPP Manager.

DISCIPLINARY REPORT

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried to release one individual from their Consent Agreement and Order for successfully completing the terms.

COMPLAINTS

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru and seconded by Jamie Barney to dismiss Complaint #2023-82. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2023-134. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2024-03. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2024-22. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2024-26 with a letter of education. The motion was unanimously carried.

APPLICATIONS

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

Abdullah, Keian
Ambrose, Whitney
Britt, Dylan
Honeycutt, Tiffany
Hughes, Jordan
Jackson, Vanessa
Joshi, Khyati
Juneau, Hannah
Lazaroe, Natalie
McGlory, Sharicka
Ross, Christohnya
Shelton-Rambo, Patricia
Shorter, Kaitlyn
Shorter, Kaleb
Summers, Otisha
Sylve, Shantrice
Woods, Tiffany

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the following applications for Reinstatement of the RSW.

Burrell, Jada
Chamber, Deshandlyn
Griffin, Kevanlynette
Hollingsworth, Breona
Iles, Brittany
Jones, Toni
Juneau, Hannah

Latson, Jutina
Roberts, ShaRoyale
Robertson-Delone, Rayshonka
Vaughn, Juequita

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

Adams, Nadia
Becnel, Cassie
Bernard, David (early test approval)
Casey-Hines, Gwendolyn
Davis, Sierra (early test approval)
Dear, Natalie
Ducote, Gabrielle (early test approval)
Furlow, Jasmine
Garity, Matthew
Green, Willynette
James, Channing
James, Karoletta
James, Nadia
Jeffes, Candace
Jones, Toya
Kirk, Emanami
Lane, Amanda
Latino, Jarolyn
McDaniel, Madelynne
McFarland, Kayla
Mouton, Lucas
Pitre, Riley
Randall, Caroline
Shropshire, Ashley
Stevenson, Bailey
Thomas, Jamie
Washington, Tromeka
Williams, Tyronik

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following Reinstatement applications for Licensed Master's Social Work

Dessommes, Marie
Moss, Dana

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.

Campbell, Ashley
Galindo, Ysela
Gardner, Kathy
Gerlach, Emily
Hedlund, Jane
Nance, Courtnei

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

Abney-Smith, Shaven
Arguello, Marlana
Brooks, Amiee
Chance, DeAnna
Dean, Allison
Gilder, Hailey (early test approval)
Gulotta, Myra
Henderson, Candace
Henderson, Jessica
Leblanc, Sarah (early test approval)
Mitchell, Monique (early test approval)
Moffett, Dawne
Ostoj, Hannah
Pribulsky, Rachel (early test approval)
Sanders, Lynell
Sparks, Joannie
Terrell, Rachel (early test approval)
Wilson, Roxie
Ziegler, Aubrey

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for Reinstatement of the LCSW.

Smith, Wysonda
Stokes, Lillian

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following Endorsement applicants for issuance of the LCSW.

Adamski, Megan
Beverly, Ashley
Brabham, Ebony
Castillo, Cynthia
D'Angelo, Keith
Dillon, Matthew
Elton, Darcy
Hegwood, Tonya
Jaffery, Syeda
McGrew, Jacqueline
Pepera, Kathryn
Sampson, Dedra
Seale, Rebecca
Starkey, Jessica
Stuckenschneider, Sara
Westerburg, Amelia
Woodruff, Christina

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 4:02 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; Jamie Barney, yes; Evan Bergeron, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; Bora Sunseri, yes; Candice Sorapuru, yes; and Hyacinth McKee, yes.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 4:28 p.m.

Votes for coming out of Executive Session: Trinity George, yes; Jamie Barney, yes; Bora Sunseri, yes; Trinity George, yes; Candice Sorapuru, yes; and Hyacinth McKee, yes.

APPLICATIONS

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the CSW/LMSW application submitted by Tess Blanchard.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the CSW/LMSW application submitted by Monica Bodugen.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the LCSW endorsement application submitted by Thomishia Booker.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamine Barney, and unanimously carried, to approve the CSW/LMSW application submitted by Zachary Green.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the LMSW endorsement application submitted by Michael Harvey, Jr.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the LCSW application submitted by Candace Henderson

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to deny the LCSW endorsement application and offer a compliance hearing for the LCSW endorsement application submitted by Marjorie Hornik. She will be issued the LMSW along with exam approval for the LCSW examination.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the LMSW endorsement application submitted by Ariana Johnson.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to deny the CSW/LMSW application for Ginnipher Spencer and offer her a compliance hearing.

CORRESPONDENCE


Nykara Williams, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision. Jamie Barney recused herself from the discussion and vote.

Cassandra Smith, LCSW-BACS – **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to deny the request for LABSWE to send out a survey for a research project.

Motion was made by Trinity George to adjourn at 5:04 p.m.



Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson



Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer

Workflow Report October 20, 2023

Since September 15th meeting

Retake applications	86
Early testers issued LMSW	0
Early testers issued LCSW	7
Background checks mailed to LSP	45
LMSWs issued – passed exam	20
LCSWs issued – passed exam	11
Office of Debt Recovery Notices	14
License Verifications	43
BACS Applications	11
Early testing for MSW students	5
Early testing for LMSW	10
Disciplinary files being monitored	34

Received 9 complaints between 09/12/23 and 10/17/23

Written response	7
Investigation	0
Under consideration	1
Not accepted – not a social worker	1
Not accepted – no violation	0

The Complaint Consultant, Complaint Counsel and Administrator had one team meeting.

Regina DeWitt presented twice about licensure to Southeastern's undergraduates.

Count of licenses issued to early testers as per previous meeting dates

Board Meeting	Masters	Clinical
March 24, 2023	5	2
April 28, 2023	11	2
June 2, 2023	7	4
July 7, 2023	4	6
August 11, 2023	2	5
September 15, 2023	1	1

