

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
December 1, 2023**

Jamie Barney, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, December 1, 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, Bora Sunseri, LCSW, Jamie Barney, LCSW, Melissa Haley, LMSW, Trinity George, RSW, and Candice Sorapuru, LCSW. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW, joined the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Evan Bergeron, Consumer Member, was absent.

Public comments related to remote supervision were made by Gina Rossi, Jennifer Hannon, Benita "Nita" Baucom, Gwendolyn Stewart, Derrick Stevenson, Tasha Johnson, Elizabeth Frein, Jennifer Buras and Tyshica Lofton.

AGENDA

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to add File #2023-103/2023-154 to the agenda to schedule for a hearing. The agenda was adopted with the amendment.

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

In the matter of Patrice Jefferson, File #2022-85 – **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to adopt the Consent Agreement and Order for Patrice Jefferson.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to schedule a hearing for January 5, 2024 in the matter of File# 2023-103/2023-154.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 20, 2023 and October 21, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. City of New Orleans Health Department- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by City of New Orleans Health Department to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- b. Jewish Family Services of Greater New Orleans- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Jewish Family Services of GNO to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- c. NAMI New Orleans- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by NAMI New Orleans to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.

- d. VIA LINK- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by VIA LINK to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- e. Nita Baucom, LCSW-BACS- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to approve the request to provide the 6.5-hour BACS workshop on the following dates, March 1, 2024; April 20, 2024; June 7, 2024; August 16, 2024; October 18, 2024; and December 6, 2024.
- f. Nita Baucom, LCSW-BACS- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to refer Ms. Baucom's letter to the continuing education committee.
- g. Alice Robin, LCSW- requested a board opinion on best practices. Members of the board advised Ms. Robin that they cannot define best practice as it is not within the board's scope. There were no motions made in response to this discussion.
- h. Gina Rossi, LCSW-BACS- submitted a letter requesting the board change Rule 503 to allow all virtual supervision. There were no motions made in response to this discussion.
- i. Rachel Swafford, LCSW-BACS- submitted a letter requesting the board change Rule 503 to allow all virtual supervision. There were no motions made in response to this discussion.
- j. Debra Voelker, LCSW-BACS- submitted a letter requesting the board change Rule 503 to allow all virtual supervision. There were no motions made in response to this discussion.
- k. Melissa Baker, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
- l. Madison Leigh Engels, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision with Jessica Andrus, LCSW-BACS.
- m. Jennifer Savage, LCSW-BACS- **Motion** was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision for the month of December 2023 pending receipt of a request from supervisee.
- n. Leigh Vaughan, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision.
- o. Vanessa Graves, LCSW-BACS- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote

supervision under the condition that Jordyn Bolton, LMSW, is providing services to Louisiana consumers.

- p. Kathryn Bardwell, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision.
- q. Brittney Delafosse, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision.
- r. Joanna Hynes, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to accept supervision hours completed prior to submitting a supervision contract and to offer a compliance hearing. Public comments made by Jennifer Hannon and Nita Baucom.
- s. Elizabeth Ma, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried to approve the supervision completed with Monique Taylor-Carter, LCSW-BACS. Public comment made by Elizabeth Ma.
- t. Olivia Mancing, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to approve the supervision completed with Twilah Winters, LCSW-BACS, and to offer a compliance hearing. Public comment made by Twilah Winters.
- u. Destiny Nash, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, 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. Public comment made by Jennifer Hannon.
- v. Caroline Wegener, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, 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 Bora Sunseri opposed the motion. Public comment made by Gina Rossi.
- w. Jimecia Williams, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to approve supervision with a late submission of the contract and to offer a compliance hearing. Public comment made by Monique Carter.
- x. Jordan Schaffer, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to approve supervision with a late submission of the contract and to offer a compliance hearing. Public comments made by Jordan Schaffer and Gina Rossi.
- y. Danielle Parkman, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to approve supervision with a late submission of the contract and to offer a compliance hearing.

- z. Ryan O’Pry, LCSW-BACS- submitted a letter requesting the board change Rule 503 to allow all virtual supervision. There were no motions made in response to this discussion. Public comment was made by Margaret Hebert.

- aa. Joanna Spurgeon, LCSW-BACS- referred Ms. Spurgeon to Rule 503(H).

- bb. Michele Thibodeaux, LCSW-BACS- submitted a letter requesting the board change Rule 503 to allow all virtual supervision. There were no motions made in response to this discussion.

- cc. Jennifer Buras, LCSW-BACS- submitted a letter requesting the board change Rule 503 to allow all virtual supervision. There were no motions made in response to this discussion.

FINANCIAL

- a. Financial Statements – **Motion** was made by Trinity George and seconded by Jamie Barney to approve the financial statements prepared by Griffin & Furman, LLC, as listed below, for the periods ending July 31, 2023, August 31, 2023, September 30, 2023, and October 31, 2023.
Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Equity
Statement of Revenues & Expenses
Statement of Revenues & Expenses – Budgetary Comparison
The motion was unanimously carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 12:05 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; Trinity George, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; Bora Sunseri, yes; Candice Sorapuru, yes; and Hyacinth McKee, yes.

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 4:04 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.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. Ford Baker, LCSW – **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.

- 2. Maria Reyes, LCSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.

3. April Sallier, RSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
4. Michele Guidry, LCSW-BACS- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to provide remote supervision and refer to Rule 503(H) which requires the supervisee to submit the request.

COMPLIANCE HEARINGS

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Destin Yonge to appeal the board's decision to deny the supervision hours completed without an updated approved contract on file. The hearing panel included Hyacinth McKee, Bora Sunseri, and Candice Sorapuru. Destin Yonge participated in-person.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the supervision hours completed pending the completion of the updated supervision contract via Certemy.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Ginnipher Spencer to appeal the board's decision to deny the CSW/LMSW application she submitted. The hearing panel included Hyacinth McKee, Bora Sunseri, and Candice Sorapuru. Ginnipher Spencer participated in-person.

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to issue the CSW along with exam approval for the LMSW.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Christian Narcisse to appeal the board's decision to deny the LCSW application she submitted. The hearing panel included Hyacinth McKee, Bora Sunseri, and Candice Sorapuru. Christian Narcisse and her supervisor Kathleen Whalen, LCSW-BACS, participated remotely via Zoom.

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to send a letter of education to the supervisor and approve the supervision completed with Kathleen Whalen, LCSW-BACS.

A re-hearing was requested by Hena Kausar, LMSW, to appeal the board's decision to deny the LCSW application she submitted. Due to not having the entire board present for the hearing, Hena Kausar requested to table the hearing to January 5, 2024.

IMPAIRED PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

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

DISCIPLINARY REPORT

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

COMPLAINTS

Motion was made by Jamie Barney and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2023-71 with a letter of education. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Jamie Barney and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2024-07. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Jamie Barney and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2024-17. The motion was unanimously carried.

APPLICATIONS

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

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW Endorsement application submitted by Kayla Mainja and 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.

Castille, Deja
Gipson, Danyell
Goodman, Santavia
Jordan, Brianna
Knighten, Mackenzie
Lloyd-Flores, Jennifer
McSwain, Avis
Whittington, Jade
Williams, Iralisha
Wilson, Bobbie

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

Collins, ShaRhonda
Jackson, Netthany
Taylor, James

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.

Allison, Lavondra
Andrews, Kaylea
Baltimore, Lauren (early test approval)
Bernard, Kenzie
Campbell, Gabrielle (early test approval)
Carey, Kevin
Celestine, Courtney (early test approval)
Charpentier, Patricia
Crandle, Terranazia (early test approval)
Devine, Megan
Donald, Khisha
Figueroa, Sebastian
Haggstrom, Bridgett (early test approval)
Harrison-Lee, Deonne

Hebert, Rebecca (early test approval)
Hunt, Kandis
Jalivay, Alante
Johnson, Emmanuel
Kennedy, Brytney
Lasisi, Tawakalitu
Meunier, Lela
Milich, Samantha
Newton Rikeisha (early test approval)
Poullard, Lurtura (early test approval)
Ray, Dianna
Rolston, Dorian (early test approval)
Ryan, Carson
Shelton-Rambo, Patricia
Sitzman, Olivia (early test approval)
Stewart, Keyaunta
Uli, Erica
Warner, Erin
Williams, Brittney (early test approval)
Williams, Dominique (early test approval)
Wright, Devanae

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
Russell, Dwayne

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.

Anderson, Christa
Brown, Tasheena
Harris, Janise
Johnson, Sylvanna
Mellott, Wenona
Miller, Sophia
Oliver, Jeremy
Ross, Phyllis
Soper, Kaylin
Walker, Rosie

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

Barrera, Denise (early exam approval)
Bates, Shailey
Cave, Amy
Cola, Unita
Crumpton, Tammy
DeLaRosa, Victoria (early test approval)
Greene, Patrice (early test approval)
Guilbeau-Thierry, Krishna (early test approval)
Harper, Alice (early test approval)

Harris, Ashle
Hicks, Courtney
Keith, James (early test approval)
Levins, Hope
Malley, Savanna
McCrea, Leanna
Morris, Aleisha (early test approval)
Myers, Kasey
Oshea, Ariana
Tewell, Jennifer
Vollentine, Sarah (early test approval)
Walsh, Laura

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

Clough, Kimberly
DeNino, Anna
Floyd Russell, Deslys
Galley, Amy
Lindak, Valerie
Power, Vanessa
Randall, Holly
Tatum, Jessica
Turney, Wendy
Wallace, Dionne

FINANCIAL

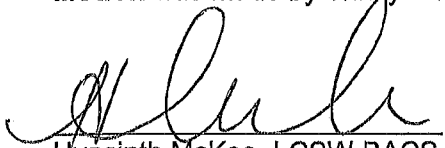
- b. Professional Development- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the proposal submitted by Tonya Bolden-Ball.
- c. FARB 2024 Forum on Professional Regulation- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to fund two persons to attend the annual forum.
- d. Telephone System Upgrade Options- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to move forward with upgrading the telephone system because the current Toshiba system is no longer supported and does not have expanded capabilities to improve communication.

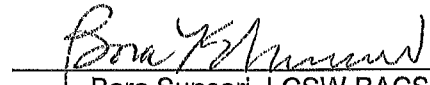
BOARD/STAFF MATTERS

- a. Report of office workflow and staffing- The workflow report is attached to these minutes.
- b. Report on ASWB Delegate Assembly- Dr. McKee reported who won the elections.
- c. Social Work Licensure Compact Model Legislation- Board members were provided with a copy of the model legislation and encouraged to educate themselves about the compact. Dr. McKee asked that this topic be included on the January 5, 2024 meeting agenda.

- d. Rescinding committee appointments due to issues with quorum- Board members agreed that persons appointed to a committee who have not attended a meeting are removed as a committee member. This decision was made due to issues with having a quorum to conduct business.
- e. Policy for remote participation in meetings by a member of the public with a disability recognized by the ADA- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to adopt the policy submitted by legal counsel with language included about participation of board member or caregiver and to promulgate as a rule.
- f. Feedback from complaint counsel regarding chapter 9- Board members agreed that technical revisions made due to feedback from complaint counsel can be made without bringing back language to the board for approval.
- g. Status update on contract with Covalent- Sheri Morris gave a brief report on the status of the contract with Covalent. She expects it to be ready for signature the week of December 4, 2023.

Motion was made by Trinity George to adjourn at 5:07 p.m.


Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson


Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer

Workflow Report December 1, 2023

Since October 20th meeting

Retake applications	76
Early testers issued LMSW	2
Early testers issued LCSW	5
Background checks mailed to LSP	32
LMSWs issued – passed exam	26
LCSWs issued – passed exam	14
License Verifications	65
BACS Applications	14
Early testing for MSW students	12
Early testing for LMSW	11
Disciplinary files being monitored	36

Received 17 complaints between 10/18/23 and 11/27/23

Written response	9
Investigation	1
Under consideration	2
Not accepted – not a social worker	1
Not accepted – no violation	4

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