

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
January 10, 2025**

Hyacinth McKee, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. on Friday, January 10, 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, and Evan Bergeron, Esq., Consumer Member. Melissa Haley, LMSW, joined the meeting at 8:44 a.m. Sheri Morris, Legal Counsel, and Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, were also present at the meeting.

Trinity George, RSW, was absent. There is one vacant position on the board.

Public Comments

Public comment made by Gina Rossi regarding correspondence from Ryan Averitt, LMSW.

Agenda

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to adopt the agenda as presented.

Minutes

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held December 7, 2024.

Executive Session

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 8:45 a.m.

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: Bora Sunseri, yes; Jamie Barney, yes; Hyacinth McKee, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; and Evan Bergeron, yes.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 1:08 p.m.

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

Impaired Professional Program

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to adopt the report submitted by Kathie Pohlman, IPP Manager.

Compliance Hearings

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Tamar Stark to appeal the board's decision to deny her supervision completed with Rachel Luria, LCSW-BACS, for the period of April 12, 2024 through September 5, 2024. The hearing panel included Bora Sunseri, Jamie Barney, and Evan Bergeron. Tamar Stark participated via zoom.

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to send a letter of education to the BACS, and approve supervision completed between April 12, 2024 and September 5, 2024.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Renee Ridgley to appeal the board's decision to deny her supervision with Tyshica Lofton, LCSW-BACS, that was completed more than 60 days prior to submitting a Supervision Contract. The hearing panel included Bora Sunseri, Melissa Haley, and Hyacinth McKee. Renee Ridgley and Tyshica Lofton participated via zoom.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Melissa Haley and unanimously carried, to deny supervision completed between August 20, 2022 and July 4, 2024.

A rehearing was conducted at the request of LaShanda Ellis to appeal the board's decision to deny the supervision completed more than 60 days prior to submitting a Supervision Contract. Ms. Ellis consented to proceeding without Trinity George. The hearing was held before the board members that were present at the meeting. LaShanda Ellis participated in-person.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to reverse the panel decision and approve the supervision hours completed between September 11, 2023 and May 25, 2024.

A rehearing was scheduled at the request of Jessica Shelton, LMSW, to appeal the compliance hearing panel's decision rendered September 27, 2024. Ms. Shelton was not present for the hearing. The rehearing was tabled until February 7, 2025.

Correspondence

- i. Tia Cage, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision pending the receipt of documentation supporting her request.
- ii. Stephanie Michetti- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to issue the RSW upon completion of 20 continuing education hours, of which 3 hours must be ethics, these hours may be completed via distance learning; pass the Board's Open Book Examination and pay the application fee. The remaining 20 continuing education hours, of which 3 must be ethics will be due no later than 8/31/2025 in addition to the continuing education hours required for renewal. These hours may also be completed via distance learning.

Complaints

- i. **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2025-39 with a letter of education. The motion was unanimously carried.
- ii. **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley and seconded by Bora Sunseri to dismiss Complaint #2025-40 with a letter of education. The motion was unanimously carried.
- iii. **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Bora Sunseri to dismiss Complaint #2025-53. The motion was unanimously carried.

- iv. **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2025-60 with a letter of education. The motion was unanimously carried.
- v. **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2025-61 with a letter of education. The motion was unanimously carried.
- vi. **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Bora Sunseri to dismiss Complaint #2025-62. The motion was unanimously carried.
- vii. **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2025-66 with a letter of education. The motion was unanimously carried.

Pre-eligibility Determination

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Melissa Haley and unanimously carried to approve Jarvis Fontaine with a letter explaining eligibility.

Board/Staff Matters

- A. Report on office workflow and staffing – report attached to minutes.
- B. Update on promulgation of rules – Sheri Morris reported that the Notice of Intent will be published in the January 20, 2025 edition of the Louisiana Register. Ms. Morris also advised that written comments will be accepted through the close of business on February 10, 2025 and that a public hearing to receive comments will be held at the board office on February 25, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Financial

- A. Financial statements for the period ending September 30, 2024 – Board members reviewed the Statement of Assets, Liabilities & Equity, Statement of Revenues & Expenses, and Statement of Revenues & Expenses Budgetary Comparison for the period ending September 30, 2024.
- B. Financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2024 – Board members reviewed the Statement of Assets, Liabilities & Equity, Statement of Revenues & Expenses, and Statement of Revenues & Expenses Budgetary Comparison for the period ending October 31, 2024.

Correspondence

- A. Tulane School of Social Work- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to deny the application submitted by Tulane School of Social Work to be a continuing education approval application.

Presentation of Consent Agreement and Orders

- A. In the matter of Terry Lane, File #2023-24 - **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agreement and Order for Terry Lane.
- B. In the matter of Stephen Mock, File #2024-80 - **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agreement and Order for Stephen Mock.
- C. In the matter of Latrika Smith, File #2025-3 - **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agreement and Order for Latrika Smith subject to redaction.

Executive Session

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 2:22 p.m.

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: Bora Sunseri, yes; Jamie Barney, yes; Hyacinth McKee, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; and Evan Bergeron, yes.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 3:59 p.m.

Disciplinary Monitoring

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to release Shirley Falvey from the Consent Agreement and Order for successfully completing all terms.

Applications

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Bora Sunseri and carried by majority vote, to offer Mayra McCray certification as a Certified Social Worker and approval to sit for the ASWB Masters exam. Jamie Barney objected to the motion.

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

Atkins, Damesha
Baldwin, Taj
Boudreaux, Katie
Cathey, Maddison
Chkhichekh, Holly
Davis, Mackenzie
Green, Angela
Harris, Shambrika
Holmes, Shamanda
Loomis, Kelli
Lundsgaard, Claire
Miller, Theresa
Patterson, Sarah
Paul, Levi
Perkins, Madaline
Piccolo, Celeste
Robertson, Destiny
Ross, Kirsten
Ross, Pentral
Saul, Jasmine
Stout, Ari
Tregre, Lesli
Williams, Xenia

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

Rachal Laquita
Richardson, Bianca

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, 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.

Alexander-Johnson, Markisha
Anderson, Niona (early test approval)
Barnhill, Trinity
Brooks, Nekita (early test approval)
Clark, William (early test approval)
Ducre, Kennesha
Eichhorn, Catherine
Epperson, Caitlin
Fasola, Alyssa
Faust, Reneatha
Gipson, Johnnie
Gordon, Sarah
Hampton, Brigid
Harrow, Brittanie
Hummel, Alec
Hanser, Robert
Kasriel, Daniel
Keller, Lakelyn
Konen, James
Maxie, Genesis (early test approval)
McCurty, LaSaundra
McKinley, Karmen
Merritt, Cayla
Nunnery, Iriel
Richard, Patricia
Sam, Heather
Sanders, Kayla
Stepter, Markeith
Turner, Lynda

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the following Endorsement applications for Licensed Master's Social Work.

Harvey, Daizha
Cooper, LaTronna
Patterson, Shemeca
Tarantino, Jan

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Clinical Exam.

Benoit, Leila
Broome, Emily
DiPretore, Caroline
Frazier, Elise
Gonzales-Gonzales, Samuel
Hodgins, Emma (early test approval)
Jackson, Celeste
Lasseigne, Kaitlyn
Miles, Sharmika

Moquete, Issa
Neal, Erikka
Pamplin, Linda
Peltier, Heather
Rivera, Olivia
Seals, Adrienne
Smith, Pamela (early test approval)
Stevens, Ashley (early test approval)
Sumlin, Alexandra
Thomas, Jennifer

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the following Endorsement applicants for issuance of the LCSW.

Abrams, Gina
Adams, Chelsea
Arnold, Veronica
Banks, Cyl
Davis, Latasha
Dierking, Geraldine
Dutton, Amber
Fernelius, Rachel
Fields, Monica
Fowler, Paul
Ingram, Jamie
Kryn, Holly
Manabat, Levin
Matthews, Meghan
Oyedemi, Tawakalitu
Parham, Larissa
Perkins, Altrede
Perkins, Jessica
Perry, Whitany
Rutherford, Selena
Saxon, Shani
St. Clair, Nekia
Taylor, Renee

Renewal Application

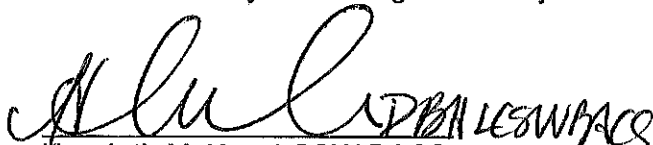
Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to consider the 2023-2024 renewal application submitted by Ora Kelley timely and to waive the lapsed license fee for the 2024-2025 renewal.

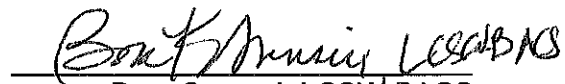
Correspondence

- B. Angelle Arata, LCSW- Ms. Arata was advised to refer to her legal counsel regarding employer mandates.
- C. Jamillia Afeluyi, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried to approve the request for remote supervision.
- D. Claire Garrett, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to deny the request for remote supervision and offer a Compliance Hearing.

- E. Monica Guerra, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision. Public comment made by Carmen Spooner.
- F. Sydnee Miller, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision.
- G. Connie Smart, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to deny the request for all distance learning continuing education hours for the 2024-2025 collection period and offer a Compliance Hearing.
- H. Ryan Averitt, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to accept credit for supervised work experience submitted prior to obtaining an approved Supervision Contract and offer a Compliance Hearing. Public comment made by Ryan Averitt.
- I. Shelby Moreau, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to accept credit for supervised work experience submitted prior to obtaining an approved Supervision Contract and offer a Compliance Hearing.
- J. Erica Pusateri, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to deny the request to accept credit for supervised work experience submitted prior to obtaining an approved Supervision Contract and offer a Compliance Hearing.
- K. Chris Rubadue, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to accept credit for supervised work experience submitted prior to obtaining an approved Supervision Contract and offer a Compliance Hearing.
- L. Nykara Williams, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to deny the request for remote supervision and offer a Compliance Hearing.
- M. Emily Williams, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision.

Motion made by Evan Bergeron to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 p.m.


Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson


Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer

Workflow Report Presented on January 10, 2025

Since December 6, 2024 Meeting

Requests for early testing – Masters	2
Requests for early testing – Clinical	3
Early testers issued LMSW	0
Early testers issued LCSW	2
LMSWs issued (not early testers)	17
LCSWs issued (not early testers)	14
BACS issued	5
Retake applications approved	53
Supervision Contracts approved	42
Other supervision approvals	12
License verifications	41
In-person CE waiver requests – out of state	5
In-person CE waiver requests – medical	4
Open Book Exam Invites	7
Open Book Exam Passed	3
Open Book Exam Failed	0

Received 13 complaints between 11/23/24 and 01/06/25

Written response	4
Investigation	1
Under consideration	2
Not accepted – not a social worker	3
Not accepted – no violation	3

Other activities:

Fall 2024 Newsletter published