

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
January 13, 2023**

Hyacinth McKee, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, January 13, 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 Hyacinth McKee, LCSW, Melissa Smith Haley, LMSW, Bora Sunseri, LCSW, Trinity George, RSW, Jamie Barney, LCSW, Evan Bergeron, Esq., and Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW.

AGENDA

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

Gina Rossi commented that the meeting recordings should be posted on the board's website.

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

James Raines presented a Consent Agreement and Order for Marjorie Muniz in resolution of Complaint #2022-19.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to accept the Consent Agreement and Order for Marjorie Muniz.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2022 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Vanessa Hadden, LCSW

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to remove the disciplinary flag from the website.

Public comment was made by Michele Guidry and Tamica Dickson.

- b. Michael Keeper, BSW student

Michael Keeper recommended that continuing education in leadership be added to the continuing education requirements for social workers. Board members responded that this recommendation would need to be considered by the Interorganizational Committee (IOC) because it would require a change in the Practice Act.

- c. Kathleen North, LCSW-BACS
Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to remove the disciplinary flag from the website.
- d. LaScott Ellis, LMSW
Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve position of Chief Operating Officer of Boys & Girls Clubs of North LA for supervision towards LCSW.
Public comment was given by Cassandra Smith, Rebecca Chaisson, Gina Rossi, and Jennifer Hannon.
- e. Kayla Ogden, JD/MSW Candidate
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to deny Kayla Ogden's request to sit for the ASWB Masters exam prior to obtaining her MSW.
- f. Brandy Alexis, LMSW
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to defer to the next board meeting.

REHEARING IN THE MATTER OF CAROLINE CARONNA

Caroline Caronna's attorney, Elizabeth Carpenter, was present via zoom on behalf of her client. Ms. Caronna did not participate.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to accept the affidavit of Holly McKenney, LCSW-BACS, submitted by Ms. Carpenter. Jamie Barney chaired this hearing. Hyacinth McKee recused herself from the matter.

FINANCIAL

- a. Robert Furman, CPA, provided a report on the board's financial status as of June 30, 2022 and November 30, 2022.
- b. Financial Statements – January 2022 – June 2022
Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to accept the financial statements.
- c. **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to pay \$600.00 to exhibit at the NASW-LA Conference.
- d. **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to offer Matthew Thomasee dba Statewide Security and Investigative Specialists a contract for investigative services at a rate of \$50.00 per hour and a maximum contract amount of \$20,000.00 and Kirk Menard dba Advanced Investigative Technologies at a rate of \$40.00 per hour and a maximum contract amount of \$10,000.00.

BOARD/STAFF MATTERS

- a. ASWB Exam Presentation – Stacey Hardy-Chandler, CEO, gave a presentation relative to exam development, recently released data, and incorporated answers to LABSWE’s pre-submitted questions. Other ASWB representatives on the Zoom presentation were Dale Atkinson (ASWB legal counsel), Lavina Harless (Sr. Director of Examination Services), Jennifer Henkel (Sr. Director of Member Engagement & Regulatory Services), and Carla Moore (Director at Large).
- b. Report on office workflow and staffing – report is attached.
- c. Rules Committee update
The Board was advised that the Rules Committee is meeting on February 3, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- d. Continuing Education Ad-Hoc Committee
The Board was advised that Trinity George is speaking to people about serving.
- e. Town Hall meeting
The Board was advised that the second Town Hall meeting is February 2, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 11:51 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/or to discuss prospective litigation.

Votes for going into Executive Session: Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, yes, Evan Bergeron, Esq., Jamie Barney, LCSW, yes; Bora Sunseri, LCSW, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; Trinity George, yes; and Hyacinth McKee, yes.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 2:37 p.m.

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

Compliance Hearing

LaShanda Ellis requested a compliance hearing to appeal the board’s denial of her LMSW application. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Trinity George and Bora Sunseri.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve LaShanda Ellis's application.

Impaired Professional Program

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Trinity George to accept the IPP report provided by IPP Manager, Kathie Pohlman. The motion was unanimously carried.

Disciplinary Monitoring Report

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to release seven licensees from their Consent Agreement and Order for successfully completing the terms.

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to grant Le'Keidra Livingston an extension through April 21, 2023 to complete the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

Evaluation of Supervision

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and carried by majority vote, to approve the Evaluation of Supervision for JS submitted by PG. Jamie Barney and Trinity George voted against the motion.

Rule 117(E)

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to amend the agenda to discuss Rule 117(E).

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to refer Rule 117(E) to the Rules Committee.

Complaints

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Ruth Weinzettle, to dismiss Complaint #2022-04. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle and seconded by Jamie Barney to dismiss Complaint #2022-32. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Jamie Barney to dismiss Complaint #2022-41. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2022-51 CW 2022-69. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2022-86 with a letter of education. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle and seconded by Melissa Haley to refer Complaint #2023-19 back for further investigation. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2023-25. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Ruth Weinzettle to dismiss Complaint #2023-26. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Ruth Weinzettle to dismiss Complaint #2023-28. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2023-49. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle and seconded by Evan Bergeron to refer Complaint #2023-53 back for further investigation. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2023-58. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2023-61. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2023-62. The motion was unanimously carried.

Applications

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to deny the LCSW endorsement application submitted by Jane Griffin, to offer her a compliance hearing, and to issue approval to sit the ASWB Clinical exam.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle, and unanimously carried, to deny the LCSW endorsement application submitted by Sonya Hensley, to offer her a compliance hearing, and to issue approval to sit the ASWB Clinical exam.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW application submitted by Kenneth Jackson and to offer him a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle, and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW application submitted by Calvin Pouncy and to offer him a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle, and unanimously carried, to deny the RSW application submitted by Brittney Williams and to offer her a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW reinstatement application submitted by Avril Knox, to offer her a compliance hearing, and to issue approval to sit the ASWB Masters exam.

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

Bourgeois, Ashley
Burks, Ava Claire
Cuartas, Natalia
Hale, Kythaia
Herrington, Tameka
Hutto, Alexis
Johnson, Chelsea
Kochinsky, Alexis
Love, Kiya
Matthews, Elegra
Mitchell, Eula
Morris, Kourtnei
Myers, LaTonya
Nkadi, Shelita
Parker, Paige
Perry, Jasmine
Riley, Tai
Roberts, Brandi
Smith, Amber
Smith, Mya
Strange, Melva
Turner, Gabriella
Williams, Annette

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

Jackson, Andria
Jackson, Tiffani
Johnson, Sarah

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, 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.

Albert, Morgan
Alexander, Kylie
Andrews, Savanna
Baker, Melissa
Bercegeay (Ratcliff), Jessie
Betford, Tangela
Brumfield, Terrienne Martin

Bullock, Abigail
Chase, Kiara
Coner, Aunjenee
Corley, Victoria
Day, Hannah
Dillon, Skylar
Drake, Mary
Edwards, Christopher
Elzy, Jerlissa
Fruge, Madison
Guthrie, Martha
Holden, Antoinette
Howard, Tirany
Hunt, Amanda
Huval, Kevin
Ingram, William
Jackson, Jr. Kenneth
Knox, Avril
Krasner, Darian
Kuntz, Heather
Laferte, Robert
Laird, William
Lo, Joanna
Lord, Arianna
McGoldrick, Matthew
Moore, Elizabeth
Pigott, Brittney
Ridley, Sasha
Rodriquez, Fatima
Thomas, Marie
Wallace, Tyrienne
Wilson, Carrie
Williams, Arlyndria

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

Sanders, Shelia
Silva, Anna

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

Coffee, Tiffanie
Corbett, Rebecca
Eckert, Jennifer
Fortin, Jennifer Vega

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

Blue, Jenita
Ebarb, Adam
Ellender, Ryan
Ferrouillet, Ivan
Francis, Keondra
Frank, Danika
Grunwald, Meaghan
Harris, Jazzlyn
Harrison, Felicia
Haymon, Dakota
Hill, Crystal
Jackson, Courtney
Martin, Anna
Naomi, Rebekah
Nevels, Melvin
Nguyen, Khang
Tamboli, Ashley
Turner, Quintell Price
Weaver, Gina
Wilford, Tiera
Williams, Jerrica

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

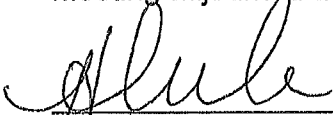
Ainsworth, Christy
Cabanas, Bianca
Carter, Chelsey
Castleman, Tyler
Cook, Natoya
Eiselin, Hannah
Gregg, Jean
Judd, Ryan
Kelly, Shijuan
McLeod, Kamara
Moore, Haley
Morrison, Sharon
Pruitt, Veronica
Robinson, Yvette
Sampson, Deldra
Spurgeon, Michelle
Smith, Ethan
Thiesen, Laura

Trundy, Sonia

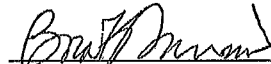
Rehearing

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle, and carried by majority vote, to uphold the denial of Caroline Caronna's LCSW application, to allow credit for October 9, 2021 and October 23, 2021, and to issue a letter of education to Holly McKenney. Hyacinth McKee was recused from this matter.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.



Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson

 LCSW-BACS

Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer

Workflow Report January 13, 2023

Since December 2nd meeting:

Processed 61 retake applications

Processed 21 BACS applications

Approved 44 Supervision Contracts, 33 Records of Supervision, 45 Evaluations, 36 Professional Experience Verifications

Processed 18 LMSWs following passing score on exam

Processed 23 LCSWs following passing score on exam

Processed 44 license verifications

Background checks received and mailed to LSP 35

Received 24 complaints between November 28, 2022 and January 9, 2023

- 12 requests for a written response

- 2 sent for investigation

- 3 pending review of complaint consultant

- 6 not accepted – not a social worker

- 1 not accepted – not a violation

Team Meeting with Lisa Lipsey and Jim Raines 12/15/22.

Received invoice from Certemy and mailed payment 12/29/22. Data will be delivered within 10 days of receipt of payment for the data request.

This information is as of January 9, 2023.