

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners  
April 29, 2023**

Hyacinth McKee, Chairperson, called the strategic planning meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 29, 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.

Bora Sunseri conducted roll call. Board members present at the time of roll call included Evan Bergeron, Esq., Hyacinth McKee, LCSW, Bora Sunseri, LCSW, Melissa Haley, LMSW, and Trinity George, RSW.

Sheri Morris, Legal Counsel, Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, Sara Banks, Licensing Analyst, and Regina DeWitt, Administrative Assistant, were also present for the meeting.

Jamie Barney, LCSW, was absent.  
There is one vacant position.

Hyacinth McKee called for public comments before the start of the meeting. Gina Rossi made the board aware that she had a public comment about agenda item 3.

**Agenda**

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

**Exam Committee Report**

This topic was deferred to the June 2, 2023 board meeting.

**Requests for rules promulgation to allow all continuing education and supervision to be obtained virtually**

There was a lengthy discussion between board members regarding obtaining all continuing education and supervision virtually. The discussion included the topics of safeguards to maintain confidentiality, training relative to ethical standards and best practices, responsibilities of BACS, as well as potential barriers.

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and carried by majority vote, to maintain the requirements of Rule 503(H) and appoint a committee of experts in technology and safeguards for promulgation of an amendment to Rule 503(H). Bora Sunseri and Melissa Haley objected to the motion. It is her position that requiring special circumstances for approval creates a barrier.

YAYS 4

NAYS 2

ABSENT 1

NOT VOTING 0

Melissa Haley requested that the motion be amended to include a time for completion as August 31, 2023.

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to include a completion date of August 31, 2023 as part of the motion.

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, <my notes only say that Evan summarized what will be promulgated can anyone help with this>

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to adopt Chapter 11 as amended and move to promulgate.

Public comments were given by Gina Rossi, Gisset Elliot, Tyshika Lofton, Deanna Reine, Kimberly Peterson, Shalonda Gordon, and Jamie Barney.

**Licensing Platform Update**

Hyacinth McKee asked that a cost comparison matrix be included when the technology committee is ready to present its findings.

**Consideration of renewal fee increase**

La R.S. 2716(A)(2)(c) allows for a maximum renewal fee of \$100.00.

**Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to increase the renewal fee to \$100.00 across all levels of license.

**Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to increase the RSW renewal fee to \$50 and to increase the CSW, LMSW, LCSW, and LCSW-BACS renewal fee to \$100.00.

Public comments were given by Tiffany Henderson and Karen Price.

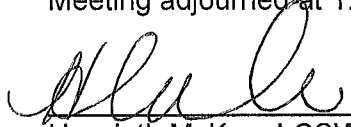
**Request for guidance in procedures**

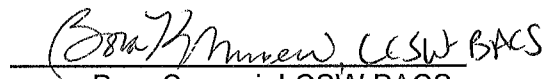
Staff requested the board's guidance regarding retake applications when the applicant no longer holds a social work credential and reinstatement verses initial application regarding CSWs nearing their expiration date that previously held an RSW. Board members agreed that in accordance with Rule 309(N), if the requirements for the credential have not been met within one year from the date of application submission, the application will be considered abandoned. The applicant will be required to submit a new application to gain access to the examination.

**Consideration of the addition of a second Licensing Analyst position**

**Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to add a second Licensing Analyst position to the board's staff.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

  
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Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS  
Chairperson

  
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Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS  
Secretary-Treasurer