

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
January 5, 2024**

Hyacinth McKee, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. on Friday, January 5, 2024. 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, Candice Sorapuru, LCSW, and Evan Bergeron, Esq.

Jamie Barney, LCSW, joined the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were made by Lisa LaRochelle, LCSW-BACS, and Sasha Ridley, CSW.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held December 1, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Cancer Services- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Cancer Services to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- b. Dream Big Counseling, Consulting and Training Service, LLC-- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Dream Big Counseling to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- c. Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Jefferson Parish HSA to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- d. Dr. Jerrelda Sanders, LLC- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Dr. Jerrelda Sanders, LLC to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- e. SUNO: Millie M. Charles School of Social Work- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by SUNO: Millie M. Charles School of Social Work to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.

- f. LSU School of Social Work- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve request to provide the 6.5-hour initial BACS workshop.
- g. Keyshia Flowers, RSW- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to defer the decision to remove Keyshia Flowers' disciplinary flag.
- h. Jade Stevens, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to defer the decision to remove Jade Stevens' disciplinary flag.
Public comment made by Deanna Reine, LCSW-BACS.
- i. Jason Hauth, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to deny the supervision hours submitted late and to offer a compliance hearing.
Public comment made by Carmen Spooner, LCSW-BACS.
- j. Ashley Staehle, LCSW- **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to complete all continuing education hours via distance learning for the remainder of the 2023-2024 collection period.
- k. Tyshica Lofton, LCSW-BACS- submitted a link to the board with a petition titled "Empower BACS with Authority to Permit Remote Supervision." There were no motions made in response to this discussion.
- l. Hailey Amato, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to accept supervision contract that was submitted late with a letter of education to the BACS.
Public comments made by Elizabeth Cooney, LCSW-BACS, Jennifer Hannon, LCSW-BACS, and Lisa LaRochelle, LCSW-BACS.
- m. Kiera Cash, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to accept the supervision contract that was submitted late with AI Robelot, LCSW-BACS.
Public comment made by Jennifer Hannon, LCSW-BACS.
- n. Anna Hrnjak, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the supervision contract that was submitted late with Catherine Puett, LCSW-BACS.
- o. Jada Jackson, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to accept supervision contract that was submitted late with a letter of education to Bridget Crochet, LCSW-BACS.

- p. Keaira Landry, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve her supervision contract that was submitted late with Patricia Fox, LCSW-BACS.
Public comment made by Elizabeth Cooney, LCSW-BACS.
- q. Miyoka Landor, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to approve the supervision contract that was submitted late and offer her a compliance hearing.
Public comments were made by Jacqueline Savoy, LMSW, and Lakeshia Carhee, LCSW.
- r. Bret Whitehead, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried to approve the request to approve his supervision contract that was submitted late with Cecile Guin, LCSW-BACS.
- s. Mackenzie Droddy, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to deny the request to accept the supervision contract that was submitted late with Lisa LaRochelle, LCSW-BACS, and to offer a compliance hearing.
Public comments were made by Lisa LaRochelle, LCSW-BACS, Amelia Westerburg, LMSW, Jennifer Hannon, LCSW-BACS, Melissa Grover, LMSW, and Lakeshia Carhee, LCSW.
- t. Summer Creekbaum, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve the request to accept her supervision contract that was submitted late with Dr. Holly McKenney, LCSW-BACS.
- u. Gwen Stewart, LCSW- Board members reviewed correspondence regarding a recommendation for the Record of Supervision. This letter was referred to the supervision committee for consideration.

HEARING IN THE MATTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT# 2023-103 CW2023-154

The hearing was deferred until March 8, 2024.

BOARD/STAFF MATTERS

- a. Report on office workflow and staffing – report attached to minutes.
- b. Board Committee Reports
 - Trinity George reported that the Continuing Education Committee did not meet on January 4, 2024 and another meeting has not yet been scheduled. The committee's work will be presented to the board in April.
 - Evan Bergeron reported that the Rules Committee has no meetings scheduled. Mr. Bergeron would like to schedule a meeting after the Supervision Committee has completed its review of Chapter 5.
 - Melissa Haley reported that the Policy & Procedure Committee has no meetings scheduled. She advised board members that the policies and procedures in

response to the review of Agreed-Upon Procedures conducted on behalf of the Legislative Auditor.

Hyacinth McKee reported that the Supervision Committee met in December. They reviewed the changes to §507 that were suggested by the Rules Committee and made some revisions. She advised that the committee's next meeting is February 23, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. The following tasks were assigned:

Edgar Guedry – supervisee rights and responsibilities

Gina Signorelli – supervisor responsibilities

Parker Robinson – continuing education component of becoming a BACS

Katie Brown and Hyacinth McKee – telesupervision

Angela Seets – licensing platform

Dr. McKee also informed board members that she has attended another HCR84 Taskforce meeting, and that the taskforce may need additional time to complete their work.

Dr. McKee announced that an Interstate Compact/Teletherapy Committee has been established and that Candice Sorapuru will chair the committee.

Lastly, board members were notified that a small group of former board members will be meeting to enhance the training board members are provided when appointed to the board. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 23.

- c. Review of §507- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to adopt Rule 507 as amended. **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to send the proposed language to counsel for a legal sufficiency review.
- d. Status of Rules Promulgation- The Financial and Economic Impact Statement is being reviewed by the Legislative Fiscal Office. Once approved the notice of intent and supporting documentation will be submitted to the Occupational Licensing Review Commission (OLRC) for approval. Sheri Morris advised that the OLRC has not yet set their meetings for 2024.
- e. Status of contract with Covalent- Sheri Morris advised that the contract will be sent to Emily DeAngelo and Bora Sunseri for review and approval on December 8.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 10:52 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: Trinity George, 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 Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 4:18 p.m.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Melanie Mann, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
2. Alice O’Keefe, LMSW – **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.
3. Shannon Maia, RSW- Office staff instructed to provide Ms. Maia with information regarding the examination process.

COMPLAINTS

Motion was made by Trinity George and seconded by Evan Bergeron to dismiss Complaint #2024-34 with a letter of education. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trinity George and seconded by Evan Bergeron to dismiss Complaint #2024-35. The motion was unanimously carried.

IMPAIRED PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

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

COMPLIANCE HEARINGS

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Destiny Nash to appeal the board’s decision to deny supervision completed 60 days prior to the board’s receipt of her Supervision Contract. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Hyacinth McKee, and Evan Bergeron. Destiny Nash participated in-person.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to uphold the denial of supervision hours.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Jordan Schaffer to appeal the board’s decision to deny supervision completed prior to the board’s receipt of her Supervision Contract. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Hyacinth McKee, and Evan Bergeron. Jordan Schaffer participated remotely via Zoom.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the supervision completed while employed with Jefferson Parish Schools.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Kayla Mainja to appeal the board’s decision to deny her LCSW Endorsement application. Donterrian Griffin was also present to provide testimony. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Hyacinth McKee, and Evan Bergeron. Kayla Mainja participated remotely via Zoom.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to issue Kayla Mainja the LCSW via Endorsement.

A compliance hearing was conducted via Zoom at the request of Caroline Wegener to appeal the board’s decision to deny her supervision hours completed without an approved Supervision

Contract on file. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Hyacinth McKee, and Evan Bergeron. Caroline Wegener participated remotely via Zoom.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to approve the supervision completed and send a letter of education to the BACS to include checking all supervisee's contracts to verify all contracts have been submitted and approved.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Jimecia Williams to appeal the board's decision to deny her supervision hours completed without an approved Supervision Contract on file. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Hyacinth McKee, and Evan Bergeron. Jimecia Williams participated remotely via Zoom.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to deny the supervision completed between January 9, 2023, and July 11, 2023.

APPLICATIONS

Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried to deny the LCSW application submitted by Amy Hesni and to offer her a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Cadice Sorapuru, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried to deny the LMSW endorsement application submitted by Kaylin Soper, to issue the CSW along with exam approval and to 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.

Arnaud, Irie
Bonnette, Rebel
Brown, Lynell
Coleman, Vanlissa
Crochet, Chloe
Fannin, Georgia
Freedman, Daniel
James, Kendia
Jones, Shavonda
Marchand, Nicole
Morgan, Cynthia
Nutt, Meya
Rose, Kayla
Tyler, Michael

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

Ruffin, Laticha
Smith, Katherine

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.

Allen, Latricia
Arce, Laura
Blanchard, Mylie
Boatner, Krysta
Boothe, Brooklyn

Brumfield, Dana
Chaky, Elise (early test approval)
Chenevert, Breana
Crowell, Caroline (early test approval)
Davies, Erica
Gehrig, Isabel
Harris, Leona
Hill, Amber
Hines, Jaden
Johnson, Paula
Lemak, Sarah (early test approval)
LeTart, Kelly (early test approval)
Lowery, Luke
Mills, Tiffney
Myers, Marissa
Minter, Rachel
Smith, Mashariki
Smith, Nija (early test approval)
Vaughn, Juequita
Waite, Lindsey
Wilson, Tiffany

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
Smith, Moesha

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.
Bilandzija, Brian
Fistanic, Barbara
Mitchell, Tonya
Rodgers, Labrigni
Smith, ShaQuantalyn

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.
Baudoin, Madison
Brasseaux, Christine
Burke, Kyla
Cox, Holly (early test approval)
Dicharry, Christopher
Franklin, Kim
Freeman, Aimee
Glynn, Michael
LeJeune, John
Lowery, Gracyn
Martin, Zakaris (early test approval)
Mullenix, Rochelle
Silva, Lacey
Thompson, LaQuisha (early test approval)

Turner, Robin (early test approval)
Williams, Susan

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

Edwards, Larry
Maye, Susan
Shaffer, Jennifer

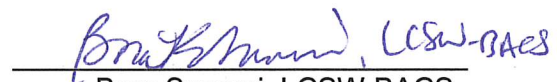
Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following Endorsement applicants for issuance of the LCSW.

Alford, Valon
Cambray, Andrea
Casimir, Fabiola
Del Toro, Hanna
Dupree, Lashay
Edwards, Larry
Fletcher, Elizabeth
Johns, Tamara
Johnson, Shitonda
McElwain, Cora-Ann
Moran, Cynthia
Pedroza, Janet
Recknagel, Nathan
Royster, Christine
Rhyne, Tamesha
Zarucha, Megan

Motion was made by Trinity George to adjourn at 4:36 p.m.



Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson



Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer

Workflow Report January 5, 2024

Since December 1st meeting

Requests for early testing – Masters	7
Requests for early testing – Clinical	2
Early testers issued LMSW	6
Early testers issued LCSW	3
LMSWs issued (not early testers)	26
LCSWs issued (not early testers)	14
BACS issued	6
Retake applications approved	63
Supervision Contracts approved	58
Other supervision approvals	11
Background checks mailed to LSP	19
License verifications	35

Received 4 complaints between 11/28/23 and 12/29/23

Written response	1
Investigation	0
Under consideration	2
Not accepted – not a social worker	1
Not accepted – no violation	0

Presentation to Retired Social Workers 12/08/23

One team meeting (complaints) 12/28/23

