

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
February 22, 2019**

John Shalett, LCSW, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, February 22, 2019, in the conference room at the Board office located at 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, was present for the entire meeting.

Carla Moore, LMSW, conducted roll call. Board members present at the time of roll call included John Shalett, LCSW, Robert Showers, RSW, Carla Moore, LMSW, Brent Villemarette, LCSW, Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, and Evan Bergeron, Consumer Member.

Jennifer Burch, LCSW, was not present for the meeting. Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, left the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Members of the public in attendance included Greg Crader, Dorothy Williams, Bradly Allison, Ashley Lucente, Courtney Brown, Kaitlyn Connors, Emily Ryan, Elandra Seal, Nicole Kiefer, Sol Draper, Abi Unrun, Katherine Boswell, Bobbye Roberts, Cherie McDermott, Adrienne Vallee, Maggie Bridges, Karen Marchand, Mictissa Moseley and Dakota Newman. Two others were present at the meeting, but their names are not legible on the sign-in sheet.

AGENDA

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda with the addition of correspondence from Tammy Threatts, LCSW.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of January 11-12, 2019 meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE

Brittany Kovacs, LMSW

Motion was made Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to allow Brittany Kovacs to complete 20 hours of continuing education via distance learning for the July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 collection period.

Tonti Management

Board members request that Tonti Management be advised that their letter was received and their concerns noted.

Angelique Williams, LCSW

Board members received an email from Angelique Williams in which she is seeking clarification of whether or not she can provide therapy to a previous college mate. Board members advised that dual relationships should be avoided; however, the situation described it is not a dual relationship strictly prohibited by the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or the Rules, Standards and Procedures. Ms. Williams was referred to Rule 113 and told that she has to decide if the relationship has the potential to be harmful.

Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to deny the application submitted by Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area to become a pre-approval organization for social work continuing education. The agency was advised that the application could be reconsidered if they will agree to provide an earlier notice of approval.

Southeastern Louisiana University School of Social Work

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by SLU to be a pre-approval organization of social work continuing education.

Absolute Service Solutions

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Absolute Service Solutions to be a pre-approval organization of social work continuing education.

Tulane School of Social Work

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to approve the 6.5 hour BACS supervision workshop to be sponsored by Tulane School of Social Work on June 8, 2019.

Lakeitha Williams, CSW

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and carried by majority vote to table making a decision on Lakeitha Williams' request to remove the red flag from her record to the April meeting. Robert Showers abstained from the vote.

Patricia Guillory, LCSW-BACS

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to approve Patricia Guillory's request to provide face-to-face remote supervision for six months.

**HEARING IN THE MATTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT #2017-146 CW
2017-190 AGAINST CONNIE JOHNSON**

Madeline Carbonette, Assistant Attorney General, appeared on behalf of the state and presented evidence in support of the complaint. Board members John Shalett, Brent Villemarette, Carla Moore, Ruth Weinzettle and Evan J. Bergeron served on the hearing panel. George Papale served as hearing officer as the Board's Independent Legal Counsel. Connie Johnson appeared unrepresented by legal counsel. A court reporter with Baton Rouge Court Reporters was present to document the proceeding. Ms. Johnson requested that her hearing be held in Executive Session and the hearing panel granted her request.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 12:10 p.m.

**HEARING IN THE MATTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT #2017-187
AGAINST BENOLIA THOMAS**

Madeline Carbonette, Assistant Attorney General, appeared on behalf of the state and presented evidence in support of the complaint. Board members John Shalett, Brent Villemarette, Carla Moore, Ruth Weinzettle and Evan J. Bergeron served on the hearing panel. George Papale served as hearing officer as the Board's Independent Legal Counsel. Benolia Thomas was not present nor was an attorney present on her behalf. A court reporter with Baton Rouge Court Reporters was present to document the proceeding.

CORRESPONDENCE

Andrew Hancock, LCSW

Andrew Hancock submitted an inquiry as to whether or not a social worker can call himself a sex therapist. Board members advised Mr. Hancock that it is not within their authority to say if a social worker can call themselves a sex therapist.

Christopher Velardo, Jr., LCSW

Christopher Velardo submitted a question relative to the language in the practice act that refers to "other applicable laws" when speaking about confidentiality and death of a client. Board members explained that the applicable law is not in part of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or the Rules, Standards and Procedures. The term "applicable" refers to laws outside of the practice act and rules which may govern death and subsequent handling of client information. These are subject to change with time and jurisdiction, thus the reference to "applicable". The Board is not authorized by its Practice Act to serve in the capacity as private legal counsel for social workers presenting legal questions relating to social work practice issues.

Karen Marchand, LMSW

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to accept Karen Marchand's Supervision Agreement for employment with Zachary Community Schools that began on July 20, 2017.

Maria Lathrop-Skalos, LCSW-BACS

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to approve Maria Lathrop-Skalos's request to provide supervision via face-to-face electronic means to LMSWs Mary Smalley, Natosha Brown and Shandrieka Lewis.

Cassandra Smith, LCSW-BACS

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the 6.5 hour BACS workshop Cassandra Smith will be presenting on April 27, 2019.

Jacqueline Smith, LCSW-BACS

Jacqueline Smith asked the Board if a social worker has a duty to report to police if a client discloses he/she witnessed a murder and got rid of the body. Board members advised that this does not fall under a mandatory reporting situation, but that she should consult an attorney to find out if it is confidential information. Robert Showers disagrees with the Board's response.

Maggie McWilliams, RN

Board members advised Maggie McWilliams to report that this agency is allowing social workers to practice outside of their scope of practice and without supervision to the Health Standards Section of the Department of Health.

Tammy Threatts, LCSW

Board members responded to Tammy Threatts's email whether a LCSW can sign a physician's emergency certificate by advising her that it is not within the scope of practice.

FINANCIAL

Financial statement for the period ending December 31, 2018

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the financial statement prepared by Robert Furman, CPA, for the period ending December 31, 2018.

ASWB Dues for 2019

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to approve paying the \$250.00 ASWB membership dues for 2019.

ASWB 2019 Education Conference

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to fund four board members and one staff person to attend the conference in April 2019.

CLEAR – National Certified Investigator & Inspector Training Basic Program
Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to fund Victoria Blake's participation in this training in May 2019 in Sacramento, CA.

BOARD/STAFF ISSUES

Report on Office Workflow

Board members reviewed a report provided by the staff of the workflow since the last meeting. There have been 71 retakes processed, 2 retake extensions, 55 new licenses issued, 75 new applications, and 11 BACS applications. There are 155 licenses being monitored following disciplinary action. 26 verifications have been processed. 33 renewal applications have been processed. The Winter 2019 Newsletter was published. Board members also reviewed the turn-around time for the latest set of Supervision Agreements and Plans.

Update on IOC's Work

Emily DeAngelo advised board members that the following was discussed/agreed to at the meeting on February 7, 2019:

1. Add practicing with a lapsed license to 2717
2. Continued discussion about inactive and retired status
3. Committee agreeable to adding education to scope of practice of RSW
4. Committee agreeable to contracting at all levels, but not using the word expert. Recommend using "with current, specialized knowledge" in place of expert.
5. Change 2709(B) to require someone to be credentialed within 90 days of beginning social work practice rather than it reading, "shall submit an application for...within 90 days of commencement of social work practice."
6. Add title protection of social work
7. Add LISW credential for macro practitioners, would require passing score on Advanced Generalist exam

Next meeting – April 4, 2019

Report of FARB Conference

Evan Bergeron and John Shalett attended the FARB conference. The conference concerned pending legal issues with regulatory boards, background checks, license portability, and antitrust issues. The delegation also met with representatives of the Louisiana Attorney General's office to discuss prosecution policy.

Supervision Committee Report

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to move forward with rules promulgation process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 2:23 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: Robert Showers, yes; Evan Bergeron, yes; Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, yes; Brent Villemarette, yes; and Carla Moore, yes.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 5:21 p.m.

Impaired Professional Program

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

Disciplinary Monitoring Report

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to release the following individuals from their Consent Agreement and Order because all terms are successfully complete Tiffany Torregano, Gail Pesses, Maxine Jean-Louis, Tasjanique Moore, Teiwana Miller, Ursula Warner, Stan Rynott, Rocquel Smith, Etta Rose, Erma Borskey, Derrick Freeman, Ronald Marks, Vanessa Rubin, Mary James-Thomas, and Melissa Edwards.

New Complaints

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2019-165** and to request a written response. Possible violation includes La R.S. 37:2717(A)(7).

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to not accept **Complaint #2019-195**.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to not accept **Complaint #2019-196**.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2019-197** and to send it for investigation. Possible violations include La R.S. 37:2717(A)(5), (7) & (11) and Rules 107(B) and 111(C), 111(G)(5), and 111(H)(2).

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to refer **Complaint #2019-198** to the Department of Children and Family Services.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to refer **Complaint #2019-199** to the Department of Children and Family Services.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2019-200** and to send for investigation. Possible violations include LA R.S. 37:2717(A)(7), (11) & (12) and Rules 107(B) & (C).

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to refer **Complaint #2019-201** to the Department of Children and Family Services.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to refer **Complaint #2019-202** to the Department of Children and Family Services.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2019-203** and to request a written response and all official court documents. Possible violations include Rule 117(E).

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2019-204** and to request a written response from employer. Possible violations include practicing social work without a license.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2019-205** and to request a written response. Possible violations include Rule 111(G)(1) & (5).

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to not accept **Complaint #2019-206**.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to not accept **Complaint #2019-207**, but to have Administrator contact respondent to discuss situation.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2019-208** and to send it for investigation with other complaint against respondent. Possible violations include Rule 117(A).

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2019-209** and to request a written response and all official court documents. Possible violations include Rule 117(E).

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2019-210** and to request a written response. Possible violation includes La R.S. 37:2717(A)(5) & (11) and Rules 107(B) and 115(A).

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to refer **Complaint #2019-211** to the Department of Children and Family Services.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2019-212** and to send it for investigation. Possible violations include La R.S. 37:2717(A)(5), (10) & (11) and Rules 107(A) and 121(B).

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2019-213** and to request a written response. Possible violation includes La R.S. 37:2717(A)(5) and Rules 121(A) & (B).

Pending Complaints

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2015-169**.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2017-96** for hearing on May 10, 2019.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2017-100** for hearing on May 10, 2019.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2017-108** for hearing on May 10, 2019.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2017-109** for hearing on May 10, 2019.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2017-113** for hearing on May 10, 2019.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2017-114** for hearing on May 10, 2019.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2017-115** for hearing on May 10, 2019.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2017-121** for hearing on June 14, 2019.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2017-125** for hearing on June 14, 2019.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2017-126** for hearing on June 14, 2019.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2017-127** for hearing on June 14, 2019.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2017-129** for hearing on June 14, 2019.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2018-22** for hearing on June 14, 2019.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2018-77** for hearing on June 14, 2019.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to amend the agenda by moving the following pending complaints into a consent agenda:

2018-150	2018-313
2018-157	2018-315
2018-161	2018-316
2018-178	2018-319
2018-180	2018-321
2018-182	2018-326
2018-185	2019-92
2018-199	2019-93
2018-205	2019-95
2018-208	2019-97
2018-210	2019-99
2018-212	2019-100
2018-213	2019-101
2018-221	2019-102
2018-222	2019-104
2018-223	2019-105
2018-227	2019-106
2018-232	2019-108
2018-237	2019-113
2018-240	2019-114
2018-245	2019-115
2018-254	2019-116
2018-257	2019-118
2018-259	2019-119
2018-263	2019-121
2018-271	2019-122
2018-279	2019-123
2018-274	2019-124
2018-296	2019-125
2018-303	2019-126
2018-305	2019-127
2018-310	2019-128
2018-311	2019-129
2018-312	2019-131

2019-133	2019-176
2019-134	2019-177
2019-135	2019-178
2019-136	2019-179
2019-139	2019-180
2019-146	2019-181
2019-148	2019-182
2019-149	2019-183
2019-166	2019-184
2019-167	2019-185
2019-168	2019-186
2019-169	2019-187
2019-170	2019-188
2019-171	2019-189
2019-172	2019-190
2019-173	2019-191
2019-174	2019-192
2019-175	2019-193

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to dismiss all items on the consent agenda.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to keep **Complaint #2019-10** open, to approve renewal application upon receipt of additional information, and to make contact with the Impaired Professional Program within 30 days for an evaluation.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2019-11** with a letter of education.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2019-43**.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2019-48**.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2019-58**.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2019-68**.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2019-73**.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2019-76**.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to advise respondent in **Complaint #2019-77** that she is required to have a license.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2019-78**.

Applications

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW application submitted by Natalie Jarrell and to offer her a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to uphold the decision to offer Wenona Walters-Milus a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice of social work.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to deny the RSW application submitted by Shareata Carter and to offer her a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to deny the RSW application submitted by Ashton Hawkins and to offer him a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously offered, to approve the LMSW application submitted by Ruben Forsman and to reinstate the LMSW without retesting.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for Registered Social Work:

Blackwood, Kaycee	Moody, Sarah
Bradford, Theresa	Scheib, Melissa
Campbell, Gladys	Sheperd, Shauntoria
Cooks, Ne'Kedra	Simonton, LaJoyce
Cutrer, Charity	Smith, Latonya
Dryden, Candice	Todd, Stacey
Grace, Ashleigh	Trufant, Shantrell
Johnson, Zachary	Williams, Tyisha
Kelly, Jan	

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for approval to sit for the Masters exam and to issue Certified Social Work:

August, Nicolette J.
Buckner, Erica
Capponcelli, Jacki B.
Clofer, Kimberly B. (Testing only)
Feaster, Nakisha L. (Testing only)
Ferguson, Lillian B.
Hebert, Sherri D.
Jones, Kathryn F.
Jones, Markia B.
Jones, Tiffani V.

Lockett, Ursula C.
Munoz, Yamel R.
Rhinehart, Tamika D.
Sequeira, Diana
Smith, Rhia J.
Spivey-Steward, Bertha L.
Stears, Tama
Trani, Erica L.
Wallo, Nathaniel R.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for approval to sit for the Masters exam and to issue Certified Social Work pending receipt of official MSW transcript:

Vanek, Rachel

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to issue Licensed Master Social Work through endorsement to: Moon, Catherine (End-PA)

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Clinical exam for Licensed Clinical Social Work:

Barcnas, Kristina V.
Bell, Nicole C.
Brand, Amy K.
Cassine, Chase E.
Cummings, Kelsey L.
Davis, Faniki N.
Ellis, Sierra S.
Eumont, Sarah E.
Flowers, Dione W.
Hauth, Catherine E.
Holcomb, Evan M.
Ivankovich, Tara L.
Jones, Regina T.
Lamothe, Jill M.
LeGuizamo, Christine N.
McCaleb, Kristina M.

Maxwell, Cassie L.
Mills, Iris D.
Pellissier, Colette
Prudhomme, Sara E.
Reine, A. Deanna F.
Riley, Jacquelyn
Rister, Kimberly P.
Robert, Maggie A.
Robertson, Markela K.
Scott, Tedra W.
Thomas, Katie M.
Viola, Tracie D.
Wheeler, Ashley N.
Williams, Rona M.
Wortham, Benjamin H.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to issue Licensed Clinical Social Work through endorsement to the following applicants:

Demler, Elizabeth (End-NC)
Elstrott, Rachel (End-NY)

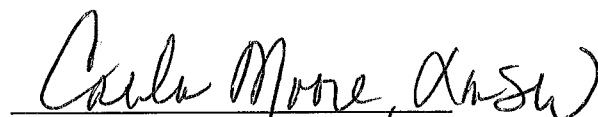
Issa, Mehwish (End-IL)
James, Vashonte (End-IN, IL)

Renewal Application

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to grant Colleen Smith an extension and approval to complete the required 20 hours of continuing education for the July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 collection period via distance learning due to her extenuating circumstances.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.


John Shalett, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson


Carla Moore, LMSW
Secretary-Treasurer