

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
September 17, 2021**

Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:30am on Friday, September 17, 2021. 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. The allowance of a video conference is authorized by Proclamation 30 JBE 2020, Section 4 as extended by subsequent executive proclamations including 75 JBE 2020. Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, and Sheri Morris, Legal Counsel, were present for the meeting.

Carla Moore, LMSW, conducted roll call. Board members present at the time of roll call included Evan Bergeron, Consumer Member, Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, and Carla Moore, LMSW. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW, and Ada Nelson, RSW, participated via videoconference.

Jamie Barney, LCSW, arrived at 8:33am.

Members of the public in attendance that we are aware of are on the attached list.

AGENDA

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Evan Bergeron provided explanation of public comments and continuing education. Public comment can be made during the meeting or submitted in advance of the meeting to edeangelo@labswe.org. The public comment must pertain to an item on the agenda and persons are allowed two minutes per comment.

Attendees of the public portion of both the board meeting and strategic planning meeting can obtain 1 hour of continuing education in ethics and 1 general hour of continuing education. A certificate is available at <https://www.labswe.org/board-member-meetings-and-agendas/> for you to save and upload to next year's renewal workflow or in your digital wallet.

There were no public comments.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 20, 2021. There were no public comments regarding the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Katrina Billiot, LMSW

Motion was made by Jamie Barney and seconded by Hyacinth McKee to approve the request submitted by Katrina Billiot for a waiver of the 90-day wait to retake the LCSW exam. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

BOARD/STAFF MATTERS

Moment of Silence in memory of Brent Villemarette, LCSW-BACS

Announcement of Vacancy on Board

Emily DeAngelo advised board members that an email blast was sent to notify licensees of the board vacancy (RSW, LMSW, or LCSW) with instructions to apply. Deadline for applications September 29, 2021.

Office Workflow and Staffing

Emily DeAngelo provided a verbal report on staffing and workflow. She advised that Kelly Sicard began employment September 13th. Staff are currently working to complete annual renewals that were submitted on paper. Intend to start answering phone calls again next week. Board members were informed that Hurricane Ida hindered work due to loss of power and internet at LABSWE office for a week. Governor Edwards issued a proclamation suspending lapse in licenses through September 24, 2021. Anticipate that all social work licenses that were submitted by the deadline will be reviewed for verification by LABSWE office staff prior to September 24, 2021.

ASWB Review & Process 90 Day Wait Waiver Requests

A September 7, 2021, communication from ASWB informs that the waiting period between testing exists for security reasons and benefits candidates by setting aside time to prepare for the next attempt to pass the exam. Candidates whose exam score is within five correct answers of the passing score may request a waiver of the waiting period. In addition, the candidate must submit a letter from the employer stating that the candidate's job is in jeopardy without a passing exam score.

ASWB has agreed to expand the definition of job jeopardy to include candidates who are not able to gain employment without a license. ASWB offered to review and process waiver requests on board's behalf if authorized to do so.

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Evan Bergeron to authorize ASWB to complete reviews for 90 day wait waivers. This authorization is being made with the understanding that in the future, LABSWE may choose to resume control of the review of waiver requests. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

ASWB Delegate Assembly (November 19-20)

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Evan Bergeron to select Ruth Weinzettle as the LABSWE delegate. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Hyacinth McKee to select Emily DeAngelo as the LABSWE alternative delegate. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

The ASWB Delegate Assembly was scheduled to be held in New Orleans, but due to continuing concerns with COVID-19 will be held virtually. Carla Moore will be in Virginia for the assembly as a member of the ASWB Delegate Assembly Board of Directors.

FINANCIAL

Motion was made by Carla Moore and seconded by Evan Bergeron to accept the Financial Statements for the periods ending April 30, 2021 and May 31, 2021 prepared by Robert Furman, CPA. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Hyacinth McKee and seconded by Carla Moore to authorize Emily DeAngelo to purchase plastic file boxes for storage of files which are categorized as permanent records. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 9:04 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, yes; Jamie Barney, yes; Hyacinth McKee, yes; Evan Bergeron, yes; Carla Moore, yes; and Ada Nelson, yes.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron seconded, by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 1:02 p.m.

Hyiancith McKee arrived virtually at 1:05 p.m.

Consent Agreement and Order

Madeline Carbonette, Assistant Attorney General, presented a Consent Agreement and Order for Jacqueline Woods, LCSW-BACS.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Carla Moore to accept the Consent Agreement and Order #2021-66 CW 2021-72. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

Compliance Hearing

There was a compliance hearing conducted in Executive Session for Michele Guidry, LCSW. The hearing panel included Evan Bergeron, Hyacinth McKee, and Jamie Barney. David Aden was present representing the respondent.

The hearing panel reported that the respondent waived the 15-day deadline for a response to submit additional information for the hearing panel's review. This matter will remain open until the October board meeting.

Impaired Professional Program

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Carla Moore to accept the written IPP report provided by IPP Manager, Kathie Pohlman. There were no public comments. The motion was unanimously carried.

Pending Complaints

The Board was notified that the hearing in the matter of Administrative Complaint #2020-111 is continued to December 10, 2021.

Applications

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Evan Bergeron to deny the LCSW by reinstatement application submitted by Aaron Daniels, MSW, and to offer a compliance hearing. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Carla Moore to approve the application submitted by Sharman James, MSW, and to issue approval to sit for the ASWB Masters exam. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. One opposition vote by Jamie Barney. The motion was carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Hyacinth McKee to table the request submitted by Jasmine Nelson, LMSW, to sit for the ASWB Clinical exam pending receipt of court documents. There were no public comments relevant to this matter. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to approve the following applications for Registered Social Work. There were no public comments on this matter.

Adams, Gabrielle
Alexander, Tyja
Baker, Ashley
Berry, Megan
Cheneau, Brittani
Crawford, Special
Franklin, Cotrina
Gainer, Tekana
Grigsby, T'Niya

Harrison-Lewis, Courtenay
Hunt, Dirnelda
Jacobs, Billyona
Jenkins, Rodisha (Rein.)
Kindells, Destiny
Maricle, Jaelyn
Moncriffe III, Richard
Negrete, April
Robertson, Asha
Robinson, Brandy (Rein.)
Rodriguez, Marlene
Seay, Nicole
Toporek, Michal
Traylor, Tasia
Whitley, Andrea

Motion was made by Carla Moore, 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. There were no public comments on this matter.

Allen, Mictissa
Ballance, John
Broussard, Aiesha
Brown, Mary (passed M exam)
Bruyninckx, Amanda
Cannon, Chasity (Matthews)
Colbert, Nia
Darnell, Bethany
Dehart, Sandra
Nakisha Farria
Garcia, Kourtney
Gonzales, Gregory
Hodges, Kristie
Jackson, Jada
Jarreau, Taylor
Klein, Dana
Kraus, Haley
Lancon, Sydney
Lee, Tarsha
Lewis, MaKayla
Lipscomb, Jenna
Maxwell, Carrie
Miller, Alexandra
Owens, LeChundra
Payne, Kimberly (Rein.)
Ragas, Hannah

Rogers, Heather
Ukpabi, Courtney
Varner, LaKisha
Winter, Cara

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Clinical Exam. There were no public comments on this matter.

Cox, Jami
Crouse, Keara
Eisenstat, Miriam
Engermann, Margaret
Fuhrman, Sarah
Griffin, Shalandrea
Hicks, Caitlin
Johnson, Brandi
Joubert, Victoria
Kleinpeter, Alicia
Lee, Jessica
Nugent, Tonya
Sheldon, Melissa
Spears, Letisha
Talley, Christine
Williams, Victoria

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for LCSW through endorsement. There were no public comments on this matter.

Brahmbhatt, Divya (End- TX)
Fields, Gidget (End- VA)
Gonzales, Edith (End-NY)
Harris, Candace (End-NC)

Motion to adjourn by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Carla Moore. There were no public comments on this issue.

Meeting adjourned at 1:16pm.

Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson

Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer