

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
September 15, 2023**

Hyacinth McKee, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 15, 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. Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, and Rebecca Escoto, an attorney with Daigle, Fisse & Kessenich were present for the meeting. Sheri Morris, Legal Counsel, attended a portion of the meeting.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gina Rossi, LCSW-BACS, presented a public comment relative to virtual supervision and promulgation of rules.

AGENDA

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

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDERS

1. In the matter of Marleen Billiot, LCSW-BACS, File #2021-171 – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to adopt the Consent Agreement and Order for Marleen Billiot.
2. In the matter of Tameika Lee, RSW, File #2022-24 – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to adopt the Consent Agreement and Order for Tameika Lee.
3. In the matter of Christy Nicko, LMSW, File #2022-61 – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to adopt the Consent Agreement and Order for Christy Nicko.
4. In the matter of Harold Kirby, LCSW, File #2023-54 – **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to defer this matter to the October 20, 2023 board meeting.
5. In the matter of Heather Kuntz, LMSW, File #2023-94 – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamine Barney, and unanimously carried, to adopt the Consent Agreement and Order for Heather Kuntz.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 11, 2023.

FINANCIAL

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to amend the contract with Integrated Security & Investigative Specialists by increasing the total contract amount by \$10,000 for a total contract amount of \$25,000.

BOARD/STAFF MATTERS

1. Report on office workflow and staffing – report attached to minutes
2. Tech Committee - **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to enter contract negotiations with Covalent Logic. The board asked Sheri Morris to begin negotiations.
Public Comments were made by Tyshica Lofton, LCSW-BACS, Gina Rossi, LCSW-BACS, and Brandon Reeves, LCSW-BACS.
3. Rules Committee – Evan Bergeron reported that there are currently 16 proposed rules changes. The board previously requested that the committee draft rules regarding board committees. Mr. Bergeron requested discussion about which committees board members believe should be standing committees and other committee membership matters like composition and terms.
4. Task Force to study suicide rates among African Americans in Louisiana - Dr. Hyacinth McKee reported that Southern University in Baton Rouge will be collecting data for this task force. The report is due to the legislature by February 1, 2024. The next scheduled meeting is October 5, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Deborah Glover, LCSW-BACS – **Motion** was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Deborah Glover to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
2. Jewish Family Services – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to deny the application submitted by Jewish Family Services to be a continuing education pre-approval organization. The application will be reconsidered after it is submitted without mark-ups, a new recommendation letter is received by someone who does not serve on their board, and the letter submitted by Gail Pesses is resubmitted with a signature.
3. LSU School of Social Work – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by LSU School of Social Work to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
4. NAMI New Orleans – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to deny the application submitted by NAMI New Orleans. The board is requesting the letters of recommendation to reference how they are familiar with the organization and an application submitted without mark-ups.

COMPLIANCE HEARING

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Jessica Frankel, LMSW, to appeal the board's decision to deny supervision credit completed with Kay Clemons, LCSW-BACS. The hearing panel included Trinity George, Melissa Haley, and Candice Sorapuru. Jessica Frankel participated via Zoom. Kay Clemons was also present via Zoom and testified on behalf of Ms. Frankel. **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and

unanimously carried, to approve the supervision hours and to issue a letter of education to Ms. Clemons.

CORRESPONDENCE

5. Tides Center for Wellness, LLC – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Tides Center for Wellness, LLC, to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
6. Joseph Buzzetta, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried to approve supervision completed in 2018, under the supervision of Vanessa Graves, LCSW-BACS.
7. Quinnieka Kent, RSW – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried to approve the request to complete all continuing education hours via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
8. Nabila Barrera, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to deny her request for remote supervision.
9. Brittany Peoples, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried to approve the request to continue remote supervision with her current supervisor.
10. Caroline Wegener, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and carried by majority vote, to deny her request for remote supervision. Melissa Haley opposed the motion. Roll call vote was conducted. Jamie Barney Yes, Bora Sunseri Yes, Candice Sorapuru Yes, Evan Bergeron Yes, Melissa Haley No, Trinity George No.
Public comments were made by Gina Rossi and LaSheka Shine.
11. Marsha Guthrie, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried to approve the request to continue remote supervision with her current supervisor.
12. Abigail Mullen, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jamie Barney, and carried by majority vote, to deny her request for remote supervision. Melissa Haley opposed the motion. Roll call vote was conducted. Jamie Barney Yes, Bora Sunseri Yes, Candice Sorapuru Yes, Evan Bergeron Yes, Melissa Haley No, Trinity George Yes.
Public comment was made by Gina Rossi.
13. Danielle Bryant, LCSW – Board members recommend that Ms. Bryant seek legal advice regarding her question about mandatory reporting. It was also recommended that she review La R.S. 37:2717(A)(8) and Rules 115(B), 117(A), and 903(A), (B), & (C).

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to amend the agenda to include Ronald Oliver's application under the application review portion of the meeting. Votes for amending the agenda: Trinity George, yes; Jamie Barney, yes; Evan

Bergeron, yes; Bora Sunseri, yes; Trinity George, yes; Candice Sorapuru, yes; and Hyacinth McKee, yes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 12:07 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: Trinity George, yes; Jamie Barney, 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 Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 2:37 p.m.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Beryl deMontluzin, LCSW – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to approve request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
- b. Nadine Faciane, LCSW – **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
- c. Mimi Jalenak, LCSW-BACS – **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.
- d. Heather Moller, LCSW – **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
- e. Israel Moore, CSW – **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
- f. Gretchen Johnson-Wiltz, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve request to complete all continuing education via distance learning for the 2023-2024 collection period.
- g. Brittney Delaney, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve request to continue remote supervision with her current supervisor.

- h. Lori Gieseler, LCSW-BACS – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve request to continue remote supervision with her current supervisees.
- i. Debin Shelmire, LMSW – **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to deny the request to continue remote supervision. She can resubmit her request along with supportive documentation.

IMPAIRED PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Jamie Barney, and unanimously carried, to accept the report submitted by Kathie Pohlman, IPP Manager.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to release AT-18 from the terms of their Participation Agreement due to successful completion.

COMPLAINTS

Motion was made by Melissa Haley and seconded by Candice Sorapur to dismiss Complaint #2020-74. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley and seconded by Bora Sunseri to dismiss all the allegations in Complaint #2021-26 except for failure to cooperate with the investigation, and to refer to complaint counsel. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley and seconded by Bora Sunseri to dismiss all the allegations in Complaint #2022-40 except for failure to cooperate with the investigation, and to refer to complaint counsel. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley and seconded by Bora Sunseri to dismiss Complaint #2022-77. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2023-38. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2023-118. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trinity George and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2023-133. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trinity George and seconded by Bora Sunseri to dismiss Complaint #2023-158 with a letter of education. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Trinity George and seconded by Melissa Haley to dismiss Complaint #2023-160. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Melissa Haley to refuse Complaint #2024-09. The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron and seconded by Bora Sunseri to refuse Complaint #2024-10. The motion was unanimously carried.

APPLICATIONS

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the LCSW endorsement application submitted by Anne Beach.

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to deny the LCSW application submitted by Hena Kausar and to offer her a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Evan Bergeron, and unanimously carried, to deny the RSW application submitted by Rhama Lee and to offer her a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW Reinstatement application submitted by Rachel McWilliams and to offer her a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the CSW/LMSW application submitted by Chelsi Means.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Candice Sorapuru, and unanimously carried, to deny the CSW/LMSW application submitted by Leah Mendoza and to offer her a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri, and unanimously carried, to approve the RSW application submitted by Rena Miles.

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the CSW/LMSW application submitted by Ronald Oliver.

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

Baker, Monicke
Bedford, Janea
Blanchard, Mylie
Brown, Troylynn
Evans, Jennifer
Fullwood, Albert
Fulton, Renada
Harvey, Dara
Jefferson, Keyerra
McCray, Monique
Orgah, Josephine
Robertson, Rosie
Royal, Samantha
Russell, Gianna
Sias, Jessica
Scott, Caitlyn
Williams, Jada

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

Allen, Tiffney
Frederick, Kayla

Hammond, Darlene
Johnson-Clark, Carol
Miles, Rena
Rubin, Ashley

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.

Badeaux, Ashley
Ballard, Kristan
Beslin, Mary
Bonura, Laurie
Brown, Dionna
Brown, Genesis
Cole, Del'Rio
Douglas, Lexis
Gisclair, Maya
Head, Patsy
Hise, Jessi
Huval, Taylor
Jackson, Porsha
Johnson, Amie
Jones, Elizabeth
Kenney, Angel
Kirk Walker, Jia
Levier, Amy
Linville, Bethany
Maloid, Vicki
Maggio, Ashton
Martin, D'Aja
McClinton, Lakisha
Osiagwu, Ngozika
Picou, Rebecca
Schiler, Holly
Spears, Charity
Tate, Connie
Taylor, Katlynn
Trimble, Dominique
Veal, Nathaniel
Walton, Sha'Dreka
Watts, Earlene
Williams, Arielle
Wilson, Chantell

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
Guin, Mary

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.
Caughie, Tyler

Trochesset, Candice
Zarucha, Megan

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

Boutte, Sierra
Brady, Delaney
Brown, Mary (early tester)
Buuck, Mallory
Carter, Kelly
Ferguson, Brooke (early tester)
Golden, Shalonda (early tester)
Herring, Lacey
Papierski, Katelyn
Roberts, III Jodie
Schurman, Catherine
Smith, Eloris (early tester)
St. Germaine, Janie
Terrell, Skyler

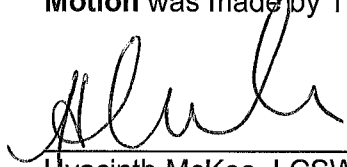
Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for Reinstatement of the LCSW.

Benoit, Alexandra

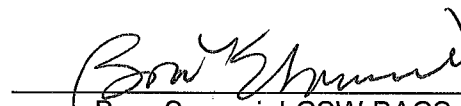
Motion was made by Candice Sorapuru, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following Endorsement applicants for issuance of the LCSW.

Baer, Shelly
Chancellor, Shemila
Diaz de Leon, Brianda
Griffin, DeKeitra
Munro, Micah
Seltzer, Jennifer

Motion was made by Trinity George to adjourn at 2:54 p.m.



Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson



Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer

Workflow Report September 15, 2023

Since August 11th meeting

Retake applications	77
Paper renewals	21
Background checks mailed to LSP	54
LMSWs issued – passed exam	58
LCSWs issued – passed exam	28
Office of Debt Recovery Notices	0
License Verifications	55
BACS Applications	9
Early testing for MSW students	3
Early testing for LMSW	7

Received 14 complaints between 07/27/23 and 09/12/23

Written response	4
Investigation	1
Under consideration	5
Not accepted – not a social worker	1
Not accepted – no violation	3

The Complaint Consultant, Complaint Counsel and Administrator met twice in the month of August.

The administrator provided information to CPA necessary for the compilation and submission of the Annual Fiscal Report (AFR) to the Division of Administration, Office of Statewide Reporting and Accounting Policy, and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

The administrator is currently compiling required documentation for the agreed-upon procedures to the CPA firm selected by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

We experienced high call volume and emails daily during the month of August regarding continuing education and renewal.