

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
April 16, 2010**

Michael Hickerson, RSW, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., Friday, April 16, 2010, in the Conference Room at the Board office located at 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Emily Efferson, Administrator, and Regina Breaux, Administrative Assistant, were present for the entire meeting. Other individuals present for a portion of the meeting were Carmen Weisner and Nicole LeBlanc.

Michael Hickerson, RSW, conducted roll call. Board members present included Hope Himel-Benson, LCSW, Evelyn Jenkins, LCSW, and John McBride, LCSW. Roslyn Richardson, GSW, and Wade Tyler, LCSW, were absent due to their participation with an ASWB committee meeting.

AGENDA

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to add 5m, letter from Darryl Bruno, LCSW, to the agenda. Votes for accepting the amended agenda: Hope Himel-Benson yes, Evelyn Jenkins yes, Michael Hickerson yes and John McBride yes.

Presentation of Consent Agreement and Order

Lindsey Hunter, Assistant Attorney General, presented the board with a Consent Agreement and Order for **Shannon McDaniel, GSW**, which had been previously negotiated and agreed to by Ms. McDaniel in resolution of Complaint #2010-58. Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to accept the Consent Agreement and Order as presented.

Presentation of Consent Agreement and Order

Emalie Boyce, Assistant Attorney General, presented the board with a Consent Agreement and Order for **Tiffany Chaney**, which had been previously negotiated and agreed to by Ms. Chaney in resolution of Complaint #2010-21. Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to accept the Consent Agreement and Order as presented.

Presentation of Consent Agreement and Order

Emalie Boyce, Assistant Attorney General, presented the board with a Consent Agreement and Order for **Stacy Hillestad**, which had been previously negotiated and agreed to by Ms. Hillestad in resolution of Complaint #2010-85 and 2010-86. Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to deny the Consent Agreement and Order as presented because the agreement did not include a supervision requirement. Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to accept the Consent Agreement and Order as amended to include a supervision requirement.

Presentation of Consent Agreement and Order

Emalie Boyce, Assistant Attorney General, presented the board with a Consent Agreement and Order for **Lagatha Travers, MSW**, which had been previously negotiated and agreed to by Ms. Travers in resolution of Complaint #2010-59a. Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to accept the Consent Agreement and Order as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carmen Weisner, Executive Director of NASW-LA Chapter, reported that they received favorable comments on the workshops at their annual conference. Ms. Weisner also advised the board that NASW-National has revised their protocols on reporting which will require members to report sanctions imposed by their licensing board within 30 days. The new procedures address member disqualification and aims to streamline NASW removal for felony convicts and license revocation. Ms. Weisner reported that there is a data discrepancy with the LABSWE's licensing count as presented on the website. She believes that the home page includes individuals that have lapsed licenses, in addition to, licensees that are deceased.

MINUTES

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to accept the minutes as presented for the March 5, 2010 board meeting. Michael Hickerson will sign for Wade Tyler and Hope Himel-Benson will sign for Roslyn Richardson.

CORRESPONDENCE

Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by **Charlotte Tryforos, GSW**. Ms. Tryforos asked the board if she is ethically obligated to report a dual relationship to another professional licensing board other than the LABSWE. Ms. Tryforos was advised that she is not obligated to report this incident and she could possibly be breaching confidentiality if she chose to report the situation she described without consent from the client and/or their legal guardians.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to deny the request by **Shero Productions** to be a Continuing Education Pre-Approval Organization. This request was denied because the fee for approving workshops was not clear. Members of the board will reconsider the application once the sliding fee schedule scale for approving workshops has been clarified.

Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by **Dixie Orris, LCSW**. Ms. Orris asked if it would be a dual relationship to complete a formal assessment of her patients for the purpose of a disability determination. After reviewing the form Ms. Orris submitted the members of the board advised Ms Orris that completing this form would not be a dual relationship. The form that the board reviewed does appear to ask questions that are outside of the scope of practice of a social worker. Ms.

Orris was advised that she can only answer the questions that are within her scope of practice and gather information from the client's file. The form also states that if the report was prepared by someone other than a psychiatrist/psychologist, it must be countersigned by an MD/PhD.

Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by **Jackie Duncan, LCSW**. Ms. Duncan asked the board if a social worker can refer a mental health client to the FINS program without the consent of the client's parent. Board members referred Ms. Duncan to LA R.S. 37:2718, Privileged Communications. Ms. Duncan was advised that this would be a violation of confidentiality unless a signed release has been provided by the parent/guardian.

Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by **Laura Poirier, LCSW**. Ms. Poirier stated that she has been approached by a colleague about information regarding a Bonding and Attachment Assessment. Ms. Poirier was advised that the LABSWE's rules do not specifically address Bonding and Attachment Assessments. Ms. Poirier was directed to Rule 109, of the Rules, Standards and Procedures, that address practice competency.

Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by **Jan Whitaker, GSW**. Ms. Whitaker asked the board if she could use her Master's degree in Criminal Justice along with her certification from the National Association of Forensic Counselors to set up her own independent practice. Ms. Whitaker was referred to La. R.S. 37:2707 of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act that requires a GSW to work as an employee in an agency setting. Members of the board expounded that because she holds a credential issued by LABSWE, she falls under their jurisdiction and is accountable to uphold the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and the Rules, Standards and Procedures for social workers.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to deny the request made by **Connie James, MSW**, to reinstate her Graduate Social Worker certification. Ms. James' GSW lapsed as of August 31, 2009, for failure to renew her credential. Ms. James was notified that she must cease her practice of social work and that she is required to reapply for the GSW certification.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to deny the request made by **Shannon Johnson, LCSW**, to accept the BACS workshop she attended on March 20, 2010. Board members voted to deny this request because Ms. Johnson was 30 minutes late for the workshop. Therefore, she did not attend the entire workshop. The Rules, Standards and Procedures require that the approved workshop must be at least 6 ½ hours to be acceptable. The NASW documented that Ms. Johnson attended the workshop for 6 hours.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to approve the request made by **Andre Vlok, GSW**, to obtain all of her continuing education hours via distance learning for the collection period of July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010. Ms. Vlok submitted evidence that she is currently residing outside of the United States.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to deny the request made by **Amanda Balhoff, LCSW**, to complete all of her continuing education hours via home study programs. Ms. Balhoff was directed to Rule 317(M), of the Rules, Standards and Procedures to review the list of approved learning situations.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to approve **Delton Abrams, LCSW**, to supervise Angellun Wilder as per her Consent Agreement and Order.

Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by **Deborah Henson, LCSW**. Ms. Henson asked the board if there are any ethics/licensing problems with forming an LLC for a social workers practice and do they have to their social work title along with the LLC designation. Ms. Henson was advised that a social worker can form an LLC and that it would be most appropriate for the social worker to put LLC behind the name of the business and their social work credentials behind their name as the owner of the LLC.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to deny the request made by **Kristin MacRae, GSW**, to count hours that she was employed as a contract worker toward the professional experience requirement for LCSW licensure. Ms. MacRae was advised that the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act requires a Graduate Social Worker to be an employee in an agency setting, unless the Graduate Social Worker is providing services on a contractual basis on behalf of a federal, state, or local governmental agency.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried to forward the correspondence submitted by **Darryl Bruno, LCSW**, to the LABSWE legal counsel for an opinion about what rights adolescents have with respect to their records, confidentiality and what defines suicidal or self harm when it involves and adolescent.

Board/Staff Issues

Election of Secretary-Treasurer

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to nominate Hope Himel-Benson for the Secretary-Treasurer position on the board.

Board Orientation Workshop Overview

Regina Breaux, Administrative Assistant, and Penny Ramsdell, PhD, LCSW-BACS, presented the “Orientation for Board Approved Clinical Supervisors” on Saturday, March 20, 2010. The workshop received favorable evaluations.

Student Handbook Update

Board staff have been delegated to work on a Student Handbook to be provided to the universities that currently have CSWE accredited social work programs in the state of Louisiana.

2009 ASWB Examination Pass Rates

Members of the board were presented with the 2009 Pass/Fail rates for Louisiana and North America for their review.

Legislation

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to replace Roslyn Richardson’s position on the IOC with John McBride.

Members of the board are on record as being opposed to HB 626, HB 1227, and SB 560.

“Welcome to Louisiana” ASWB Fall Meeting

Members of the board and board staff attending the ASWB Fall Meeting will present attendees of the meeting with a short video about Louisiana and brochures provided by the Louisiana Department of Tourism.

Financial

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to accept the financial statement for period ending January 31, 2010.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to offer Heritage Investigations, Inc. a contract for consulting with investigations at a rate of \$80.00 per hour.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to approve the July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 amended agenda.

Consent Agreement and Orders-Practicing without a Credential

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to suspend **Rose Lewis’** Provisional GSW and issue her a cease and desist order for failure to complete the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to suspend **Mary Faust’s** Registered Social Worker

registration and issue her a cease and desist order for failure to complete the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to suspend **Silver Peters'** Provisional GSW and issue her a cease and desist order for failure to complete the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to reinstate **Melanie Russo's** Registered Social Worker registration. Ms. Russo has presented evidence that she has completed all of the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 2:20 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 for investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

Votes for going in to Executive Session: John McBride yes; Hope Himel-Benson, yes; Evelyn Jenkins, yes; Michael Hickerson, yes.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 3:45 p.m. to make the following motions:

Personnel Committee Update

Members of the board discussed the timelines for the annual evaluation for the board administrator.

Monitoring Reports-Impaired Professional Program

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to accept the report submitted by Sherril Rudd, LCSW, IPP Manager.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to deny AM-09 application for Graduate Social Worker and to release her from the IPP program. AM-09 has been offered a compliance hearing. Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to send AN-02 certified notification that he must be in compliance within 30 days.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to send SS-07 certified notification that he must be in compliance within 30 days.

Monitoring Reports-Disciplinary

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to accept the disciplinary monitoring report.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to release Gary Burns from the monitoring program for successfully completing the terms of his Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to accept the supervision report submitted by Darlene Abbott, LCSW-BACS, on behalf of Robin Cannatella, LCSW.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to send Anissa Horne certified notification that she must be in compliance with her Consent Agreement and Order within 30 days. If she is not in compliance within 30 days a complaint will be filed.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to accept the supervision report submitted by Janice Manuel, LCSW-BACS, on behalf of Terry Lane, LCSW.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to accept the supervision report submitted by Meredith Harris, LCSW-BACS, on behalf of Donna Hulsey, LCSW.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to accept the continuing education certificates submitted by Sherry Johnson, GSW, as evidence that she has completed her annual continuing education requirement as specified in her Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to release Stacey Legard from the monitoring program for successfully completing the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to deny Damon Lowrey's request for Randall Griffith to provide his supervision as per his Consent Agreement and Order. Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to deny Damon Lowrey's request to use the same person as his supervisor and as his therapist.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to release Elissa Millman from the monitoring program for successfully completing the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to accept the supervision report submitted by Sarah Pokorny, LCSW-BACS, on behalf of Gloria Solorzano, GSW.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 3:55 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 for investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

Votes for going in to Executive Session: John McBride yes; Hope Himel-Benson, yes; Evelyn Jenkins, yes; Michael Hickerson, yes.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 5:31 p.m. to make the following motions:

New Complaints

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-113** for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2010-114** for investigation of possible violations of Rules 107A, 107B and La. R.S. 2717 A(7), and 2717A(12).

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to send **Complaint #2010-115** for investigation of possible violations of Rule 107A, 109A(1), 119A, 119B, 119C and La. R.S. 2709, 2717A(4),(5),(8),(10),(11),(12) and 2715E.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to request a written response in regards to **Complaint # 2010-116** for possible violations of Rule 117A.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to send **Complaint # 2010-117** for possible violations of Rule 107A, 107B, 111A, 111G(5), 111H(1), 111H(2), 111H(3) and La. R.S. 2717A(7) ,(10),(11),(12).

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to send **Complaint #2010-118** for investigation of possible violations of Rule 107A, 107B, 111A, 111G(5), 111H(1), 111H(2), 111H(3) and La. R.S. 2717A(7),(10),(11),(12).

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to table **Complaint #2010-119** for board review until May 28, 2010.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to send **Complaint #2010-120** for investigation of possible violations of Rule 109A(1), 117A and La. R.S. 2717A(2),(4),(7),(11),(12).

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-121** for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2010-122** and request additional information.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-123** for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Pending Complaints

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-55** for failure to rise to a level of violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures and to include a letter of education regarding record keeping.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-56** for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-74** for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-87** for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-92** for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Applications

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to deny **Rosemary Talbert's** application for Registered Social Worker due to the affirmative answers on her application. Ms. Talbert has been offered a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to deny **Gary Padilla's** application for the Licensed Clinical Social Worker due to the affirmative answers on his application. Mr. Padilla has been offered a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to grant the following applicants registration as a **Registered Social Worker:**

Julie Alley	Jasmine Berfect
Kathryn Bergeron	Carol Darley
Arma Ellis	Fiona Francis
Felicia Harris	Chaun Henry
Arlene Huling	Lamont Jackson, Sr.
Creola Jacque	Ashley Johnese
Randi LeBlanc	Erica Lehr
Kashemma Lemieux	Tonya McCormick-Collins
Alzena McGrew	Shavonda Martin
Shequita Reynolds	Lashunda Patterson-Braxton
Danielle Riddle	Deishanda Robertson
Keisa Rodney	Eddie Ross, III
Michelle Shropshire	Patricia Slan
Tamala White-Carter	

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for the **Provisional Graduate Social Worker** and grant approval for the applicants to sit for the ASWB Masters examination for certification as a **Graduate Social Worker:**

Julie Balasalle	Yvonne Antione-Wilson
Amanda Conger	Mark Ely
Haley Kerr	Courtney Ma'at
Kevin Muggivan	Edward Polson
Maland Silvio	Bonnie Thompson
Jacqueline Wagaman	Tanya Young

Brook Zitzman

Leroyce Smith

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Advanced Generalist or Clinical exam for licensing as a **Licensed Clinical Social Worker**:

Mark Byrd	Allison Coleman
Brandi Conrad	Melanie Cox
Vernon Davenport	Brett Guidry
Angela Heffner	Caroline Helm
Courtney Lafont	Hollie Lemaire
Katherine Liokis	Jean Mcguire
Jennifer Malone	Amanda Mason
Elizabeth Melancon	Schicka Mitchell
Sharon Newman	Adrain Pere
Dewyna Robinson	Amy Scheurich
Elaine Shaneyfelt	Mindy Traylor
Kristin Wiedemann	Tennia Williams

Motion made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Michael Hickerson, MSW, RSW
 In the absence of
 Wade Tyler, PhD, LCSW,
 Chairperson

Hope Himel-Benson, LCSW
 In the absence of
 Roslyn Richardson, PhD, GSW,
 Secretary-Treasurer