

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners**

July 31, 2009

Wade Tyler, LCSW, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., Friday, July 31, 2009, 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 Lindsey Hunter, Carmen Weisner, Eliza Tate, Jamie Everett, Margery Williams, Joe Abel, Brenda Lewis and Linda Kelly Woodruff.

Hearing in the matter of Administrative Complaint #2009-41 against Tiffany Mayo, LCSW

Counsel for Tiffany Mayo and Counsel for the State of Louisiana appeared before the board with a joint motion for a continuance. Wade Tyler continued the matter until 9:00 a.m., August 25, 2009 at the board office. Mr. Tyler ordered the defense counsel and the prosecution counsel to submit stipulations and pre-hearing memorandums by August 14, 2009. Counselors were asked to limit these documents to a maximum of ten pages. Emily Efferson was asked to inform subpoenaed witnesses via certified notices that they are bound by the subpoena until released by the board.

Michael Hickerson, RSW, conducted roll call. Board members present were Michael Hickerson, RSW, John McBride, LCSW, Hope Himel-Benson, LCSW, Wade Tyler, LCSW, and Evelyn Jenkins, LCSW. Roslyn Richardson, GSW, was absent.

AGENDA

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to move Carmen Weisner's letter from item "N" to item "A" under correspondence and add letter from Donna Canezaro to correspondence. Votes for accepting amended agenda: Michael Hickerson yes, Hope Himel-Benson yes, Evelyn Jenkins yes, John McBride yes, and Wade Tyler yes.

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGREEMENT & ORDER

Lindsey Hunter, Assistant Attorney General, presented the board with a Consent Agreement and Order for **Sherry Gail Johnson, GSW**, which had been previously negotiated and agreed to by Ms. Johnson in resolution of Complaint #2009-106. Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to accept the Consent Agreement and Order as presented.

Lindsey Hunter, Assistant Attorney General, presented the board with a Consent Agreement and Order for **Brenda Lee Lewis, RSW**, which had been previously negotiated and agreed to by Ms. Lewis in resolution of Complaint #2009-109. Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to accept the Consent Agreement and Order as presented.

LEGAL OPINION BY G. PAPALE – DISCIPLINARY CHARACTER AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The board requested the legal opinion of George Papale in reference to reporting to the HIPDB. Mr. Papale stated that a “private letter of concern” is not reportable to the HIPDB. A “public letter of concern” should be reported to the HIPDB.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept the minutes for the June 16, 2009 meeting as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carmen Weisner, Executive Director of NASW-LA Chapter, reported on several issues. First, she informed the board that the NASW-LA newsletter is currently being printed and includes a “call for proposals” for the 2010 annual conference. Ms. Weisner asked the board members to begin thinking about the topic they will present at the conference. Secondly, she advised board members that the “Yellow Book” will be going to the printers by next week. Next, Ms. Weisner advised that the Inter-organizational Committee (IOC) completed its work last Friday. A “talking point” document has been prepared to provide the history and process of the last law change and to explain the current recommended changes. Additionally, a power point presentation has been developed with the same information. The IOC will have a final document ready for Senator Broome for the Spring 2010 Legislative Session. Lastly, Ms. Weisner advised the board that NASW National has a Committee on Inquiry that requires NASW-LA to report disciplinary action of members. This information is used in considering those members for malpractice insurance.

CORRESPONDENCE

Carmen Weisner, LCSW

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried to absorb the cost of mailing a post card to all credentialed social workers notifying them of the proposed law changes. The postcard will include dates of town hall meetings and the website on which proposed changes can be reviewed and downloaded. Those individuals that do not have an avenue to download the proposed changes can contact the board office and a hard copy will be mailed to them. The printed format will also be available to those that attend the town hall meetings.

Board members reviewed correspondence submitted by **Cheryl Quarles, LCSW**, asking the board to review a situation in which a client was referred to a Community Support Team in which she is a team member, and later assigned to her to individually provide Juvenile Competency Restoration Services. The board informed Ms. Quarles that this situation is a dual relationship, and with any dual relationship there is a potential for harm. She was referred to Rule 113B, of the Rules, Standards and Procedures. She was also informed that she and/or her agency should either have or develop policies and procedures to protect the client from exploitation. If safeguards are

not in place or do not appear to protect the client, then she should not provide services in dual roles.

Board members reviewed correspondence submitted by **Drew Rabidoux**, asking if she must be licensed in Louisiana to call someone in the state to provide outreach and support services. She is licensed and based out of the state of Massachusetts. Ms. Rabidoux was referred to LA R.S. 37:2722B, of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act. She was also informed that should the services provided last more than 30 days, the social worker should apply for a license through endorsement.

Board members reviewed correspondence submitted by **Amanda Bitting, LCSW**. Ms. Bitting asked the board if a GSW can work for an agency that contracts them out to provide therapy services in the school system as long as they are being provided with LCSW supervision. Ms. Bitting was referred to LA R.S. 37:2703(1), of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act. She was informed that a GSW may contract with a state agency. If the GSW is providing psychotherapy services then the GSW must be supervised by an LCSW as per Rule 303, of the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to allow **Yvette LaFleur, LCSW**, to complete all of her continuing education hours via distance learning for the collection period of 2008-2009. She was informed that if she is unable to complete the continuing education hours and renew her license she must cease her practice of social work as of September 1, 2009. The request was granted due to her current medical situation.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve **Hospice of Baton Rouge** as a pre-approval organization pending the receipt of additional information clarifying the fees to be charged to approve workshops.

Board members reviewed correspondence submitted by **Debra Morton, LCSW**, asking the board's opinion on a possible mandatory reporting situation. Ms. Morton stated that she was aware of a social worker who falsified their years of experience by using another social worker to verify their work history. The board advised Ms. Morton that both social workers involved should be reported in accordance with LA R.S. 37:2717 A and Rule 117D, of the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to approve the request by **Addiction Professional Training Institute** to be a Continuing Education Pre-Approval Organization. This approval extends from July 31, 2009 – July 31, 2014.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the request by **Betsey Backe, LCSW**, to complete all of her continuing education hours via online while she is serving abroad in the Peace Corp. Staff has been granted permission to approve her request once she specifies which collection period she is requesting to complete all hours by way of online courses.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to approve the request by **Mario Farinola, LCSW**, to complete four additional hours of continuing education via online courses due to his documented medical condition.

Board members reviewed correspondence submitted by **Mario Farinola, LCSW**, requesting the board review the possible unethical practice of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and how it is being implemented in the agency in which he is employed. Board members reviewed the GPRA and did not find that it suggests unethical practice. According to Rule 113A, of the Rules, Standards and Procedures, it is a violation for a social worker to offer incentives to individuals that quit the program to meet with him/her in order to collect data to validate the success of the program. Social workers that are participating in such activity should be reported to LABSWE. The board does not believe that it is unethical for incentives to be offered to current program participants.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to deny the request made by **Andrew Dwyer, LCSW**, to allow him an extension to collect his continuing education hours in order to renew his license. Ms. Dwyer has been offered a compliance hearing and notified that he will need to bring medical documentation from 2007 through present. Because completion of the continuing education requirement is mandated by state law for renewals, extensions cannot be granted.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to deny the request made by **Cynthia Brown, RSW**, to allow her an extension to collect her continuing education hours in order to renew her registration. Ms. Brown has been offered a compliance hearing. Because completion of the continuing education requirement is mandated by state law for renewals, extensions cannot be granted.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to approve the request made by **Brett Quantrille, LCSW**, to accept the worksop "Ethical Pitfalls: Avoiding Professional Hazards" to satisfy the continuing education requirement of his Consent Agreement and Order. He must attend the entire conference and submit the certificate of attendance to the board office once complete.

Board members reviewed correspondence submitted by **Donna Canezaro**. Ms. Canezaro has provided calligraphy services to the board for 19 years. She informed the board that she is retiring and will no longer be providing this service to the board.

Financial

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept the financial statement for period ending May 31, 2009.

Board/Staff Issues

Renewal Update

Carmen Quebedeaux presented the board members with an update on the license renewal audit status/process update on license renewals. She noted that outsourcing the audits has decreased the processing time of renewals by two weeks.

Policy for Sale of Mailing List

Board members requested a legal opinion from George Papale. Board members would like to know if the board has the authority to adopt policies regarding the release of their mailing list and if they can require the person/organization requesting the mailing list to indicate how they would be utilizing the mailing list requested. Board members will review Mr. Papale's response at the September 18, 2009, board meeting.

Report on ASWB Board Member Training

John McBride and Hope Himel-Benson reported on the New Board Member Training they attended in Arlington, Virginia. They reported on several discussions that included application/renewal forms, exam retakes, disciplinary action/final actions and wording of law/rules and regulations.

Report on CAC Meeting from Sherril Rudd, IPP Manager

Board members reviewed correspondence submitted by Sherril Rudd, LCSW. Ms. Rudd presented the board with an overview of the CAC Meeting that she recently attended. She stated that she gained valuable information from the conference that she plans to discuss with the IPP Committee.

Clear Election

Board members reviewed the election ballots for CLEAR. No action was taken by the board in this matter.

ASWB Fall Delegate Assembly

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to send Emily Efferson, Michael Hickerson, Hope Himel-Benson, Wade Tyler and Roslyn Richardson to the annual conference on October 29-31, 2009.

Consent Agreement and Orders-Practicing Without a Credential

Motion made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to reinstate **Elisa Thomas** for the Registered Social Worker registration. She has successfully completed all of the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to suspend **Karyn Hale's** RSW 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 grant **Dustin Ebanks** the RSW. He has submitted all requested information for his application and has agreed to all the terms of his Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to deny **Stacy Legard's** request to reinstate her RSW.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 3:40 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: Wade Tyler, yes; Michael Hickerson, yes; Hope Himel-Benson, yes; John McBride, yes; Evelyn Jenkins, yes.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. to take the following actions:

Monitoring Reports

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to accept the report submitted by Sherril Rudd, IPP Manager.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to send JL-08 a certified notice that compliance with the IPP must be resumed within 30 days.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to file a complaint against JC-07 for failure to comply with the terms of the IPP and to send the complaint for investigation.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to file a complaint against AC-07 for failure to comply with the terms of the IPP and to send the complaint for investigation.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to discharge DC-06 from monitoring and to the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order complete.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to discharge OE-07 from monitoring.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to send a letter to JL-03's therapist requesting a letter regarding termination.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to discharge JM-07 from monitoring.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to send SO-07 a certified notice that compliance with the IPP must be resumed within 30 days.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to allow JW-09 entry to the IPP.

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

New Complaints

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to send **Complaint #2010-07** for investigation of possible violations of Rule 117A, and La. R.S. 2717 A(2).

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to send **Complaint #2009-159** for investigation of possible violations of Rule 115A, 113B, 111G(5), 121A, and La. R.S. 2717A(5).

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to not accept **Complaint #2009-160** due to prescription, it is beyond the statute of limitations as per R.S. 37:21.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to request a written letter of response from the social worker regarding **Complaint #2010-01** for possible violations of Rule 111G(5) and 113A(1).

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to send **Complaint #2010-02** for investigation of possible violations of Rule 117D, 119A, 119B and La. R.S. 2709.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to send **Complaint #2010-03** for investigation of possible violations of Rule 117A and La. R.S. 2717A(2).

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to request a letter of response from the social worker regarding **Complaint #2010-05** for possible violation of Rule 113B(3).

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to request a letter of response from the social worker regarding **Complaint #2010-06** for possible violations of Rule 119A, 119C and La. R.S. 2709.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to **adjourn** the meeting at 6:40 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 1, 2009.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners**

August 1, 2009

Wade Tyler, LCSW, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., Saturday, August 1, 2009, 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.

Michael Hickerson, RSW, conducted roll call. Board members present were Michael Hickerson, RSW, John McBride, LCSW, Hope Himel-Benson, LCSW, Wade Tyler, LCSW, and Evelyn Jenkins, LCSW. Roslyn Richardson, GSW, was absent.

Compliance Hearing – Rachel Tarpley McWilliams, MSW

Rachel McWilliams requested a compliance hearing to appeal the board's decision to deny her application for the LCSW. The board denied the application due to the affirmative answers she provided on the application and the notarized explanation of the affirmative answers. Additionally, the board denied the application because records reflect that Rachel McWilliams' GSW certification was revoked for failing to comply with the terms of her participation in the Impaired Professional Program (IPP)

Rachel McWilliams testified that she is willing to participate in the IPP if that is what the board wants her to do. She advised the board that she has an intoxicant in her car that she uses voluntarily. She informed members of the board that she maintains sobriety by going to church, meditation and reading. She also avoids working too much, stays away from bad relationships and stays out of debt, which are all stress triggers for her.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 9:55 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,

Votes for going into Executive Session: John McBride yes, Evelyn Jenkins yes, Michael Hickerson yes, Hope Himel-Benson yes, and Wade Tyler yes.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 1:35 p.m. to make the following motions:

Meeting with BN

Board members met in Executive Session with a participant of the Impaired Professional Program. The participant requested that the board not take action against his license. Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to require participant to comply with the IPP and to advise participant that the board will continue to monitor his situation and consider the psychological evaluation.

Compliance Hearing – Rachel Tarpley McWilliams, MSW

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to uphold the previous denial for Licensed Clinical Social Work licensure, but to reinstate Graduate Social Worker certification upon (1) Completion of 20 hours of continuing education through either in-person workshops (as opposed to distance learning) or university coursework. The subject matter of the 20 hours shall be 3 hours in social work ethics, 3 hours in end of life care, 8 hours of assessment, diagnosis and other clinical issues, 3 hours in grief bereavement and 3 hours in aging-related topics and (2) Submission to an evaluation for the Impaired Professional Program and follow all recommendations of the evaluation, including but not limited to, quarterly reports to the Board from an agency supervisor.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to allow Rachel Tarpley McWilliams to maintain GSW certification upon (1) Completion of 20 hours of continuing education within one year of the issuance of GSW certification. These hours are in addition to the 20 hours of continuing education required to renew. 20 hours may be obtained through distance learning; however, 20 hours shall be obtained through in-person workshops and (2) Compliance with the Participation Agreement for the Impaired Professional Program.

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to consider an application for Licensed Clinical Social Work once Rachel Tarpley McWilliams completes two hours of face-to-face supervision with a Board Approved Clinical Supervisor for 12 calendar months.

New Complaints

Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-09** for failure to rise to a level of violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by John McBride, Seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-10** because it does not fall under the purview of the board.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to issue a cease and desist letter and a letter of response from the social worker and her supervisor in reference to **Complaint #2010-11** for possible violation of Rule 119A, 119B and La. R.S. 2709.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-12** for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Personnel Committee Report

Michael Hickerson presented the board with a report from the Personnel Committee. The report included the results of Emily Efferson's one year evaluation. Ms. Efferson's evaluation was exemplary and therefore she was granted a salary increase as per the original employment agreement. Motion was made by John McBride, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to accept the Personnel Committee Report as presented.

Applications

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to grant **George Holton** the GSW. He has passed the ASWB Master's level examination and met all other requirements to be granted the Graduate Social Worker certification in Louisiana.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to deny **Josephine Oubre, MSW** the Registered Social Worker registration. Ms. Oubre has been offered a compliance hearing.

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

Stacy Banks	Yolanda Blakes
Kelsey Bourgeois	LaQuita Bradley
Connie Brown	Demetria Brown
Ve'Vay Butler	Felicia Calbert
Letetra Francis	Genise Golden
Jennifer Gordon	Clarencita Gorham
LaConga Hilliard	Alice Hussain
Arshardae Johnson	Tyshica Kaiser
Alnikra Kissack	Tangula James
Mayra McCray	Kimberly McPherson
Chiquita Morris	Andresca Moss
Latricia Olivier	Paulina Phillips
Courtney Robinson	Crystal Rogers
Shay Saltzman	Rhea Vanover
Tiffany Williams	

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Masters examination for certification as a **Graduate Social Worker**:

Starlynn Amadeo	Cali Baret
Jennifer Baudy	Nicole Bentley-Sylvester
Katie Brown	Christopher Bishop
Lauren Bono	Kerri Byrd
Dores Cador	Ashley Coutee
Tiffany Daigle	Erin Doucet
Natalie Essaied	Richard Eugene, III
Taleisha Felton	Joel Gilbert
Linda Gilbert	Shacidy Hadley-Bush
Charles Hayes	Sylvie Hooks
Kennitra Johnson	Mia Kacmarcick
Virginia Kostmayer	Lisa Langley-Dane
Elandra Levinstone	Jamekco Martin-Lewis
Teelye Matthews	Nicole Mays
Jennifer Minogue	Cheryl Minor
Carol Morrow	Mary Murphy
Stacey Nash	Donna Pansy
Brandilyn Phipps	Karen Price
Michelle Ream	Jernail Reeves
Emily Roser	Shundrika Scott
Rachel Seidman	Brittney Sepulvado
Heather Shirley	Megan Shumake
Lacy Simms	Debra Smith
Mark Stanford	Patrick Staten
Jamee Williams	Sandra Williams
Laura Wolf	Robert Lloyd

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by John McBride 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**:

Samantha Armentor	Wanda Berthelot
Jennifer Best	Delores Evans
Judy Giles	April Harris
Dorian LeBeau	Marsha Linam
Michael Lofton	Marissa Marston
Marilyn Ogbuli	Sandra Pickett
Sarah Schurman	Robert Teixeira
Leslie Theriot	Susan Ward

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to **adjourn** the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

Wade Tyler, PhD, LCSW
Chairperson

Roslyn Richardson, PhD, GSW
Secretary-Treasurer