

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners  
September 10, 2010**

John McBride, LCSW, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., Friday, September 10, 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, Pandora Crane, Rebecca McDaniel, Bryan Johnson, Robert Showers, Christopher Geske, and Jodi Mallett.

Hope Himel-Benson, LCSW, conducted roll call. Board members present included Hope Himel-Benson, LCSW, Evelyn Jenkins, LCSW, John McBride, LCSW, Wade Tyler, LCSW, and Michael Hickerson, RSW.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Carmen Weisner, Executive Director of NASW-LA Chapter, introduced her two new student interns, Rebecca McDaniel and Bryan Johnson. Ms. Weisner discussed the progress of the formation of the Rules committee. Ms. Weisner also informed the board that the "Yellow Book" has already been sent for duplication and will be mailed within the week. NASW-LA Chapter will be offering more training in the areas of Ethics and Supervision this year.

**AGENDA**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to accept the agenda as amended to remove Compliance Hearing for Cheryl Dupre. Ms. Dupre cancelled her appointment and will reschedule at a later date.

**Minutes**

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept the minutes as presented for the August 13, 2010 board meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to approve the request made by **Mary McNeal, LCSW**, to accept all of her continuing education hours via distance learning. Ms. McNeal provided the board with medical documentation supporting her request.

Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by **Valerie Lovely, GSW**. Ms. Lovely asked the board if she is eligible to hold the title "clinical supervisor" while she holds the Graduate Social Worker certification. Members of the board informed Ms. Lovely that she can provide general supervision. However she will need to be supervised by a LCSW in conformity of Rule 505(f) of the Rules,

Standards and Procedures and La R.S. 37:2707 of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

### **Presentation of Consent Agreement and Order**

Emalie Boyce, Assistant Attorney General, presented the board with a Consent Agreement and Order for **Kenya Lavergne, GSW**, which had been previously negotiated and agreed to by Ms. Lavergne in resolution of Complaint #2010-115. Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to accept the Consent Agreement and Order as presented.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by **Gretchen Roy, LCSW**. Ms. Roy asked the board about a minor client's rights to confidentiality. The board requested that staff mail Ms. Roy a copy of the recent opinion submitted by the board's legal counsel that addresses minor's rights to confidentiality.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to deny the request submitted by **Renee Lonero, GSW**. Ms. Lonero requested that the board waive the 90 day requirement for taking the ASWB examination. ASWB's policy restricts candidates from testing sooner than 90 days from the last date the candidate sat for the exam. This policy is enforced to insure the security of the examination.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to forward the request made by **Jacqueline Shellington, LCSW**, to the board's legal counsel. Ms. Shellington asked members of the board if a GSW or RSW can provide volunteer services under the current Social Work Practice Act and if a GSW can provide psychotherapy as a volunteer.

Members of the board reviewed a letter submitted by **Carmen Weisner, LCSW**. At the request of the board, Ms. Weisner submitted a letter to the Office of Workers' Compensation Administration requesting clarification as to why their office does not allow a LCSW to diagnose a mental disorder.

### **Board/Staff Issues**

#### **Ethics/BACS Training Provided by the Board**

Members of the board discussed offering an ethics workshop to licensees free of charge. Evelyn Jenkins has agreed to work on this project and report back to the board.

#### **Reduction of Fees charged by the Board**

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to waive the replacement ID card fee of five dollars and license verification fee of five dollars. The fees will remain in the Rules, Standards and Procedures as stated.

### **ASWB Annual Fall Conference – November 11 – 13, 2010**

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to send all board members and three staff members to the Fall Delegate Assembly in New Orleans, LA.

### **Consent Agreement and Order- working over 120 days**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to lift the suspension from **Mildred Benjamin's** Provisional GSW. Ms. Benjamin submitted evidence that she has completed the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to suspend **Udana Green-Forentain's** RSW for failure to complete the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

### **Compliance Hearing- Kelanda Riley, MSW**

Kelanda Riley requested a compliance hearing to appeal the board's decision to deny her Graduate Social Worker application. The board denied the GSW application because she has not completed the terms of her original Consent Agreement and Order. Ms. Riley testified that she was previously sanctioned by the board for failure to document work completed for her former employer, Louisiana State Penitentiary, and that she failed to issue certificates to inmates that completed treatment programs. She stated that at the time she was suffering from depression that was triggered from her home being burglarized twice, harassment at her place of employment, and because she was being stalked by her former husband. Ms. Riley testified that she has been seeing a psychiatrist and a counselor. She stated that she is mentally stable and would like to return to the profession of social work.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 11:10 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 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; and Wade Tyler, yes.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 11:30 a.m. to make the following motion:

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to deny **Kelanda Riley** Graduate Social Worker certification, but to issue her the Registered Social Worker credential upon receipt of a letter from her physician stating that she is fit for duty. The original terms of her Consent Agreement and Order will be reinstated.

### **Compliance Hearing- Jennifer Michel, MSW**

Jennifer Michel requested a compliance hearing to appeal the board's decision to deny her Graduate Social Worker application. The board denied the GSW application because of her pending legal situation. Ms. Michel testified that she has completed pre-trial diversion and that her 2009 charges have been dropped to attempted theft of goods. She is currently paying restitution and the legal matter is expected to be resolved in November, 2010.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 11:40 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 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; and Wade Tyler, yes.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 11:52 a.m. to make the following motion:

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to take no action until information has been received on the pending legal matter of **Jennifer Michel, MSW**. Members of the board voted to uphold the original denial until official court documentation has been received and reviewed by the board.

### **Board/Staff Issues**

#### **ASWB- Changes to the Advanced Generalist Examination**

Members of the board discussed the possibility of no longer accepting the Advanced Generalist Examination for the LCSW.

#### **SCR 100**

Discussion tabled until written report has been submitted by Jacqueline Shellington, LCSW-BACS.

### **Consent Agreement & Order-Working without a credential**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to reinstate **Mary Faust's** Registered Social Worker credential. Ms. Faust has submitted evidence that she completed the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to reinstate **Roshonda Myles'** Provisional Graduate Social Worker certification. Ms. Miles has submitted evidence that she completed the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

### **Financial**

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

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to accept the financial statement for period ending June 30, 2010.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 1:24 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; and Wade Tyler, yes.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 2:51 p.m. to make the following motions:

### **Renewal Applications**

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to deny the renewal application submitted by **Leah Arceneaux, GSW** and to offer her a Compliance Hearing.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the renewal application submitted by **Pandora**

**Crane, LCSW.** Ms. Crane was informed to keep the board abreast of the final outcome of her legal matter.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the renewal application submitted by **Mary Gremillion, LCSW.**

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the renewal application submitted by **Melinda Miller, GSW.** Members of the board informed Ms. Miller that she will not need to report this legal matter in the future.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the renewal application submitted by **Dana Rippy, GSW.**

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the renewal application submitted by **Amy Sarver, LCSW,** and to keep the board abreast of the final outcome of her legal matter.

### **Applications**

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to deny **Niquette Kearney's** application for endorsement for the Licensed Clinical Social Worker and to issue her the GSW pending her signing a Consent Agreement and Order. The Verification of Licensure form submitted did not document 5,760 hours of professional experience with 3,840 hours of supervised practice.

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

Bennett, Kreesha	Coleman, Evelyn
Curle, Dawn	Dumas, Maydean
Gage, Alisa	Gordon, Kiyana
Green, Danielle	Jackson, Jada
Jones, Shirley	Merritt, Darren
Reed, LaKeshia	Scafidel, Sarah
Scott-Roberson, Janet	Shepard, Adreana

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, 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:**

Bayne, Christann	Blissett, Chiquita
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Charles, Shantrell	Chaudhry, Serena
Clark, Stacey	Davis, Christina
Gordon, Patricia	Hanson, Lesleigh
Harper, Nick	Hilton, Jaime
King, Brenda	Kacmarcik, Mia
Lewis, Quian	McGhee, Amy
Morris, Daria	Mott, Sarah
Newman, Orion	Payton, Lillie
Richard, Tiffany	Smith, Tanya
Thompson, Jennifer	Timmons-Frazier, Tiffani
Warner, Bryan	Wilson, Bridgenett

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins 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**:

Anderson, Charity	Aycock, Lisa
Bailey, Kristin	Bleich, Miriam
Campbell, Ashley	Chatman, Sr., Ricky
Faust, Michelle	Gayle, Shannon
Hoffman, Julie	James, Christy
Lott, Mary	Mandeville, Sarah
Myers, Lauren	Stamps, Pakima
St. Pierre, Jessica	Solorzano, Gloria
Theil, Kristy	

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 3:05 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; and Wade Tyler, yes.

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 3:56 p.m. to make the following motions:

### **New Complaints**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to not accept **Complaint #2011-16** because the situation described is not a

violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2011-17** for investigation of possible violations of Rules 119A, 303A, 107B and La. R.S. 2717A(5) and 2709.

### **Pending Complaints**

Motion was made by Evelyn Jenkins, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-50** 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 Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-144** 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 Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-145** 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 Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-147** 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 Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-148** 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 Michael Hickerson, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-152** 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 Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2010-164** for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

### **Monitoring Reports-Disciplinary**

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



Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to approve the supervision report submitted by Anita Evans, LCSW-BACS, on behalf of Henry DeFelice, LCSW.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to approve the supervision report submitted by Meredith Harris, LCSW-BACS, on behalf of Donna Hulseley, LCSW.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the supervision report submitted by Torin Sanders, LCSW-BACS, on behalf of Sherry Johnson, GSW.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to grant Brenda Lewis, RSW, a six month extension to complete paying restitution to the board as per her Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried to approve the workshops submitted by Barbara Watkins to complete the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion was made by Wade Tyler, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to release Barbara Watkins from her Consent Agreement and Order. Ms. Watkins has successfully completed all terms of her agreement.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Wade Tyler and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 4:05 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; and Wade Tyler, yes.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 5:27 p.m. to make the following motions:

### **Monitoring Reports-Impaired Professional Program**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, 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 Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to send a letter to the psychiatrist for DL-09 requesting an update.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to remove SO-07 from the IPP roster.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to approve MP-10 for the ASWB Clinical/Advanced Generalist examination for the LCSW.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to send OP-09 to the Attorney General's office to draft and administrative complaint.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to send MS-08 to the Attorney General's office to draft and administrative complaint for failure to comply with the terms of the Participation Agreement.

Motion made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Evelyn Jenkins and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

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John McBride, LCSW  
Chairperson

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Hope Himel-Benson, LCSW  
Secretary-Treasurer