

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners  
February 17, 2012**

John McBride, LCSW, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., Friday, February 17, 2012, 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, William Autmon, Stephanie Kelly, Rebecca Richard, Trey Bickham, Josie McKnight, and Rachel O'Pry.

Lisa Lipsey, LCSW, conducted roll call. Board members present at the time of roll call included John McBride, LCSW, Michael Hickerson, RSW, Carla Moore, LMSW, Lisa Lipsey, LCSW, and Judith Haspel, LCSW. Parker Sternbergh, LCSW, arrived at the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Carmen Weisner, Executive Director of the NASW-LA Chapter, reported that the annual workshop is scheduled for March 14-16, 2012. Ms. Weisner provided the board with the list of the annual award recipients to be presented at their conference.

**AGENDA**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes as presented.

**BOARD/STAFF ISSUES**

**ASWB SPRING EDUCATION MEETING**

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to allow all board members and staff interested in attending the conference to attend the meeting in Lexington, Kentucky.

**OFFICE OF BEHAVIOIRAL HEALTH REQUIRING LCSW'S TO HOLD LICENSED ADDICTION COUNSELOR**

Carmen Weisner notified the board that she has been in contact with DHH. All of the exchanges that she has had with DHH have been verbal. She stated that she is waiting for written verification of DHH's decision. The proposal from DHH is that all providers that are going through Magellan will have to have the LAC. George Papale stated that the board has limited jurisdiction to dispute such a requirement. It is his opinion that this is a matter that should be addressed by the professional social work organizations, such as NASW.

### **REPORT ON ANNUAL FARB CONFERENCE**

Lisa Lipsey, LCSW, attended the annual FARB conference held January 27-29, 2012 in Sarasota, Florida. Ms. Lipsey reported on several points of interest for the Board that included information on test security, continuing education, requirements for a Public Board Member, self evaluation of those that have been disciplined by the board, self evaluation for the Board, and maintaining a sizable reserve in the event of a lawsuit.

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to submit a letter of support for Northwestern State University to pursue a MSW program.

### **HEARING IN THE MATTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT #2012-10 AGAINST ELIZABETH OLIVEIRA, LMSW**

A hearing in the matter of Administrative Complaint #2012-10 against Elizabeth Oliveira was conducted. George Papale was present as legal counsel for the Board. Emalie Boyce, Assistant Attorney General, was present as prosecution on behalf of the State of Louisiana. A court reporter from Baton Rouge Court Reporters was present to record the proceedings. The hearing panel consisted of board members, Michael Hickerson, RSW, Lisa Lipsey, LCSW, Judith Haspel, LCSW, Carla Moore, LMSW, and John McBride, LCSW. John McBride served as the Presiding Officer. Elizabeth Oliveira did not appear for the proceedings nor did she request a continuance.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**DAWN LUNDIN, LCSW** – Ms. Lundin presented a situation to the board where she is currently a school social worker, but has recently begun a private practice. Ms. Lundin explained that she is not accepting referrals or marketing herself within the school system. She stated that she has accepted several referred students from the school system, but not from schools where she provides services. Members of the board agreed that this does not appear to be a conflict of interest. It was recommended that she verify with the school that this is not in conflict with any of their policies.

**TAMBRA MALONE, LCSW-** Ms. Malone presented a situation where the agency that she works keeps progress notes in the clients chart. However, some of the social workers also keep personal psychotherapy notes which they keep separate from the chart. Ms. Malone asked the board if the social worker should leave the agency, who should maintain ownership of the personal therapy notes. Members of the board directed Ms. Malone to 111(G)(1) and (6) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures. The Louisiana Social Work Practice Act does not address personal psychotherapy notes.

**SHARON WHITLOW, LCSW-** Ms. Whitlow presented a situation where she is employed to consult a rehab hospital in the provision of discharge planning. The employer advised Ms. Whitlow that these services do not have to be provided directly by a social worker, but must be supervised by a LCSW. Members of the board agreed that this is an agency issue. The Louisiana Social Work Practice Act does not prohibit her from providing this service. Members of the board advised Ms. Whitlow to use

caution when signing the documents so that it does not appear that she is the one that provided the discharge planning. Ms. Whitlow was referred to 111(G)(2) and (3) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

**SYLVIA NICHOLSON-TRIGS, RSW-** Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to deny Ms. Nicholson's request for an extension to complete her continuing education hours.

**MICHELLE MANY, LCSW & Melissa Hardy, LMSW-** Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to uphold the original decision to deny the supervision submitted by supervisor Michelle Many, LCSW and supervisee Melissa Hardy, LMSW.

**DONNA FOLSE MATTHEWS, LCSW-** Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by Donna Matthews. Ms. Matthews presented a situation where authorities have called stating that one of their patients that currently resides in an inpatient psychiatric unit has committed a serious crime and they will be coming to pick up the patient. Ms. Matthews asked members of the board what course of action she should take. Because board members cannot dictate hospital policy, members of the board recommended that she seek legal counsel on this matter. Ms. Matthews was referred to Rule 115(D) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

**MARSHA BINNS, LCSW-** Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to deny the request submitted by Ms. Binns for an extension to complete her continuing education hours.

#### **CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER- WORKING WITHOUT A CREDENTIAL**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to reinstate **LaNeshia Gammage's** CSW. Ms. Gammage has submitted evidence that she has completed all of the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to reinstate **BriAnn Willisams'** RSW. Ms. Williams has submitted evidence that she has completed all of the terms of her Consent Agreement and Order.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 10:30 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 into Executive Session: John McBride, yes, Carla Moore, yes, Michael Hickerson, yes, Lisa Lipsey, yes, Parker Sternbergh, yes, and Judith Haspel, yes.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 11:20 a.m. to make the following motions:

### **NEW COMPLAINTS**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to request that the complainant for **Complaint# 2012-95** submit additional information to clarify the complaint.

### **FINANCIAL**

**Meeting with Susan Sevario-** Members of the board met with Susan Sevario, CPA. Ms. Sevario explained the financial statements that are submitted each month.

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept the financial statement prepared by Susan Sevario, CPA, for the period ending December 31, 2011.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 11:50 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 into Executive Session: John McBride, yes, Carla Moore, yes, Michael Hickerson, yes, Lisa Lipsey, yes, Parker Sternbergh, yes, and Judith Haspel, yes.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 1:00 p.m.

### **COMPLIANCE HEARINGS**

**Latanya Jackson-** Latanya Jackson requested a compliance hearing to appeal the board's decision to deny her Registered Social Worker application. The board denied the application because of her affirmative answers on her application and her failure to disclose charges that were issued on April 30, 2011. Ms. Jackson testified that she ran a red light and did not immediately pull over when the police officer turned on his lights. Ms. Jackson further stated that she didn't immediately pull over because there had recently been a murder in the immediate area that she was in and she wanted to pull over in a safer area. Ms Jackson further testified that she has not been working in the profession of social work, she has been working as a tax preparer.

**Kathleen Nealon-** Kathleen Nealon requested a compliance hearing to appeal the board's decision to deny her LCSW Endorsement application. The board denied the application because the Pennsylvania board only documented 2,100 hours of

supervision. The minimum requirement for a Louisiana LCSW is 3,840 hours. Ms. Nealon testified that she has completed the supervision requirement for a Louisiana license. She stated that in Pennsylvania, she could only count 20 hours for every 40 hours that she worked as supervised clinical experience. She further testified that she has completed a total of 105 hours of face-to-face supervision.

**Mark Phillips** – Mark Phillips requested a compliance hearing to appeal the board's decision to deny his Registered Social Worker application. The board denied the application because of his affirmative answers on his application and his application indicated that he has been working within the scope of practice of a social worker without a credential. Mr. Phillips testified that the charges that he had were the result of a stressful situation where he was trying to put his life back together after hurricane Katrina while working and trying to help a family member's child that he and his wife took out of the foster care system. He stated that the stress caused an argument with him and his wife that resulted in a "pushing match." The police were called and he was arrested. Following the arrest, he spent 1 ½ day incarcerated, he had a curfew, and was unable to see or speak to his wife during the days following the incident. The battery charge (domestic abuse) was eventually dropped to simple battery. Mr. Phillips further testified that he has worked since he graduated in 2006 without a credential. He stated that he was aware that he was required to register.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 1:50 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 into Executive Session: John McBride, yes, Carla Moore, yes, Michael Hickerson, yes, Lisa Lipsey, yes, Parker Sternbergh, yes, and Judith Haspel, yes.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 2:30 p.m.

### **NEW COMPLAINTS**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to request the respondent in **Complaint #2012-98** to submit a written response to the allegations to include what was her role, how many times did she see the client, what brought her to termination of parental rights and what information did she base her recommendation of parental rights.

### **COMPLIANCE HEARING**

**John Cook, MSW** – John Cook requested a compliance hearing to appeal the board's decision to deny his application for the Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Mr. Cook's

application was denied because of his affirmative answers on his application and his previous failure to comply with the IPP when he had an active LCSW. Mr. Cook testified that he has a history of alcohol abuse dating back to 1987. He stated that he was able to get sober and graduated with his MSW in 1993. In 1998, he lost his AA sponsor and stopped attending AA meetings on a regular basis. In 2004, he did not attend any meetings. Mr. Cook testified that he was sober from 2006-2009, however, he relapsed in 2009. He stated that in 2008 he was hospitalized for coughing. At that time, they found spots on his right lung. In 2009, Mr. Cook self reported to the board and was referred to the IPP. Mr. Cook stated that he was missing call-ins for UA's and was having trouble with compliance of the program. In 2010, he stated that he decided not to renew his LCSW and withdrew from the IPP. Mr. Cook testified that feels that he is on the right track now. He has begun attending church and is regularly attending AA meetings. His doctor believes that he has cancer in his right lung. Mr. Cook moved to Baton Rouge last week and will be getting connected with a local AA group beginning tonight. Mr. Cook also provided the board with a recent psychological evaluation.

**Christopher Kruebbe, MSW-** Christopher Kruebbe requested a compliance hearing to appeal the board decision to deny his application for the LMSW. Mr. Kruebbe's application was denied because of conflicting information on his application and his criminal background check. Mr. Kruebbe's application did not indicate any charges. However, his criminal record check documents three charges dated September 4, 2006. Mr. Kruebbe testified that he received a DUI in 2006. He further stated that he has completed the required restitution and court fees, attended the court required 12-step program hours, and completed the required community service hours to satisfy the court. Mr. Kruebbe denies that he is chemically dependent. He testified that he is currently employed in Oregon, but is seeking employment in Louisiana.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 3:13 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 into Executive Session: John McBride, yes, Carla Moore, yes, Michael Hickerson, yes, Lisa Lipsey, yes, Parker Sternbergh, yes, and Judith Haspel, yes.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 5:46 p.m. to make the following motions:

### **NEW COMPLAINTS**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2012-100** and combine with Complaint #2011-94.

### **COMPLIANCE HEARING DECISIONS**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to approve **LaTanya Jackson** for the Registered Social Worker registration.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to uphold the board's original decision to deny the LCSW endorsement application for **Kathleen Nealon, MSW**. Members of the board will reconsider her application once her former employer and supervisor submit documentation of her supervision and professional experience hours.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to deny the application for RSW submitted by **Mark Phillips, MSW**. Mr. Phillips is required to cease and desist his practice of social work until he has received a credential issued by the LABSWE. The board will reconsider his application once official court documentation has been received documenting that he has satisfied all of the terms of his probation. At that time, Mr. Phillips will be offered a Consent Agreement and Order for working without a credential.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to approve the LCSW application submitted by **John M. Cook, MSW**, conditional of entering the IPP and completing a re-evaluation. Mr. Cook will be prohibited from working independently for two years and must work within an agency.

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to uphold the original board decision to deny the LMSW application submitted by **Christopher Kruebbe, MSW**. The board will reconsider his application once he submits official documentation that he has satisfied all of the terms of his probation.

### **MONITORING REPORTS –IPP**

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to accept the monitoring report.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to require **OC-11** to submit her records of treatment and successful completion. If she has not had prior treatment she will be required to complete an evaluation at an approved facility. All requested information must be submitted to the board office no later than March 2, 2012. A summary suspension will be issued in the event that all requested documentation has not been received on or before March 2, 2012.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to issue **AC-11** a summary suspension for failure to follow the terms of her agreement.

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to release **MS-10** from the IPP.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to send notification to **JT-09** that he has ten (10) days to submit evidence that he is compliant with the IPP.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to redact the minutes from the January 20, 2012, meeting that stated that **JT-09** was non-compliant.

### **MONITORING REPORTS- DISCIPLINARY**

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

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to accept the supervision report submitted by Meredith Harris, LCSW-BACS, on behalf of Donna Hulse, LCSW.

### **NEW COMPLAINTS**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2012-101**, 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 Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2012-102**, for an administrative investigation for possible violation of Rule 113B of the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to request that the respondent in **Complaint #2012-103** submit a written response to the allegations in the complaint.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to request that the respondent in **Complaint # 2012-104** submit a written response to the allegations in the complaint.

### **PENDING COMPLAINTS**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2011-121** due to R.S. 37:21.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2011-122** due to R.S. 37:21.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2011-123** due to R.S. 37:21.



Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to set the hearing date for **Complaint #2012-24** on May 4, 2012.

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to set the hearing date for **Complaint #2012-28** on May 4, 2012.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2012-53** 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 Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2012-72** for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

### **RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried to allow **Cynthia Brown, RSW**, to complete an additional four hours of continuing education by way of distance learning.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to accept the continuing education hours submitted by **Lucinda Latour, LCSW**. Ms. Latour was advised that she cannot use the same hours for the current collection period.

### **APPLICATIONS**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW application submitted by **Kenneth Jackson, MSW**. Mr. Jackson has been issued a cease and desist order and offered a Compliance Hearing.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to offer **Abigail Reikow, MSW**, a Consent Agreement and Order for working without a credential. Should Ms. Reikow agree to the Consent Agreement and Order she will be issued the LMSW by way of Endorsement.

### **NEW APPLICATIONS**

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

Bell, Theresa  
Day, Dineisha  
Harper, Cindy  
Perro, Siedah  
Powers, Lolita  
Thompson, Greta

Broadway, Heather  
Dees, Latysha  
Jones, Regina  
Pierce, Donny  
Schiro, Andria  
White, III, Clarence

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for **Certified Social Worker** certification and to grant approval for the applicants to sit for the ASWB Masters examination for licensing as a **Licensed Master Social Worker**:

Dehayes, Rachel	Doyle, Rebecca
Francis, Fiona	Hawley, Patricia
Head, Katherine	Holmes, Annie
Jackson, Amy	Levingston, Keshia
McKnight-Dunn-Vanessa	Pegram, Laura
Pernell, Jensine	Pierre, Tamara
Smith, Allison	

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Clinical exam for licensing as a **Licensed Clinical Social Worker**:

Becton, Dawn	Bourque, Crystal
Burnom, Yolanda	Crawford, Kimberly
Davis, Tammy	Dukes, Benjamin
Fire, Riki	Garner, Adrienne
LaBella, Brian	Lehigh, Emily
Lewis, Sara	Rabalais, Jessica
Rayla, Gary	Reynolds, Renee
Splettstosser, Marty	Washington, Floyd
Whittington, Bethney	

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

---

John McBride, LCSW  
Chairperson

---

Lisa Lipsey, LCSW  
Secretary-Treasurer