

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
December 16, 2011**

John McBride, LCSW, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 16, 2011, 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, Trey Bickham, and Rachel O'Pry.

Lisa Lipsey, LCSW, conducted roll call. Board members present included John McBride, LCSW, Hope Himel-Benson, LCSW, Michael Hickerson, RSW, Carla Moore, LMSW, and Lisa Lipsey, LCSW.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carmen Weisner, Executive Director of NASW-LA Chapter, reported on new board member appointments from the Governor's office. At this time, they do not have a public member being appointed. Ms. Weisner also reported that the Annual NASW Conference Registration and Brochure has been sent to the printers. They will be mailed out the last week in December. The conference will be a three day conference held in Baton Rouge.

AGENDA

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to add items 6(f) FARB Meeting, 10(b) 2012-72, 6(g) Safety Concerns, 6(h) Presentation, and 6(i) Technology.

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

Emalie Boyce, Assistant Attorney General, presented the board with a Consent Agreement and Order for **Lesa Sharkey, LCSW**, which had been previously negotiated and agreed to by Ms. Sharkey in resolution of Complaint #2012-12. Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and carried by majority, to accept the Consent Agreement and Order with the addition that the six clients that Ms. Sharkey will continue to treat will be notified of this sanction within 30 days and Ms. Sharkey will be required to complete six hours of continuing education in social work ethics within six months from the date that all parties sign the agreement. Lisa Lipsey, LCSW, was in opposition of the vote.

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

Emalie Boyce, Assistant Attorney General, presented the board with a Consent Agreement and Order for **Diane Swayzer-Smith, RSW**, which had been previously negotiated and agreed to by Ms. Swayzer-Smith in resolution of Complaint #2012-42. Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to accept the Consent Agreement and Order as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 9:51 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; Carla Moore, yes; Hope Himel-Benson, yes; Michael Hickerson, yes, and Lisa Lipsey, yes.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 10:19 a.m.:

Board members and Emalie Boyce discussed the respondent's response to draft administrative complaint #2012-44; however, there were no motions in this matter.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept the minutes with the inclusion of the date on page 8, for the November 18, 2011 board meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Joan Scanlan, LCSW- Ms. Scanlan presented a situation that she felt could possibly be unethical and asked the board if they could refer her client to someone that would treat them "pro bono." After careful consideration of the situation, members of the board agreed that she is not required to continue seeing the client. However, the board does not have a list of practitioners that offer services "pro bono." Ms. Scanlan was advised to consider checking with the professional organizations to inquire if they know of any practitioners that offer free or sliding scale services.

LSU School of Social Work - Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to approve the supervision workshop titled "Board Approved Clinical Supervision Workshop for New Applicants" being presented by Catherine Lemieux, Ph.D., LCSW. The approval date for this workshop is January 19-20, 2012, and has been approved for 6.5 hours.

Dana Papania, LCSW – Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by Ms. Papania. Ms. Papania presented a situation that has the potential to become a dual relationship. Members of the board advised Ms. Papania against requesting clients to give their testimony about the services they were provided with. Ms. Papania was referred to Rule 113, of the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Shirley Mitchell, LMSW- Ms. Mitchell requested the board to allow her additional time to complete her continuing education hours due to a medical condition. Members of the board requested that Ms. Mitchell submit medical documentation from her physician before they will consider her request. Ms. Mitchell was reminded that her license is currently lapsed and that she is not eligible to practice social work until she has an active license.

Ardia Perkins-Thomas, MSW – Ms. Perkins-Thomas requested the board to review a job description to determine if it is within the scope of practice of a social worker. After careful consideration, members of the board agreed that this position is social work. Should Ms. Perkins-Thomas hold this position, she will at minimum need to hold the Registered Social Worker registration.

Jessica Brayden, LCSW – Ms. Brayden requested the board to advise her on a reporting issue that involves a minor client that has been diagnosed with HIV. The client allegedly was in an altercation with another student that resulted in broken skin on both the client and the student. The Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and the Rules Standards, and Procedures do not specifically speak to this situation. Therefore, members of the board have encouraged Ms. Brayden to seek legal counsel with her agencies legal department.

BOARD/STAFF ISSUES

Appointments to LABSWE

Carla Moore, LMSW: 12/06/2011 – 10/04/2013
 Parker Sternbergh, LCSW: 12/30/2011 – 12/29/2014
 Judith Haspel, LCSW: 12/19/2011 – 12/18/2014

Continuing Education Approval Organizations for LABSWE

Members of the board were advised that staff has mailed a 2nd notice for the continuing education audit for all Continuing Education Approval Organizations. Should the organizations fail to submit the audits on or before January 10, 2012, their status as a pre-approval organization will be suspended.

Office of Behavioral Health- Application for CE Approval Organization

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to deny the request submitted by the Office of Behavioral Health to become a pre-approval organization. The application was denied because their application indicated that they will only approve organizations that are contracted with the Office of Behavioral Health.

Adjudication Procedure/Consent Agreement Violations

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to approve the procedure proposed by George Papale, for those individuals that do not follow the terms of their Consent Agreement and Order.

Consent Agreement and Order- Renewal Applications

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Hope Himel Benson and unanimously carried, to issue a Consent Agreement and Order to any individual that renews their credential after August 31st and continue to practice social work with that lapsed credential.

2012 Board Meeting Dates

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to approve the following board meeting dates for 2012:

January 20, February 17, March 16, May 4, June 8, July 20, August 24, September 28, November 16, and December 14.

FARB Annual Conference

In a previous meeting, the board approved to send up to two board members and one staff person to FARB's annual conference. Lisa Lipsey advised that she will attend the FARB Conference scheduled for January 27-29, 2012, in Sarasota, Florida.

Safety Concerns

Emily Efferson, Board Administrator, will order a sign to place by the receptionist area to prohibit anyone other than staff to enter that area.

Presentation

Hope Himel-Benson, LCSW, was presented with a plaque in appreciation for serving three years on the LABSWE.

Technology

Michael Hickerson, RSW, requested that board staff obtain software that would automatically send renewal notifications out to licensees. Mr. Hickerson was advised that the board office does currently have and use such programming to send out notifications.

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER –WORKING WITHOUT A CREDENTIAL

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to suspend **Janice Davis'** Registered Social Worker registration. Ms. Davis was offered a Consent Agreement and Order for working without a credential. She did not complete the terms of the agreement.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to suspend **BriAnn Williams'** Registered Social Worker registration. Ms. Williams was offered a Consent Agreement and Order for working without a credential. She did not complete the terms of the agreement.

FINANCIAL

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to request that Susan Sevario meet with the board to clarify the financial statements.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to allow staff to research the purchase of new computers and software.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 12:15 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; Carla Moore, yes; Hope Himel-Benson, yes; Michael Hickerson, yes, and Lisa Lipsey, yes.

Motion was made by Hope Himel-Benson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 1:45 p.m.

Compliance Hearing for Daymond Williams, MSW

Mr. Williams requested a Compliance Hearing to appeal the board's decision to deny his RSW application on November 18, 2011. His application was denied because his application indicated that he is currently unemployed, however, a letter he submitted to the board indicated that he is currently employed in the profession of social work. Mr. Williams testified that he had been working in the field of substance abuse as the director of a substance abuse clinic. He further testified that he has been working as a Mental Health Professional at Essential Care for the past three months.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to go in to Executive Session at 2:10 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; Carla Moore, yes; Hope Himel-Benson, yes; Michael Hickerson, yes, and Lisa Lipsey, yes.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 5:01 p.m. to make the following motions:

COMPLIANCE HEARING DECISION

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried to offer **Daymond Williams, MSW**, a Level 3 Consent Agreement and Order for working without a credential. Should Mr. Williams agree to the Consent Agreement and Order he will be issued the RSW.

MONITORING REPORTS-IMPAIRED PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM (IPP)

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

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to require **OC-11**, to meet with the board for an informal conference at their meeting scheduled for January 20, 2011, for non-compliance of her Participation Agreement.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to send **OT-10**, certified notification that she must submit evidence within 10 days that she has been in compliance of her Participation Agreement.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to require **AC-11**, to meet with the board for an informal conference at their meeting scheduled for January 20, 2011, about concerns the IPP Manager has.

MONITORING REPORTS-DISCIPLINARY

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

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to approve the continuing education hours in social work ethics submitted by **Juanita Anderson-Hilton, LCSW**.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to mail certified notification to **Dores Cadore, CSW**, that she must submit evidence within 10 days that she has been in compliance with her Consent Agreement and Order. Our records indicate that she has not taken and passed the Open Book Examination.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to accept the supervision report submitted by Joy McElveen, LCSW-BACS on behalf of **Norlarn Hayes, LCSW**.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept the supervision report submitted by Meredith Harris, LCSW-BACS on behalf of **Donna Hulsey, LCSW**.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Hope Himel-Benson and unanimously carried, to mail certified notification to **Charisse Spland-Gray, MSW**, that she must submit evidence within 10 days that she has been in compliance with her Consent Agreement and Order. Our records indicate that she was to have submitted a payment toward her reimbursement on or before November 29, 2011.

NEW COMPLAINTS

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to request respondent for **Complaint #2012-57** to submit a written response to the allegations along with a detailed job description.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2012-60** and send to investigation of possible violation of Rule 107B, 111H(1),(2),(3), 111G(1),(5), and LA R.S. 37:2717A(7), 2717A(11).

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to request that respondent named in **Complaint #2012-61** submit a written response to the allegations along with a detailed job description.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2012-69** and send for investigation of possible violation of LA R.S. 37: 2717A(7), (11), (12) and 2718B.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to request the respondent for **Complaint #2012-72** to submit a written response to the allegations.

PENDING COMPLAINTS

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2011-64**, with a letter of concern regarding exploitation.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2011-105**, with a letter of concern regarding her appearance of being biased.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to set a hearing for **Complaint #2012-10**, for February 17, 2012.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2012-11**, 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 send **Complaint #2012-13**, to investigation for possible violations of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to send **Complaint #2012-14**, to investigation for possible violations of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2012-34**, with a letter of concern rather than proceeding with disciplinary action because respondent has rectified the situation.

New Applications

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW application for **Roland Flemings, Jr.** Mr. Flemings has been offered a Compliance Hearing.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to offer a Level 4 Consent Agreement and Order to **Rita Morris-Jackson**, for working without a credential issued by the LABSWE. Should Ms. Morris-Jackson agree to the Consent Agreement and Order, she will be issued the RSW.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to deny the LCSW endorsement application submitted by **Kathleen Nealon, MSW**. The verification form submitted did not verify that she has completed the supervision requirement for the LCSW. Ms. Nealon has been issued the LMSW and has been offered a Compliance Hearing.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to offer a Level 4 Consent Agreement and Order to **Christopher Seaman, MSW**, for working without a credential issued by the LABSWE. Should Mr. Seaman agree to the Consent Agreement and Order, he will be issued the CSW and approval to take the ASWB Masters level examination.

Motion was made by Lisa Lipsey, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW application for **Walter Saunders**. Mr. Saunders has been offered a Compliance Hearing.

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

Fuller, Charlotte	Herring, Lacey
McGee, Jeremy	Marchand, Karen
Mingo, Nicole	Synder, Gilda

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey 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**:

Allen, Kristina	Ami, Jennifer
Andress-Udall, Suzanne	Belote, Caroline
Berlinger, Laura	Block, Cassandra
Brogan, Lauren	Clayton, LaMonica
Davenport-Clark, Kathy	Dietz, Adam
Duncan, Scott	Dunn, Trina
Fanwick, Neysa	Frank, Courtney
Gauthier, Rochelle	Gerson, Jessica
Gershen, Sara	Guidry, Brittany
Harrison, Sarah	Hurley, Amanda
Joyce, Timothy	Karistai, Amanda
Landry, Katherine	McShan, Lauren
Managan, Tara	Myrick, David
Nguyen, Jenny	Pesses, Mary
Petroni, Danielle	Pottschmidt, Chelsea
Roberts, Rachel	Thomas, Sharena
Timm, Hallie	Weatherly, Christopher
Williams, Catherine	Ferrington, Amber
Fitch, Lauren	Fort, Meredith
Price, Joseph	

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

Bolfer, Toni	Budgewater, Kimberly
Doty, Amelia	Dubois, Jill
Gousman, Erin	Huval, James
LeBlanc, Andrew	Loveless, Katheryn
Owen, Courtney	Stanford, Mark
Thompson, Mark	Thompson, Chasity
Turner, Amanda	

RENEWAL APPLICATION

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to process the renewal application for **Michelle Frederick, LCSW**. Ms. Frederick is required to keep the board abreast of her current legal situation.

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Lisa Lipsey and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

John McBride, LCSW
Chairperson

Lisa Lipsey, LCSW
Secretary-Treasurer