

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners  
January 18, 2013**

Judith Haspel, LCSW, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. on Friday, January 18, 2013, 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 included Carmen Weisner, Jennifer Holmes, Jane Easseff, Danielle Petroni, Megan Watkin and Tara Managan.

Carla Moore, LMSW, conducted roll call. Board members present at the time of roll call included John McBride, LCSW, Judith Haspel, LCSW, Michael Hickerson, RSW, and Carla Moore, LMSW. Lisa Lipsey, LCSW, and Parker Sternbergh, LCSW were not present at the time that roll call was conducted. Parker Sternbergh arrived at 8:46 a.m. and Lisa Lipsey arrived at 12:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Carmen Weisner, Executive Director of the NASW-LA Chapter, reported that the NASW-LA Chapter 2013 Annual Conference brochure has been mailed out. She reported that NASW-LA Chapter will be sponsoring a six hour workshop relative to the changes of the DSM V.

**AGENDA**

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to accept the agenda with the following revisions: under board/staff issues remove 6d (long-range planning) and replace 6d with NASW-LA Annual Conference Exhibitor Fee.

**MINUTES of the meeting held December 14, 2012**

**Motion** was made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept the minutes of the meeting held December 14, 2012 as presented.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Mary Knepper, LCSW**

Ms. Knepper asked the board if it would be a dual relationship if she conducted an intake interview with a client that she also participated in a Manifestation Determination Hearing. She stated that she did not have a therapeutic role in the meeting, but was present for the determination of whether his behavior was a manifestation of his disability and for his expulsion hearing. Members of the board advised Ms. Knepper that they feel that it would be best practice for her to obtain a consent form from the client if she is serving the same client at both agencies. Ms. Knepper was also referred to Rule 113A, of the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

**Willa Blackwell, LCSW**

Ms. Blackwell asked the board if she is required to report abuse if the client is presently over 18 years of age, but the abuse occurred when the client was a minor. Members of the board agreed that they are unable to address this situation because the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and Rules, Standards and Procedures, do not specifically address this situation. Ms. Blackwell was advised to review 2718B(3) of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act, and 115 (client confidentiality), 111D, of the Rules, Standards and Procedures. Ms. Blackwell was advised that if she was unable to determine if this is a reportable situation, that she should seek legal counsel.

**Laurie Nussbaum, LCSW**

Ms. Nussbaum notified the board of a situation where her email address had been compromised and a bogus email went out to individuals that were in her contact list, which included clients. Ms. Nussbaum provided the board with the steps that she took to ensure that those that received the emails were notified as well as reporting the incident to the proper authorities. Ms. Nussbaum asked the board what other measures should be taken to be in compliance with HIPPA regulations. Members of the board informed Ms. Nussbaum that they are not able to address HIPPA regulations.

**Trey Bickham, LMSW**

Mr. Bickham submitted a request asking the board to accept the articles and research that he is completing for the social work PhD program that he is currently enrolled in to be used toward his continuing education hours. Members of the board informed Mr. Bickham that they would consider his request upon his submission of the articles and research completed.

**Pamela Sunseri, LCSW**

Ms. Sunseri submitted a request asking the board to remove the requirement of submitting a driver's license number with the online renewal process. Members of the board advised Ms. Sunseri that they would consider removing this requirement.

**Quoqueze Price, LMSW**

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to deny the request submitted by Ms. Price to accept her supervision with Linda Sanders, LCSW-BACS, without being penalized for late submission. Ms. Price will be granted 90 days credit prior to the receipt of the revised supervision plan.

**Paul Hufnagel, LCSW**

Mr. Hufnagel presented a situation where he is serving minor clients whose parents are still legally married, but living separately. He stated that both parents are the legal guardians and that there has not been a determination of who is the domiciliary parent. Members of the board advised Mr. Hufnagel that this is a legal matter that cannot be addressed by the board. They recommended that Mr. Hufnagel seek legal counsel.

regarding this matter. It was further advised that Mr. Hufnagel have both parents sign release forms.

### **Alzheimer's Services of the Capitol Area**

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to approve Alzheimer's Services of the Capitol Area as a continuing education pre-approval organization. Their approval extends from January 18, 2013 –January 17, 2016.

## **COMPLIANCE HEARINGS**

### **Erika Lowman, MSW**

Ms. Lowman requested a compliance hearing because her application was denied due to her affirmative answer on her renewal application relative to having been charged with, convicted of, or pled guilty to or nolo contendere to violation of any state or federal, civil or criminal law. Ms. Lowman testified that she was advised by her attorney to answer "no" on her application relative to the criminal charges. She further testified that the charge dated in 2004, is not correct. That date should have been recorded as July 4, 2008. Ms. Lowman stated that she has not had any further incidents since her arrest date on July 4, 2008.

### **Leslie Darmas, MSW**

Ms. Darmas requested a compliance hearing because she was offered a Consent Agreement and Order for practicing social work without a credential. Ms. Darmas testified that it was her understanding that she only needed to be credentialed if her employer required her to be credentialed. She further testified that she did not receive information about the rules changing regarding the Consent Agreement and Orders that are issued for practicing without a credential. Ms. Darmas requested the Board to penalize her under the previous requirements of the Consent Agreement and Order which were not reported as a disciplinary action.

### **Josephine Sisemore, MSW**

Ms. Sisemore requested a compliance hearing because her RSW renewal application was denied. Ms. Sisemore's RSW renewal application was denied because she does not hold the RSW. Ms. Sisemore holds a CSW that has become invalid for failure to retake the Master's level examination within the time required. Ms. Sisemore testified that she took the examination in 2011. At that time, she stated that she moved and failed to contact the board office to notify them that her address had changed. Because she did not give a forwarding address, she did not receive any of the notifications mailed to her. Ms. Sisemore stated that her employer told her that she did not need to be credentialed to work for their agency, that she was only required to hold a MSW. Board staff contacted ASWB in reference to Ms. Sisemore re-testing. ASWB verified that she took the Master's level examination in March, 2010, for the state of Texas.

## **FINANCIAL**

**Motion** was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the financial report for the period ending November 30, 2012.

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to form a committee of the board to research financial needs of the board such as designating funds as reserved funds. Parker Sternbergh agreed to chair the committee. Michael Hickerson and Carla Moore will serve on the committee.

## **BOARD/STAFF ISSUES**

### **ASWB –Membership Dues**

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to approve paying the membership fee of \$1,500.00.

### **Behavioral Analysis Commission Report**

John McBride informed the board that the subcommittee is scheduled to write the proposed law. At the next meeting the proposed legislation will be presented. Carmen Weisner will attend this meeting in John McBride's absence. Ms. Weisner will have authority to vote at this meeting.

### **Updates from Continuing Education Committee**

Parker Sternbergh stated that she will be scheduling a meeting with Carmen Weisner to discuss the continuing education pre-approval application.

### **NASW-LA**

Motion was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to approve paying the exhibitor fee of \$750.00 for the NASW-LA Annual Conference.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion** was made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 10:54 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

to discuss prospective litigation.

Votes for going into Executive Session: John McBride, yes; Parker Sternbergh, yes; Michael Hickerson, yes; Carla Moore, yes; and Judith Haspel, yes.

**Motion** was made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 12:05 p.m. to make the following motions:

### **Compliance Hearing Decisions**

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to approve **Erika Lowman, MSW**, for the CSW and grant approval to take the examination for the LMSW. Ms. Lowman was advised to contact the FBI to have her background check corrected.

**Motion** was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to approve **Leslie Darmas, MSW**, for the CSW and approval to take the examination for the LMSW without agreeing to a Consent Agreement and Order for working without a credential.

**Motion** was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to deny **Josephine Sisemore, MSW**, renewal for the RSW. Ms. Sisemore does not hold the RSW and therefore is unable to renew at this level. Ms. Sisemore was advised that she is eligible to apply for the RSW.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 12:07 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

to discuss prospective litigation.

Votes for going into Executive Session: John McBride, yes; Parker Sternbergh, yes; Michael Hickerson, yes; Carla Moore, yes; and Judith Haspel, yes.

**Motion** was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 6:43 p.m. to make the following motions:

### **Disciplinary Monitoring Report**

**Motion** was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to approve the disciplinary monitoring report as presented.

**Motion** was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to approve the supervision report submitted for Juanita Anderson-Hilton, LCSW.

**Motion** was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the supervision report submitted for Layne Bonvillain, LCSW.

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to approve Janice Manuel, LCSW-BACS, to provide supervision for Theresa Ivey, LMSW.

#### **Request to re-open Complaint #2013-06**

**Motion** was made by John McBride, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to dismiss complaint #2013-06. There is no basis to re-open this complaint.

#### **New Complaints**

**Motion** was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2013-89** and to request a written response from the respondent addressing the allegations.

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to issue a cease and desist order for **Complaint #2013-93** for practicing without a credential.

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2013-94** and send to investigation for possible violation of Rule 107(B), 117(A), and LA R.S. 37:2717 A (4), (7),

#### **IPP Monitoring Report**

**Motion** was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to accept the IPP Monitoring Report as presented.

**Motion** was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to send certified notification to SD-11 that her Participation Agreement she signed was not accepted by the board. She will need to sign the updated Participation Agreement that was mailed. She has been notified that she must submit the updated agreement no later than 10 days following the receipt of the notification.

**Motion** was made by John McBride, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to send FJ-11 notification of pending action and allow her until February 13, 2013, to be in compliance with her Participation Agreement.

**Motion** was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to approve the therapist's recommendation for JM-10 to decrease the frequency of their sessions to once per month. JM-10 will be sent notification that his worksite monitor report and medication log must be received on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Motion** was made by John McBride, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to release DW-09 from the IPP.

**Motion** was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to lift the suspension and release JT-09 from the IPP.

**Motion** was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by John McBride and carried by majority vote, to return all therapy notes for **AH-11** dated prior to January 2011 and to release participant from the program upon receipt of a letter from her treating physician and therapist that specifically states participant should be released from program. Michael Hickerson voted against the motion.

### **New Complaints**

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2013-95** and to request a written response from the respondent addressing the allegations. Notification will be sent to the complainant that the board is providing a copy of the complaint. The board cannot accept anonymous complaints.

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2013-96** and to send to investigation for possible violation of Rule 111G (1),(2),(3),(5) and LA R.S. 37:2717A (4),(10).

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2013-97** and to send to investigation for possible violation of Rule 111G(1), (2),(3),(5), 107B and LA R.S. 2717A (4),(7),(10),(11).

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2013-98** and to send to investigation for possible violation of Rule 113A(1),(3),(5), 113B(1),(7) and LA R.S. 2717A (4),(7),(11).

**Motion** was made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2013-99**. From the information provided it could not be determined that violation potentially occurred.

**Motion** was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2013-100** and to send to investigation for possible violation of Rule 107B, 115A, 115B and LA R.S. 2717A (7).

### **Pending Complaints**

**Motion** was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2013-35** for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Rules, Standards and Procedures and the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

**Motion** was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2013-71** for failure to rise to a level of a violation of the Rules, Standards and Procedures and the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

### **Renewal Applications**

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to deny the renewal application submitted for **Elyania Foster Jackson**. Ms. Jackson does not hold the RSW. She has been granted 14 days to submit an RSW application without being issued a Consent Agreement and Order for working without a credential.

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to deny the request for an extension submitted by **Nelda Sibley, MSW**, and issue a cease and desist order on her practice of social work. Her continuing education hours were to have been completed on or before June 30, 2012, the situation that Ms. Sibley stated that prohibited her from getting her continuing education hours occurred in November, 2012.

### **Applications**

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to deny the application submitted by **Deloris Cole, MSW** Ms. Cole has been offered a Compliance Hearing. Members of the board advised Ms. Cole that they would reconsider her application once an updated psychological evaluation has been submitted.

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to deny the RSW application submitted by **Lennorah Williams, MSW**. Mr. Williams has been offered a Compliance Hearing.

**Motion** was made by John McBride, seconded by Michael Hickerson and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for registration as a **Registered Social Worker**:

Calhoun, Sherry	Gilbert, Linda
Glaze, Jessica	Hines, Sparkle
Howell, Matthew	Keys, Arian
Magee, Tuneea	Martin-Lewis, Jamekco
Rawls, Jessica	Sabathier-Curry, Jane
Slaughter, Kiona	Turner, LaTasha
Weatherford, Charlene	Werner, Megan
Williams, Lennorah	Williams, Stacy
LeJeune, Christian	

**Motion** was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for the **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**:

Barousse, Meredith	Crear, Lisa
DiSalvo, Nicole	Edgerson, Susan
Fewell, Nathan	Garmon, Sidney
Gautreaux, Jennafer	Guidroz, Candace
Harkless, Jasmine	Jones, Leonis

Jenkins, Darlene  
Kroot, Jaimie  
Little, Erin  
Matthews, Michele  
Mazzuto, William  
Montgomery, Angela  
Pullum, Catrina  
Ruane, Julia  
Tennyson, Sarah  
Thomas, Marsha  
Wile, Michele  
White, Lachovia  
Barbarin, Leslie

Jolet, Justin  
Lee, Michaela  
Markle, Jessica  
Maurer, Sara  
Sparks, Joannie  
Morris, Alexandria  
Rousse, Kerri  
Salmeron, Maria  
Theriot, Paige  
Wharton, Katherine  
Hill, LaBrittney  
Bailey, Dawna

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

Bailey, Krishna	Benn-Jasmine, Yettia
Byrd, Kerri	Chenier, Laurel
Costello, Courtney	Dykhuisen, Erin
Ferguson, Lisa	Hess, Sarah
Hughes, Nicole	Misita, Catherine
Wilkerson-Carr, Precious	

**Motion** was made by Michael Hickerson, seconded by John McBride and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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Lisa Lipsey, LCSW  
Chairperson

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Carla Moore, LMSW  
Secretary-Treasurer