

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
October 17, 2014**

Judith Haspel, LCSW, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, October 17, 2014, in the conference room at the Board office located at 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Emily Efferson, Administrator and Regina DeWitt, Administrative Assistant, were present for the entire meeting. Carmen Weisner, Natalie Dinacola, Jodi Mallett and Traci Lilley were present for a portion of the meeting.

Carla Moore, LMSW, conducted roll call. Board members present at the time of roll call included Robert Showers, RSW, Judith Haspel, LCSW, Carla Moore, LMSW, Marguerite "Peggy" Salley, LCSW, Yolanda Burnom, LCSW, Parker Sternbergh, LCSW and Paulette Walker, Public Member.

AGENDA

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Peggy Salley and unanimously carried, to accept the agenda with the following changes: add 6(h) 2015 Board Meeting Dates, 6(l) Audit of CE Preapproval Organizations and 9(e) 2014-155.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carmen Weisner, Executive Director of NASW-LA, announced that they are finalizing approvals of workshops for the 2015 Annual Conference that will be held March 18th – 20th at the Baton Rouge Hilton.

Ms. Weisner also reported that a House Concurrent Resolution was passed during the legislative session that requires the behavioral health entities to come together to work with art therapists to write their proposed practice act. Ms. Weisner stated that the art therapists will probably be housed with the LPC Board. However, the financial implications are causing some concerns due to there being a very limited amount of Art Therapists in the state.

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

Madeline Carbonette, Assistant Attorney General, presented the board with a Consent Agreement and Order for **Michelle Frederick, LCSW**, which had been previously negotiated and agreed to by Ms. Frederick in resolution of Complaint# 2014-107. **Motion** was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Peggy Salley and unanimously carried, to accept the Consent Agreement and Order as presented.

Meeting of the Minutes held September 5, 2014

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to accept the minutes as presented for September 5, 2014.

CORRESPONDENCE

Tamara Richardson, LCSW-BACS

Members of the board reviewed Ms. Richardson's question regarding if it is ethical practice for a social worker to look at a client's Facebook page or any other social media to gather information regarding eligibility for services requested. Members of the board agreed that the Practice Act and Rules do not specifically speak to this situation. Board members did agree that generally the practice of searching out information about a client through social media would not be ethical unless the job position specifically indicates that this is an acceptable practice. Ms. Richardson was referred to Rule 113A of the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Karen Giradot, LMSW

Members of the board reviewed Ms. Giradot's question regarding if it is within a social worker's scope of practice to have a discussion with a patient about Louisiana Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (LaPost), then submit the completed form to an MD or OD to sign. Members of the board agreed that it is unethical for a social worker to work outside of their knowledge base. Ms. Giradot was referred to Rule 109 A(1,2,3) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Paul LeBlanc, LCSW

Members of the board reviewed Mr. LeBlanc's correspondence regarding his role as a psychological expert witness to the Lafayette Diocesan Tribunal. Members of the board agreed that the Practice Act and Rules do not specifically speak to this situation. From the information provided, it does appear that confidentiality of the parties has been covered. Board members referred Mr. LeBlanc to seek private legal counsel should he have additional concerns.

Cheryl Nichols, LMSW

Members of the board reviewed Ms. Nichols' request for the board to consider having a "retired" status for social workers. Members of the board advised Ms. Nichols that there has been an ongoing discussion and will be included the next time an Inter-organizational Committee is formed to consider changes to the Practice Act.

OPS Family Care, LLC

Motion was made by Peggy Salley, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to approve OPS Care, LLC as a Continuing Education Approval Organization. Their approval extends from October 17, 2014- October 17, 2017.

Sean Collett

Members of the board reviewed Mr. Collett's letter asking the board if they could determine if his criminal charges would prohibit him from holding a social work credential, prior to him attending a school of social work. Members of the board advised Mr. Collett that they are not able to speak for a future sitting board. Board members did inform Mr. Collette that the actual charges and rehabilitation since the charges are considered at the time of application.

M. Courtney Kentzel, LCSW

Members of the board reviewed the correspondence submitted by Ms. Kentzel asking if she is required to report an incident that was reported during a therapy session that revealed abuse. Members of the board advised Ms. Kentzel that the incident should be reported. Board members referred her to Rules 115B(1) and 111D of the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Emilia Bellone, LCSW

Members of the board reviewed the correspondence submitted by Ms. Bellone asking if she should release the records of a deceased client to a defense attorney or wait until she is served with a subpoena. Members of the board advised Ms. Bellone that she should seek legal counsel regarding this matter. Board members did advise Ms. Bellone that it is their opinion that she should wait for a subpoena.

Pam Occhipinti

Members of the board reviewed correspondence submitted by Ms. Occhipinti. In the letter that she presented to the board, she asked if a social worker finds out that their client shares mutual friends, should the social worker recuse themselves from their case. Board members agreed that the social worker should recuse themselves from the case if at all possible.

Andree Surcouf, LCSW-BACS

Motion was made by Peggy Salley, seconded by Paulette Walker and unanimously carried, to approve Andree Surcouf to provide disciplinary supervision for Michelle Frederick, LCSW, for her Consent Agreement and Order.

BOARD/STAFF ISSUES

ASWB

Motion was made by Paulette Walker, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to send Emily Efferson, Administrator, to the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly in Boise, Idaho.

ASWB 2014 Elections

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to vote for John McBride for Director at Large, Professional Member.

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to vote for M. Jenise Comer for President-elect.

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to vote for Maureen Egan for Secretary.

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to vote for Richard Silver for Director at Large, Member Board Staff.

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to vote for Sandra Barlow for Nominating Committee.

FARB-39th Annual FARB Forum

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried to send Yolanda Burnom and Regina DeWitt, to the annual conference.

Report on CLEAR Conference

Judith Haspel and Emily Efferson reported on the Annual CLEAR conference they attended. Ms. Haspel had a favorable review of the conference.

Children's Code Article 876 Amendment

Social workers on legal defense teams that hear from a child that they have been abused, the team decides whether or not the situation falls under Tarasoff. If not, there is not a need to immediately report. Reliance is on the social worker's judgment.

Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations & Discussion Regarding Survey Results

Members of the board discussed fostering a professional relationship with the universities that have social work programs and adding links for professional organizations on the LABSWE website.

Board Self-Evaluation

Judith Haspel has requested all board members to select five questions from the report that would be appropriate to be used for a Board Self-Evaluation and bring back to the November 21, 2014 meeting.

2015 Board Meeting Dates

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried to approve the following board meeting dates for 2015:

January 30, 2015	July 31, 2015
March 20, 2015	August 28, 2015
April 24, 2015	September 25, 2015
May 29, 2015	October 23, 2015
June 26, 2015	December 4, 2015

Preapproval Organizations Audit

This item has been tabled for the November 21, 2014 board meeting date to allow time for all of the organizations to submit their documentation.

Financial

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Peggy Salley and unanimously carried, to approve the financial report for year end June 30, 2014 prepared by Robert Furman and presented by Susan Sevario, CPA.

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Peggy Salley and unanimously carried, to approve the financial statement for July 31, 2014 presented by Susan Sevario, CPA.

Laptop quotes (2) from Essential solutions

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Paulette Walker and unanimously carried, to table this discussion until the next meeting scheduled for November 21, 2014.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Peggy Salley and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 11:07 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: Robert Showers, yes; Carla Moore, yes; Peggy Salley, yes, Paulette Walker, yes, Yolanda Burnom, yes, and Parker Sternbergh, yes.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 1:00 p.m.

Request for Re-hearing

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Peggy Salley and unanimously carried, to deny the request submitted by Rebecca Rosenthal for a rehearing.

DISCIPLINARY MONITORING REPORT

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Peggy Salley and unanimously carried, to approve the disciplinary report.

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Paulette Walker unanimously carried, to release **Melanie Holmes, CSW**, from her Consent Agreement and Order. Ms. Holmes has submitted evidence that she completed all of the terms in her agreement.

NEW COMPLAINTS

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2015-28** and to request a written response.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2015-29** and to request a written response.

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to request the complainant for **Complaint #2015-30** to submit a legible copy of the complaint for consideration.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2015-31** and to request a written response.

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Paulette Walker and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2015-34** and to request respondent to complete a background check and require the respondent to keep the board abreast of the charges.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2015-35** and to refer the respondent to the Impaired Professionals Program for an evaluation.

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2015-36** and to request a written response.

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2015-37** and to request a letter of response to the allegations to include a copy of the child custody report and her contract.

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Yolanda Burnom and unanimously carried, to accept the letter submitted by the respondent for **Complaint #2015-38** and add to her licensure file.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Parker Sternbergh and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2015-39** and to refer the respondent to the Impaired Professionals Program for an evaluation.

Pending Complaints

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Peggy Salley and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2014-97** for failure to rise to the level of a violation of the of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Paulette Walker and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2014-140** for failure to rise to the level of a violation of the of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2014-141** for failure to rise to the level of a violation of the of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act or Rules, Standards and Procedures.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to offer the respondent named in **Complaint #2014-155** a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice and to grant exam approval upon receipt of the signed Consent Agreement and Order.

Applications

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to offer **Melissa DeRamus** a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice.

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to offer **Mechel Gordon** a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Yolanda Burnom and unanimously carried, to offer **Vickie Ryan** a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice.

Motion was made by Yolanda Burnom, seconded by Peggy Salley and unanimously carried, to deny Amelie Vincent's application for RSW and to offer her a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Paulette Walker and unanimously carried, to require **Allison Willie, MSW**, to complete an evaluation for the Impaired Professionals Program and follow all recommendations.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Peggy Salley and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for registration as a Registered Social Worker:

Bailey, Trisanda	Barmes, Roshoundra
Briggs, Mycala	Carbon, Lisa
Green, Zanetta	Hargrove-Wilely, Lenita
Jackson, Shadiamond	McDowell, Kiona
Poole, Janiece	Porter, Carmen
Sandifer, Charrlyse	Stewart, Jacqueline
Williams, Rhonda	Williams, Shonteka
Wilson, Alexis	Fontenot, Tina

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Parker Sternbergh 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:

Brown, Danette	Chastain-Alford, Mary
Dunn, Stephanie	Estem, Allison
Fuller, Meghan	Gelman, Kayla
Hill, Janice	Huling, Arlene
Johnese, Ashley	Kryszczynski, Aimee
Lowe, Lynette	Miles, Katherine
Miller, Jennifer	Richard, Ana
Small-Williams, Sholanda	Stevens, Kathleen
Thomas, Kathleen	Williams, Roberta
Willie, Sarah	Winley, Rosalinda

Motion was made by Peggy Salley, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Clinical exam for licensing as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker:

Ammons, Jeannie	Bell, Lindsay
Breland, Mallory	Brown, Kevin
Carey, Alexa	Cash, Lariana
Clark, Tanisha	Clouse, Valerie
Dunbar, Latonia	Freeman, Tracey
Gauthier, Rochelle	Gillam, Leah
Johnson, Melody	Lalone, Melissa
Lewis, Latasha	Logan, Nikita
Maiden, Barbara	Matevich, Jordan
Wright, Danielle	

COMPLIANCE HEARINGS

Shaquwanda Chew, MSW

Shaquwanda Chew, MSW, requested a compliance hearing because her LMSW application was denied and she was offered a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice. Ms. Chew testified that she was not aware that she had to be credentialed to work. She further testified that she was working as a Housing Specialist providing case management services, but ceased her practice when she received the Consent Agreement and Order from the board.

Kimberly Adams, MSW

Kimberly Adams, MSW, requested a compliance hearing because her LMSW application was denied and she was offered a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice. Ms. Adams testified that she was offered the position of Case Manager for the VOA because her hours of volunteer work was substituted for a degree in human services, her undergraduate degree is in history.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Paulette Walker and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 1:23 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: Robert Showers, yes; Carla Moore, yes; Peggy Sally, yes; Lisa Lipsey, yes, Yolanda Burnom, yes, Paulette Walker, yes, and Parker Sternbergh, yes.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 2:36 p.m.

Impaired Professional Program Monitoring Report

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to approve the monitoring report submitted by Kathie Pohlman, LCSW, Program Manager.

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Peggy Salley and unanimously carried, to send notice to the AAG that there will not be a hearing for **JM-10**, due to his recent compliance of the IPP.

Motion was made by Peggy Salley, seconded by Paulette Walker and unanimously carried, to send **C.S.** notification that her application has expired and she will need to reapply should she wish to pursue a social work credential.

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to not allow a non-licensed person to submit to random urinary drug screens under the Board's contract with Affinity.

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Peggy Salley and unanimously carried, to send Complaint #2013-112 to the Assistant Attorney General to pursue disciplinary action because the respondent has not cooperated with the IPP.

Motion was made by Paulette Walker, seconded by Peggy Salley and unanimously carried, to send Robin Kincel a notice of pending action because she has not been evaluated for the IPP as the board's decision required.

Renewal Applications

Motion was made by Paulette Walker, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to deny the renewal application submitted by Passmore Furusa.

Compliance Hearing Decisions

Motion was made by Peggy Salley, seconded by Paulette Walker and unanimously carried, to uphold their previous decision to approve the application submitted by Shaquwanda Chew conditional of her signing a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice.

Motion was made by Parker Sternbergh, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to uphold their previous decision to approve the application submitted by Kimberly Adams conditional of her signing a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Carla Moore and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Judith Haspel, LCSW
Chairperson

Carla Moore, LMSW
Secretary-Treasurer