

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
January 12, 2018**

John Shalett, LCSW, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, January 12, 2018, in the conference room at the Board office located at 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, was present for the entire meeting.

Carla Moore, LMSW, conducted roll call. Board members present at the time of roll call included John Shalett, LCSW, Carla Moore, LMSW, Brent Villemarette, LCSW, Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, Judith Haspel, LCSW, and Robert Showers, RSW.

Members of the public in attendance included Ayn Stehr, Craig Mills, Robert Burns, Cherie McDermott, Eva Slater, Cassandra Chenevert and Marilyn Jones.

AGENDA

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A public statement was made by Craig Mills. It is being included in the minutes as an attachment.

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDERS

Madeline Carbonette, Assistant Attorney General, presented a Consent Agreement and Order to the board, which was previously accepted by **Blair Boone Boggs, LMSW**, in resolution of Complaint #2017-17.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to accept Consent Agreement and Order #2017-17 for Blair Boone Boggs.

Madeline Carbonette, Assistant Attorney General, presented a Consent Agreement and Order to the board, which was previously accepted by **Sharon Joseph, RSW**, in resolution of Complaint #2017-110.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to accept Consent Agreement and Order #2017-110 for Sharon Joseph.

Madeline Carbonette, Assistant Attorney General, presented a Consent Agreement and Order to the board, which was previously accepted by **Vanessa Rubin, RSW**, in resolution of Complaint #2017-120.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to accept Consent Agreement and Order #2017-120 for Vanessa Rubin.

Madeline Carbonette, Assistant Attorney General, presented a Consent Agreement and Order to the board, which was previously accepted by **Terry Braud, LCSW**, in resolution of Complaint #2017-128.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to accept Consent Agreement and Order #2017-128 for Terry Braud.

Madeline Carbonette, Assistant Attorney General, presented a Consent Agreement and Order to the board, which was previously accepted by **Jean Hutchinson, LMSW**, in resolution of Complaint #2017-95.

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to accept Consent Agreement and Order #2017-95 for Jean Hutchinson.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meetings held on December 8, 2017, and December 16, 2017, as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to approve the request made by Dawn Womack, LCSW-BACS, to supervise Cher Broussard, LMSW.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to approve the request made by Felice Brightman, LMSW, to waive the 90-day wait to take the licensing exam.

Serena Chaudhry, LCSW, sent an inquiry relative to providing assessments via FaceTime. Board members advised that HIPAA is not as stringent as the Rules, Standards and Procedures for social workers. Remind her that technology is always changing and that it is her responsibility to protect client confidentiality by using the strongest firewall available and encryption.

Chris Bindewald, LMSW, sent an inquiry relative to providing services to a family he did not know was a distant relative until a member of the family advised him. Board members advised him to exercise caution in this situation, although services to the family are not specifically prohibited.

The Broadmoor Improvement Association submitted an application to become a pre-approval organization for social work continuing education. Board members request that they send the time frame for approving applications.

BOARD/STAFF ISSUES

Report on Office Workflow

Emily DeAngelo provided a report to board members with information on office activity since the last meeting.

83 applications received and processed; 77 licenses issued; 13 renewals received and processed; 16 license verifications completed; 13 BACS issued; 104 disciplinary files being monitored; 147 open complaints.

ASWB Intentional Leadership for Social Work Regulatory Boards: Board Chair/Board Administrator Training

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to change the date of the June board meeting to June 8, 2018, so that the Board Chairperson and Board Administrator can attend training.

Strategic Planning

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to hold a strategic planning meeting to begin after the board meeting on February 16 and carry-over to February 17, 2018.

Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedure

Brent Villemarette volunteered to review Civil Service's policy and recommend language for adoption by the Board.

Outreach Presentation

Board members approved the letter to be sent to all pre-approval organizations and NASW-LA Chapter regions about their outreach presentation.

Letter to Agencies

Board members approved the letter to be sent to all agencies licensed by the Department of Health regarding licensing requirements. Board members also requested that the letter be added to the website.

FINANCIAL

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to increase the Department of Justice's maximum contract amount to \$70,000.00.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 10:07 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/or to discuss prospective litigation.

Votes for going into Executive Session: Judith Haspel, LCSW; Robert Showers, RSW; Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, yes; Brent Villemarette, yes; and Carla Moore, yes.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 11:02 a.m. to conduct compliance hearings.

COMPLIANCE HEARINGS

Tonya Price, RSW, requested a compliance hearing to appeal the Board's decision to deny the application she submitted for Licensed Master Social Work. Board members asked Ms. Price to explain the events that occurred before she was arrested. They also asked why she did not answer the question regarding arrests on the application in the affirmative. Ms. Price explained the situation to board members under oath and answered their questions. The police were called because she wanted to enter her car to obtain her payment booklet while the person was there to repossess the vehicle. She advised Board members that her attorney instructed her to answer the question on the application "no" because she has not been convicted of a crime.

Lloyd Walker, MSW, requested a compliance hearing to appeal the Board's decision to deny the application he submitted for Licensed Master Social Work. Mr. Walker testified under oath and responded to questions from the Board members concerning his criminal history and his current employment. He acknowledged an extensive criminal arrest record and his felony conviction for manslaughter for which he spent 8 ½ years in prison and 15 months on parole. He denied the use of drugs other than prescription medications. Regarding his arrest record, Mr. Walker testified that he is routinely questioned the police for reasons why they were stopping him and because he knew his rights and was exercising them. He testified that his mouth is what got him in trouble for many of the arrests. Through his testimony, Mr. Walker also testified that some of his confrontations with the police were racially motivated. He further testified that he has changed from the person reflected by the criminal history and that obtaining a Master of Social Work degree from Southern University at New Orleans on May 13, 2017 demonstrates that change. He also testified that in his work at the Veterans Administration his prior criminal history enables him to better understand and serve the persons with whom he works. Mr. Walker also testified that the Veterans Administration personnel have encouraged him to seek licensure as a social worker. Documents submitted by Mr. Walker from the Veterans Administration are supportive of his application. When questioned about his current employment and the position description for Social Work Associate, Mr. Walker admitted that the written position description included job duties such as interviewing the patient, planning effective treatment, implementing and monitoring treatment and preparing reports. Mr. Walker advised the panel that his role is to assist the social worker. He stated that he finds landlords that will accept Section 8 housing vouchers for veterans.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 12:41 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/or to discuss prospective litigation.

Votes for going into Executive Session: Judith Haspel, LCSW; Robert Showers, RSW; Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, yes; Brent Villemarette, yes; and Carla Moore, yes.

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 2:36 p.m. to make the following motions.

Compliance Hearings

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Tonya Price.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and carried by majority vote, to suspend the application of Lloyd Walker for a period of 90 days to afford him, at his expense to obtain a Fitness for Practice evaluation through the Board's Impaired Professional Program; that upon Mr. Walker's timely submission of a written evaluation through the Board's Impaired Professional Program which states that he is currently fit to practice social work, Lloyd Walker will be offered a Consent Agreement and Order for the unlicensed practice of social work. Judith Haspel opposed the vote.

Disciplinary Monitoring Report

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to accept the disciplinary report prepared by Regina Dewitt, Administrative Assistant.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to release Janice Eugene from the Consent Agreement and Order because all terms are successfully complete.

New Complaints

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to not accept **Complaint #2018-117**.

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to forward **Complaint #2018-119** to the Department of Children and Family Services.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2018-120** and to request a written response, as well as forward to the Department of Children and Family Services. Possible violations include La R.S. 37:2717(A)(7) & (11) and Rules 107(B) and 109(A)(1).

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2018-121** and to request a written response, as well as forward to the Department of Children and Family Services. Possible violations include La R.S. 37:2717(A)(8) & (10) and Rules 111(G)(2) & (3) and 117(D).

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to send a letter to the social worker named in **Complaint #2018-122** advising that the social media postings sent by the complainant are unprofessional.

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to forward **Complaint #2018-129** to the Department of Children and Family Services.

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2018-133** and to send for investigation. Possible violations include La R.S. 37:2717(A)(7), (10) & (11) and Rule 121(B).

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to not accept **Complaint #2018-134**.

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2018-135** and to request a written response. Possible violations include La R.S. 37:2717(A)(5) and (11), 2718(B)(1) and Rules 115(C)(2), 115(D)(2).

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to not accept **Complaint #2018-136**.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to accept **Complaint #2018-137** and to request a written response. Possible violations include La R.S. 37:2717(A)(7) & (11) and Rules 111(D) and 115(D)(2).

Pending Complaints

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2017-6**.

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2017-81**.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to set **Complaint #2016-175** for hearing on April 20, 2018.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2017-188**.

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2018-31**.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2018-44**.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2018-50**.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2018-56**.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2018-57**.

Motion was made by Robert Showers, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to dismiss **Complaint #2018-59**.

Applications

Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to approve the LMSW application submitted by **Powell DiGangi** upon receipt of documentation that charges were dropped.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Robert Showers and unanimously carried, to request that **Jessica Shelton** address a charge that occurred in 2010 and to explain her work experience since receiving MSW.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to approve the RSW application submitted by **Denine Toney** conditional of a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice.

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

Bobb, Veronica L.

Carrozza, Chris

Claiborne, Taylor A.

Creecy, LaTunya D.

Harrison-Lee, Deonne

Martin, Ashley R.

Mingo, Nicole

Mitchell, Sha'Darrielle L.

Moore, Shatoria T.

Myers, Samantha M.

Terrell, Cynthia

Thirsty, Courtney M.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for registration as a Registered Social Worker pending receipt of their official bachelor's transcript:

Faller, Brittany

Motion was made by Carla Moore, seconded by Brent Villemarette 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:

Arredondo, Kelsey B.
Broussard, Aimee K.
Ellis, Khalihah L.
Gilmore, Dawn M.
Griffin, Shalandrea D.
Nesheiwat, Christina
Newman, Alana N.

Provosty, Emily
Reichard, Karen B.
Slinker, Myke M.
Stroughter, Brittany C.
Thomas, Jessica E.
Turner, Vinencia J.

Motion was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Judith Haspel and unanimously carried, to approve the following endorsement applications for Licensed Master Social Work:

Mitchell, Elizabeth (End-AR/OH)
Rowe, Allan (End-MS)
Saltzman, Leia Y. (End-MA)

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

Alexander, Marcus

Barousse, Meredith

Brewster, Monique

Curtis, Meagan

Guy, Justin

Harkless-Thomas, Jasmine

Helmke, Christy

Johnson, Lamara

Keys, La'Pearl

McKinney, Melissa

Rhodes, Amber

Smith, Monica

Thornton, Priscar

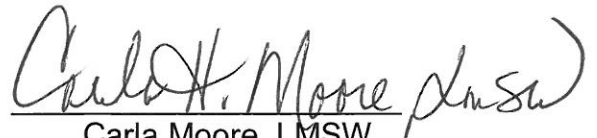
Motion was made by Judith Haspel, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to approve the following endorsement applications for Licensed Clinical Social Work:

Carter, Holly (End-OH)

Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



John Shalett, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson



Carla Moore, LMSW
Secretary-Treasurer

