

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
February 21, 2020**

Brent Villemarette, LCSW, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, February 21, 2020, in the conference room at the Board office located at 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, and Sheri Morris, Legal Counsel, were present for the meeting.

Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, conducted roll call. Board members present at the time of roll call included Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, Evan Bergeron, Consumer Member, Brent Villemarette, LCSW, LaTonya Charles, LMSW, and Jennifer Burch, LCSW.

Ada Nelson, RSW, arrived for the meeting at 8:48 a.m.

John Shalett, LCSW, was absent.

Members of the public in attendance included Dolly Williams, Pamela Sunseri, Rebekah Spiers, Kimberly Peterson, Jacob DePrimo, Bobbye Roberts, Jordyn Merchant, Piper Ellis, Justyn Brown, Megan Mahler, Chloe Preston, Jessica Wilkinson, and Cassie Dinicola.

AGENDA

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

Consent Agreement and Order #2015-99 for Ann Lyons-Jackson, LMSW

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agreement and Order presented by Madeline Carbonette, AAG, for Ann Lyons-Jackson.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Jennifer Burch, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 17, 2020.

CORRESPONDENCE

Brittany Kovacs, LMSW

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to approve Brittany Kovacs's request to complete the continuing education required for the July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 collection period via distance learning.

New Beginnings Behavioral Health Services, Inc.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by New Beginnings Behavioral Health Services, Inc. to be a pre-approval organization for social work continuing education.

Patricia Kelly Moran, LCSW-BACS

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Patricia Kelly Moran to be a pre-approval organization for social work continuing education.

GLO Therapeutics, LLC

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by GLO Therapeutics, LLC, to renew their status as a pre-approval organization for social work continuing education.

Changing Directions, LLC

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Changing Directions, LLC, to renew their status as a pre-approval organization for social work continuing education.

Tulane School of Social Work

Motion was made by Jennifer Burch, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to approve the 6.5 hour BACS workshop to be presented by Parker Sternbergh, LCSW-BACS, on September 26, 2020.

Keirsten Cobb, LMSW

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to accept the Supervision Agreements for Life Path Hospice with an effective date of January 1, 2019 and Professional Home Health/Hand In Hand Hospice with an effective date of July 12, 2019.

Donna Morse

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to deny Donna Morse's request for a refund of the application fee.

Lisa Tahir, LCSW

Lisa Tahir submitted an email asking if a 17-year old female can give consent for treatment. Board members advised Ms. Tahir to consult with an attorney.

Brandy Miranda Martin, LCSW

Board members received an email from Brandy Miranda Martin relative to her risk of legal action involving an assault by a client against someone she supervises. Board members advised that they have no authority to provide legal counsel, or in the case you presented, assess legal risk. They recommended she consult with an attorney.

Tikeshia Godchaux-Armstead, LMSW

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to remove the disciplinary action from Tikeshia Godchaux-Armstead's record.

Christy Denicola, LCSW-BACS

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to remove the disciplinary action from Christy Denicola's record.

Vickie Landry, LMSW

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to remove the disciplinary action from Vickie Landry's record.

Laura Andrus, LMSW

Motion was made by Jennifer Burch, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to accept the Supervision Agreement for St. Landry Parish School Board with an effective date of March 27, 2019 and the Supervision Agreement for Compass Behavioral Center of Mamou with an effective date of July 26, 2019.

Rebekah Spiers, LMSW

Motion was made by LaTonya Charles, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to accept the Supervision Agreement for LSU School of Social Work with an effective date of July 15, 2019.

Julie Shreve, LCSW

- i. **Rebecca Trimble, LCSW**
- ii. **Kelsey LaCaze**
- iii. **Jordan LaCaze**
- iv. **Ally Shreve, RN**
- v. **Elizabeth Bell, LCSW**
- vi. **R. Monique Buras, LPC, Notary Public**
- vii. **Lauren Helm, LCSW**
- viii. **Carolyn Burns, LMFT**
- ix. **Jodi Sciortino**
- x. **Kelly Covington**

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to table until the April 4, 2020 strategic planning meeting.

Alice Robin, LCSW

Alice Robin submitted an inquiry about donations to clients. Members of the board recommend that the agency's policy be followed since the Practice Act and the Rules, Standards and Procedures do not address donations. Board members reminded Ms. Robin that protection of the client is first and foremost when considering potential for exploitation.

Michele Guidry, LMSW

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by LaTonya Charles and unanimously carried, to deny waiving the 90-day wait for taking the exam.

Jennifer Savage, LCSW

Jennifer Savage submitted a question about reporting abuse of an immigrant in a detention center. Board members recommended that she ask the volunteer trainers who has the authority to receive and investigate such complaints.

BOARD/STAFF ISSUES**Report on Office Workflow**

Board members reviewed a report provided by the staff of the workflow since the last meeting. There have been 67 retakes processed, 3 extensions for taking the exam, 99 licenses issued after receiving score reports, 97 new applications, and 11 BACS applications. There are 118 licenses being monitored following disciplinary action. 5 Consent Agreement and Orders have been issued for unlicensed practice. 39 verifications have been processed. Board members also reviewed the turn-around time for the latest set of Supervision Agreements and Plans. Board members were advised that there were 4 licensees renewed by paper application. Between January 15 and February 17, 11 complaints were received. One complaint was not accepted. There are currently 43 cases pending a written response or court documents, 7 cases under investigation, 2 cases under review of the Complaint Consultant, 2 complaints pending discussion at a team meeting, 37 complaints under review of the Assistant Attorney General or Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Attorney General's office, 3 complaints under review of a board member, and 1 complaint pending hearing.

Report on FARB

Jasmine Offord submitted a report on the FARB 2020 conference. She advised that there is legislation being proposed to have more consumer members on boards than professional members. Jasmine attended a session that discussed the term good moral character and how it is a highly debatable term that some consider unconstitutional when considering an application for a license. Another session she attended focused on Arkansas becoming part of the 11-state national consortium which focuses on eliminating or reducing barriers to labor market entry.

Office of Behavioral Health Workforce Data Zoom Call

Emily DeAngelo reported to the board that she was asked to participate in a conference call with the Office of Behavioral Health. The discussion was focused on who is in the workforce and where are the workforce shortages. Board members asked that this be added to the April 4, 2020 strategic planning agenda.

State Action Immunity & Antitrust Claims

Evan Bergeron and Emily DeAngelo attended a meeting hosted by the LA Real Estate Commission and LA Real Estate Appraisers Board relative to state action immunity and antitrust claims. They advised that legislation will be proposed in this session to create a review panel for nonmandatory adjudication, clarify that antitrust actions are torts and can

be covered by the Office of Risk Management and defended by the Attorney General, and to assure appointed board members and staff that the state will defend them.

Amendment to current investigator's contracts

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by LaTonya Charles and unanimously approved, to extend the contract for Statewide Surveillance and Investigations to May 31, 2020.

Contract award for investigations

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Ada Nelson and unanimously carried, to offer Advanced Investigative Technologies, LLC, a 12-month contract to investigate complaints against social worker and the unlicensed practice of social work at a rate of \$40.00 per hour and a maximum contract amount of \$20,000.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Ada Nelson and unanimously carried, to offer Integrated Security and Investigative Specialists, LLC, a 12-month contract to investigate complaints against social worker and the unlicensed practice of social work at a rate of \$50.00 per hour and a maximum contract amount of \$20,000.

Disciplinary Monitoring Report

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by LaTonya Charles and unanimously carried, to release the following individuals from their Consent Agreement and Order because all terms are successfully complete:

Mallory Carpenter
Susan Cox
Jean Hutchinson
Ta'Erica Manuel
Elizabeth Raetzsch
Monica Rollins
Courtney Simon
Cassandra Smith
Devanae Wright

Compliance Hearing – Jessica Sias, MSW

The hearing panel for the compliance hearing included Ruth Weinzettle, Evan Bergeron and LaTonya Charles. A court reporter from Baton Rouge Court Reporters was present to record the proceedings. Jessica Sias requested a compliance hearing to appeal the Board's decision to offer her a Consent Agreement and Order for practicing social work without a license. Ms. Sias requested that her compliance hearing be held in Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Jennifer Burch, seconded by LaTonya Charles and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 10:00 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: Ruth Weinzettle, yes; Evan Bergeron, yes; Jennifer Burch, LCSW, yes; Ada Nelson, yes; and LaTonya Charles, yes.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by LaTonya Charles and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 10:27 a.m.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by LaTonya Charles and unanimously carried, to uphold the Consent Agreement and Order offered to Jessica Sias.

FINANCIAL

Financial Statement for the period ending December 31, 2019

Board members reviewed the financial statement for the period ending December 31, 2019 prepared by Rob Furman, CPA.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to approve the financial statement.

ASWB Spring Education Conference

Motion was made by Jennifer Burch, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to send John Shalett, Ruth Weinzettle, Ada Nelson, LaTonya Charles and Emily DeAngelo to the ASWB Spring Education Conference in Chicago, IL.

NASW-LA Annual Conference – Exhibit fee

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to pay the \$750.00 fee to exhibit at the NASW-LA Annual Conference.

Professional Licensing Report

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to renew the Professional Licensing Report for one year at \$228.00 plus two extra copies at \$40.00 each for a total of \$308.00.

Security renewal for firewall

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to renew the firewall security services for three years in the amount of \$775.00.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Jennifer Burch, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 10:44 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: Ruth Weinzettle, yes; Evan Bergeron, yes; Jennifer Burch, LCSW, yes; Ada Nelson, yes; and LaTonya Charles, yes.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Ada Nelson and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 11:33 a.m.

Complaints

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2017-74.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to refer Complaint #2019-291 back to the investigator.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to send Complaint #2020-78 for investigation.

Applications

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by LaTonya Charles and unanimously carried, to approve the RSW application submitted by Melissa Peeler conditional of a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice.

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to approve the LMSW application submitted by Krystal Dauphine conditional of a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice.

Motion was made by Jennifer Burch, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to approve the LMSW application submitted by Barbara Armstrong-Sullivan conditional of a Consent Agreement and Order for unlicensed practice

Motion was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW application submitted by Lloyd Walker and to offer him a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Jennifer Burch and carried by majority vote, to approve Joe Gentry's application for LMSW. LaTonya Charles recused herself from the vote.

Motion was made by Ada Nelson, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to reinstate Rebecca Vonier's LCSW license.

Motion was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Jennifer Burch and unanimously carried, to reinstate Ronald Bothel's LCSW license.

Motion was made by Ada Nelson, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to reinstate Sallye Hampton's LCSW license.

Motion was made by Jennifer Burch, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for Registered Social Work:

Alexander, Ahasia
Ball, Angela
Brown, Francesca
Darby, Disha
Farmer, Lakesha
Gutierrez, Janyce
Henderson, Cawana
Hill, Erika
Jackson, Breonka

Jones, Latara
Lights, LaKeisha
Miles, Sharmika
Morris, Tomika
Sheppard, Tangela
Silliman, Theresa
Warren, Denise
Young, Pamela

Motion was made by LaTonya Charles, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the Masters exam and to issue Certified Social Work certification:

Aaron, Alexis C.
Arguelles, Kim A.
Bell, Cameron L.
Bridgett, Christina
Chandler, Sherie P.
Crockett, Chantel
Durante, Morley E.
Gaddy, April R.
Guillory, Victoria E.
Hall, DeiAnna L.
Hoxton, Payton E.
Kucia, Sean R.

Kochinsky, Alexis B.
Mancing, Olivia
Martin, Tyra M.
Mickel, Kuri H.
Neimeyer, Johan
Nelson, Savanna A.
Powell, Shanna P.
Quartermaine-Bragg, Anna V.
Quattlebaum, Sarah G.
Sims, Bria D.
Tewell, Jennifer A.
Williams, Manzy D.

Motion was made by LaTonya Charles, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to issue Licensed Master Social Work through endorsement to:

Brumley, Kristen (End-AR)
Dollinger, Ryan (End-TX)
Garcia, Moctezuma (End-TX)
Orwig, Lisa (End- TX)
Whetstone, Hayden (End-MS)

Motion was made by LaTonya Charles, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the Masters exam and to issue Certified Social Work pending receipt of official Master's transcript:

Riddle, Caitlin
Salton-Hobson, Patricia

Motion was made by Jennifer Burch, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Clinical Exam:

Ashley, Lasonia H.
Bauman, Brittany

Brown, Natosha
Castleberry, Jemiela D.

Celestin, Latoya D.
Dyer, Jodi E.
Johnson, Cierra C.
Koenig, Angelique M.
Lynn, Rachele C.
Norman, Julie E.
Plaisance, Patricia L.

Reaves, Andrew M.
Simpson, Casey S.
Stuckey, Ericka K.
Vigue, Jennifer T.
Wimberly, Chelsea E.
Wohl, Eleanor J.

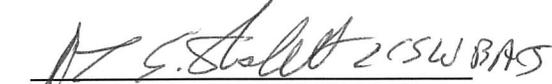
Motion was made by Jennifer Burch, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to issue Licensed Clinical Social Work through endorsement to the following applicants:

Larson, Eric (End-TX)
Reagan, Amanda (End-OH)
Snyder-Croft, Romney (End-TN)
Tracy, Amanda (End-NC)
Wilkinson, Jessica (End-AR)

Impaired Professional Program

Motion was made by Jennifer Burch, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to accept the report submitted by Kathie Pohlman, IPP Manager.

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.


John Shalett, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson


Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer

