

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners  
April 3, 2020**

John Shalett, LCSW, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020. The meeting was conducted via video conference and all interested parties were provided the information to join the meeting. The allowance of a video conference is authorized by Proclamation 30 JBE 2020. 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, John Shalett, LCSW, Evan Bergeron, Consumer Member, Brent Villemarette, LCSW, LaTonya Charles, LMSW, and Ada Nelson, RSW.

Jennifer Burch, LCSW, was absent.

Members of the public in attendance that we are aware of are on the attached list.

**AGENDA**

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Natalie Bunner asked to add the question of whether she needs written consent from parents to her correspondence on the agenda.

**MINUTES**

**Motion** was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held February 21, 2020.

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held March 19, 2020.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Sandra Williams, LCSW**

Sandra Williams submitted an inquiry relative to terminating services with clients. Board members advised that a social worker who was seeing nursing home clients as a contract employee and is now being offered at job at one of the nursing homes needs to transition their clients to another therapist. Otherwise, the social worker can run afoul of Rule 113.

**Natalie Bunner, LMSW**

Natalie Bunner requested the board's opinion regarding the school installing a camera in her office. Board members advised that they share Ms. Bunner's concern relative to confidentiality. They recommend that she make efforts to restrict recording and to

obtain administration's written confirmation that there is no audio. If unable to restrict recording, she must obtain informed consent in accordance with Rule 115(H).

**Alix Tarnowsky, LCSW**

Alix Tarnowsky submitted an email relative to mandatory reporting of violence perpetrated against undocumented individuals while in their home country. Board members advised that it is not the social worker's duty to determine jurisdiction and that the matter should be reported to the local DCFS office.

**Julie Alley, LCSW**

Julie Alley is a school social worker. She requested the board's feedback relative to seeing a student that she evaluated at school in her private practice. Board members recommended that she refer to another provider.

**Tyesha Davis, LMSW**

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to accept the Supervision Agreement between Tyesha Davis, LMSW, and Joy Couvillion-Louis, LCSW-BACS, for employment with New Orleans Public School from the effective date of November 4, 2019.

**Heather Thiels, LCSW-BACS**

Heather Thiels submitted an inquiry regarding a client she assessed as being a risk of harm to self or others. She reported her concern to the doctor, but the doctor did not PEC the client. Board members advised that she did her due diligence by reporting her concerns. It is not within the board's purview to determine liability if the doctor decides not to PEC the client. They recommended that she consult with her malpractice insurance carrier regarding liability in such situation.

**LaToya Franklin-Jackson, RSW**

Board members reviewed a job description for Hospital Therapist and advised that RSWs are not authorized to provide therapy or therapeutic interventions.

**Michele Guidry, LMSW**

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to uphold the board's denial of waiving the 90-day wait for taking the exam. Board members advised that they would reconsider after receiving a letter from her employer that her job is in jeopardy if she doesn't pass the exam.

**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 119 retakes processed, 4 extensions for taking the exam, 146

licenses issued/reissued after receiving score reports, 131 new applications, and 8 BACS applications. There are 122 licenses being monitored following disciplinary action. 9 Consent Agreement and Orders have been issued for unlicensed practice. 23 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 February 18 and March 31, 12 complaints were received, 2 of which were not accepted. There are currently 46 cases pending a written response or court documents, 7 cases under investigation, 3 cases under review of the Complaint Consultant, 3 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, 11 complaints under review of a board member, and 1 complaint pending hearing.

### **Report on FARB**

John Shalett shared information on two of the sessions he attended focusing on licensure eligibility and renewal applications. Specifically, it is the board's responsibility to evaluate charges including expungement, full pardon, or acquittal.

### **National Association of Deans and Directors Schools of Social Work**

A letter sent by NADD to ASWB requesting demographic information was provided to the board for information purposes.

### **LA Association of Clinical Social Workers**

Avery McCauley sent a request on behalf of LACSW to the board to request that the board add a statement to its website that social workers are able to provide tele-mental health services.

### **Legislation Review Committee Report**

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to take a neutral position on HB505.

**Motion** was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the April 2, 2020 report presented by Evan Bergeron. The report is attached.

### **Waivers/Extensions**

**Motion** was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to grant staff authority to issue extensions to test and hold the credential as allowed by Proclamation No. 38 JBE 2020.

### **Financial Disclosure**

Board members were reminded to file their financial disclosure form with the Board of Ethics on or before May 15, 2020.

## **FINANCIAL**

### **Financial Statement for the period ending January 31, 2020**

Board members reviewed the financial statement for the period ending January 31, 2020 prepared by Rob Furman, CPA.

**Motion** was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the financial statement.

### **Financial Statement for the period ending February 29, 2020**

Board members reviewed the financial statement for the period ending February 29, 2020 prepared by Rob Furman, CPA.

**Motion** was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the financial statement.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion** was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 10:33 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; Brent Villemarette, LCSW, yes; Ada Nelson, yes; and LaTonya Charles, yes.

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 11:40 a.m.

### **Disciplinary Monitoring Report**

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to release the following individuals from their Consent Agreement and Order because all terms are successfully complete:

Brandy Brooks  
Tiffany Honeycutt  
Kaitlyn Pratt  
Regina Murphy  
Tierra Heard  
Stephanie Serio

### **Impaired Professional Program**

**Motion** was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Ada Nelson and unanimously carried, to accept the report submitted by Kathie Pohlman, IPP Manager.

### **Complaints**

**Motion** was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to docket the hearing of Administrative Complaint #2016-95 for May 8, 2020.

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by LaTonya Charles and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2020-9.

**Motion** was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2020-52 with a letter of education.

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2020-75.

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by LaTonya Charles and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2020-94.

**Motion** was made by Ada Nelson, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to defer Complaint #2020-98 to the May board meeting.

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to dismiss Complaint #2020-101.

### **Applications**

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ada Nelson and unanimously carried, to approve the LMSW application submitted by Brandy Alexis and to reinstate her license without retesting.

**Motion** was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the LMSW application submitted by Monique Bradberry and to reinstate her license without retesting.

**Motion** was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by LaTonya Charles and unanimously carried, to deny the RSW application submitted by Shareata Carter and to offer her a compliance hearing.

**Motion** was made by Ruth Weinzettle, seconded by LaTonya Charles and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW application submitted by Dennis Dillon and to offer him a compliance hearing.

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by LaTonya Charles and unanimously carried, to approve the LMSW application submitted by Deborah Porter, but to deny waiving the exam and to offer her a compliance hearing.

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to approve the LMSW application submitted by Whitney Tropez pending receipt of official court documents.

**Motion** was made by Brent Villemarette, seconded by Evan Bergeron and unanimously carried, to approve the LCSW application submitted by Maria Sands and to reinstate her license without retesting.

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for Registered Social Work registration:

- Anderson, Latisha
- Braud, Toiya
- Calahan, Barry
- Chandler-Bolden, Lynn
- Evins, JaQuanda
- Griffin, Lucretia
- Hicks, Sharon
- Lundquist, Benjamin
- Mark, Sylvia
- Moore, Precious
- Neal, Naudia
- Steptore, Amanda
- Tribble, Chelsea
- Watkins, Charlesia
- Welch, Glenicia
- Williams, Javora
- Wilson, Carrie

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Ruth Weinzettle and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants for Registered Social Work registration pending receipt of official Bachelor's transcript:

- Partman, Chelsea

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

- Broussard, Andrew P.
- Dill, Christina A.
- Dorsey, LaShawn M.
- Drake, Caitlyn N.
- Eppner, David
- Faller, Brittany N.
- Fluker, Rayshaun
- Ketelhut II, Ronald D.
- Lewis, Shawnta M.
- Mansfield, Tikela N.
- Mays, Rechele A.
- Morris, Aleisha
- Roma' Agvanian, Nina M.
- Sostenes, Cinthia

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

Barre, Kathleen(End-TX)  
Halloran, Christy(End-KY)  
Harrell, Jonathan(End-AL)  
Valentine, Demetria(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:

Jimison, Dayna

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

Durand, Ryan T.  
Faber, Jennifer  
Felker, Linda G.  
Gettys, Hannah L.  
Johnson, Ja'Nera V.  
LeCorgne, Elizabeth H.  
Miller, Michelle N.  
Miller, Monica M.  
Mott, Shannon A.  
Omouryi, Osagie  
Plain, Joi N.  
Prather, Victoria B.  
Reid, Derek R.  
Shaw, Lauren B.  
Smith, Ernesha A.  
Williams, Shimele T.

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

Brunson, Susan (End-TX)  
Edwards, Roshonna (End-MS)  
Escobar, Jaclyn (End-CA)  
Short, Angela (End-MS)

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Board Meeting – April 3, 2020 – 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Public portion)

Public Attendance:

Sharon Allen  
Cheryl Banks  
Natalie Bunner  
Tanya Delaune  
Jennifer Dobies  
Andrew Fultz  
Fallon Gongre  
Keatha Jackson  
Gena Lewis  
Damon Lowrey  
Averie McCauley  
Edna Metcalf  
Kristin O'Neal  
Trayon Reed  
Alexandra Robichaux  
Gina Rossi  
Robert Showers  
Tiffany Toliver



**Public Hearing on Proposed Changes to Rule 503**  
**April 3, 2020**  
**3:00 p.m.**

John Shalett, LCSW, Chairperson, opened the public hearing for comments at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020. The meeting was conducted via video conference and all interested parties were provided the information to join the meeting. The allowance of a video conference is authorized by Proclamation 30 JBE 2020. Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, was present for the meeting.

Board members present for the public hearing included Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW, John Shalett, LCSW, Evan Bergeron, Consumer Member, Brent Villemarette, LCSW, LaTonya Charles, LMSW, and Ada Nelson, RSW.

Jennifer Burch, LCSW, was absent.

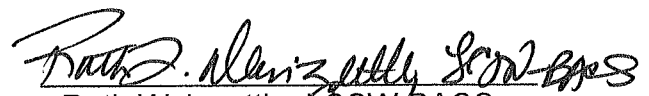
There were no members of the public in attendance.

Board members considered correspondence from Traci Lilley and Connie Konikoff relative to supervision being conducted electronically.

**Motion** was made by Evan Bergeron, seconded by Brent Villemarette and unanimously carried, to refer the recommendations made by Traci Lilley and Connie Konikoff to the current Rules committee and to move forward with the promulgation of the proposed changes to Rule 503.

Public hearing adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Shalett, LCSW-BACS  
Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW-BACS  
Secretary-Treasurer