



Our Mission

The legislature declares that, in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state against unauthorized, unqualified and improper practice of social work, it is necessary that a proper regulatory authority be established and adequately provided for.

WINTER 2023

News | Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

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From The Chair

*Dr. Hyacinth McKee LCSW-BACS, ACSW
Chair, LABSWE*

A Story still being written...

Greetings and Happy New Year,

The New Year is typically a time when we reflect on the experiences of our previous year and set goals that we wish to accomplish for the upcoming year. In reflection, it is hard to believe how the year 2022 accelerated. At times, it feels just like yesterday that we were in 2020 working to address the needs of our public in response to COVID-19, the murder of George Floyd, climate change and the aftermath of natural disasters (Hurricane Laura, Tornadoes) to mention a few. Just like 2020, the year 2022 is now in the history books and we continue to work as social workers with goals that keep the protection of the public, our clients, at the forefront. In the context of history, a review of the social work profession includes over one hundred years, as far back as 1889, with one of the first social workers being Jane Addams, known as the co-founder of social work and the formation of settlement houses. A trailblazing pioneer in the profession, Ida B. Wells, is known for her time as the creator of modern-day social work and her work in social justice. Another Ida,

Ida Cannon is known as the founder of medical social work with the establishment of the first social work department in a hospital. History also tells us that the documented first form of social work practice was individual casework that was developed by the Charity Organization society in mid-19th century. Since those times, social work has evolved into many specialty areas of practice. Administration, Community Organizing, Aging, Child Welfare, Developmental Disabilities, Healthcare, International, Justice-Corrections, Clinical, Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse, Occupation Employment Assistance Program, Political, Public Welfare, Research, and School Social Work are practice specialty areas of our profession, many with its own certifications. More recently, with the inclusion of Environmental social work, Indigenous social work and Multicultural social work, our profession has expanded to over twenty plus specialties.

The history of social work regulation does not expand as far back as the social work profession. However, to ensure protection of the public from unprofessional behaviors, social work regulation began in 1969 when the

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National Association of Social Workers passed a

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BOARD MEMBERS

Welcome Melissa Smith Haley, LMSW



Professional Background

Melissa Smith Haley, LMSW is the Vice President of Program Operations for a non-profit agency in Southeast Louisiana. She has successfully managed several state and federal contracts totaling over million dollars annually and a staff of over 100. During her 15-year tenure at the organization she has held the following positions:

- Facility Manager-Single Room Occupancy for Recovering Addicts
- Assistant Program Director of Substance Abuse Services
- Program Director of Recovery Services
- Program Director of Children and Family Services
- Program Director of Supportive Services

Melissa has been promoted several times with a well-deserved reputation of getting things in order. Her duties include staff training, program growth, contract implementation, budget development and management, hiring, program outcomes, quality assurance and stakeholder engagement.

Melissa received her bachelor's degree in Mass Communication from Xavier University, LA and a Master Degree in Social Work from Clark Atlanta University, GA. She is an Adjunct Professor at the Millie Charles School of Social Work at Southern University in New Orleans since 2017. She teaches social work students Diversity, Administration, Planning and Community Organizing.

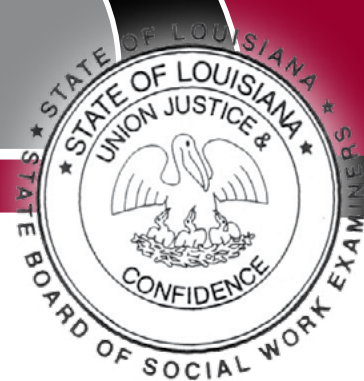
Other Facts About Melissa

Melissa is the 14th President of the National Association of Black Social Workers. She has served as President of the Clark Atlanta University and Metro District of Columbia Chapters. She was the National Vice President, National Member at large, National Conference Co-Chairperson for four years and National Plenary Co-Chairperson.

Melissa has been married for 25 years to Attorney Okyeame Haley son of New Orleans Civil Rights Activist Richard and Oretha Haley. Okyeame and Melissa have two daughters Nia a fifth year Pharmacy Student at Hampton University, VA and Kai a sophomore at Howard University, Washington D.C. The Haley's reside in New Orleans.

Melissa is a second-generation Social Worker who grew up in St. Louis, MO with her parents Dr. Fredrick E. Smith and Colonel (Ret) Mary Smith. Melissa has been a member of the National Association of Black Social Workers for over 25 years. She began volunteering as a student in New Orleans in 1993.

Melissa is passionate about the community in which she lives and serves. She is a strength-based practitioner who is committed to debunking negative stereotype and helping others self-actualizes. Her personal mottos are "No one should be defined by their challenges." And "Liberation is not a spectators sport."



Continued From The Chair

Cover story

resolution to pursue licensing in each state.

By 1993, all the states and the District of Columbia had implemented some form of regulation (Knox & Marks, 2015). In 1959, the only social work education accredited body in the United States, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) was formed as an association that supports quality social work programs. As of 2022, CSWE has accredited over 800 baccalaureate and master programs. "Through its many initiatives, activities, and centers, CSWE supports quality social work education and provides opportunities for leadership and professional development, so that social workers play a central role in achieving the profession's goals of social and economic justice" (CSWE, 2020). To aid in regulation, in 1979, the American Association of Social Work Boards (now known as the Association of Social Work Boards or ASWB) was formed to create a national examination to measure minimal competency of entry level social workers and aid licensing boards to carry out its mission of public protection (ASWB, 2022). Throughout our history it is also important to note that social work has many professional social work advocacy organizations that are inclusive of diverse practice specialty areas, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, identities, and abilities; all with the emphasis of some form of professional social work advocacy.

In 1972, the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners (LABSWE) was established and exists because the legislature declared "in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state against unauthorized, unqualified and improper practice of social work, it is necessary that a proper regulatory authority be established and adequately provided for La R.S. 37:2701. All these entities share one commonality--- social work.

A history lesson in this newsletter? Certainly, as it is of expressed significance. Emphasizing the importance of history, the late R. Buckminster Fuller, a systems theorist, stated "The pyramids, attached with age, have forgotten the names of their founder". More impactful is an African proverb that reads "Until the lions have their historians, tales of the hunt shall always glorify the hunter". As we continue to embark upon 2023 and set goals to ensure that social work is free of disparities, inequities, injustices, and hold true to



Carla Moore, LMSW LABSWE Board Member for 4 terms under two governors, Director at Large- ASWB and Life-long Professional Social Worker

integrity, professionalism, ethical standards, and title

protection we must continue to write our own story as it should be written, by us. For we know that our public and people are in immediate need of services. We are called as helping professionals to remember and share with many our history of one hundred plus years and the pioneers who worked to establish social work as a profession. When the future reflects on us in the years to come, what will be said or written of what we did in 2023? Will HiStory or HERstory note that we were in fact, innovators, change agents, transformational leaders, and collaborators of this century who reimagined their mindsets? I am, as with many others, hopeful and believe that it will as this is expected of us.

The board extends its appreciation to Carla Moore, LMSW for her years of professional social work service and dedication to the citizens of Louisiana as a committed board member of LABSWE. In her tenure as a board member of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, Carla has served as Secretary, Treasurer and on several committees impacting social work regulation. With her past extensive career at the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, her subject matter expertise involves child welfare, macro practice, policy, administration, community engagement and management. In November 2022, Carla was re-elected for a second term as Director at Large at the Association of Social Work Boards delegate assembly. Carla is the only social worker from Louisiana to be elected to a second term for any seat on the Association of Social Work Boards. Her expertise, professionalism, historical competence, and service will be truly missed on our board. Her passion for excellence and care for the public is limitless. We look forward to witnessing the great work that Carla will be doing in her continued role as Director at Large for ASWB and in the community. Thank you, Carla!

To everyone Have a safe and Happy Mardi Gras!

References:

Knox, Karen S. , & Marks, Andrew (2015). Social Work Regulation. obo in Social Work. doi: 10.1093/obo/9780195389678-0196
Council on Social Work Education, 2020. Website: www.cswe.org
Association of Social Work Boards, 2022. Website: www.aswb.org
National Association of Social Workers (2001) Website: www.socialworkers.org

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

BOARD COMMITTEES

Rules Committee - Evan Bergeron, Esq, Chair

Policy and Procedure Committee - Melissa Smith Haley, LMSW, Chair

Exam Committee - Ruth Weinzettle, PhD, LCSW-BACS, Chair & Jamie Barney, DSW, LCSW-BACS, Co-Chair

Technology Committee - Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS

Continuing Education Committee - Trinity George, RSW, Chair

Hyacinth McKee, DBH, LCSW-BACS, Chair of LABSWE serves as a rotating member on all committees.

Information on the duties of each committee will be included in the next newsletter.

The board wishes to publicly thank several individuals that served several years on the Rules Committee:

Rebecca Chaisson, LCSW (*will continue serving*)

Jennifer Hannon, LCSW-BACS

Judy Haspel, LCSW-BACS

Ron McClain, LCSW-BACS

John Shalett, LCSW

Carmen Weisner, LCSW

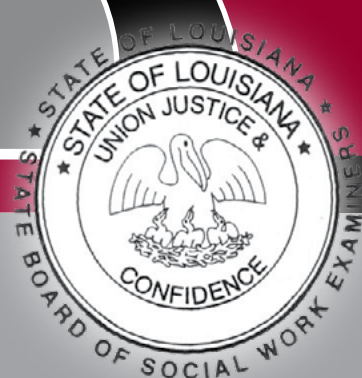
Early Exam

Approval

MSW graduate students can obtain approval to sit for the ASWB Masters exam in their final semester of the MSW program. All requirements of the CSW/LMSW application, other than the official master's transcript, must be complete for exam approval to be considered by the Board. Click here <https://www.labswe.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/VERIFICATION-OF-SOCIAL-WORK-EDUCATION.pdf> to obtain the request form. The applicant shall make a request to the university to submit the transcript directly to the board office within 15 days of its availability. Requesting early approval to sit for the exam is not required.

LMSWs can obtain approval to sit for the ASWB Clinical exam in their final six months of BACS supervision. Applicants must have at least 75 hours of supervision and must complete all requirements of the LCSW application, other than the final supervision forms, for exam approval to be considered by the Board. Click here <https://www.labswe.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/VERIFICATION-OF-SUPERVISION-early-test-approval.pdf> to obtain the request form. Requesting early approval to sit for the exam is not required.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS



BOARD

VACANCY

A Licensed Clinical Social Work position on the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners expires May 1, 2023.

La. R.S. 37:2704 mandates the following qualifications for board members:

- Citizen of the United States
- Resident of the State of Louisiana
- Hold a current and valid social work credential
- Must have three (3) years of social work experience

If you are interested in serving on the Board, you should submit a letter stating your interest, along with a current resume to Will Francis, Executive Director of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers by email at wfrancis.naswla@socialworkers.org.

The submission deadline for the position expires at the close of business on February 28th.

FAQs about serving on the Board:

What is the time commitment for serving?

An appointment to the Board is made by the governor for three consecutive years. Meetings are held approximately every 5 weeks on a Friday at the board office in Baton Rouge. Meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. and carry-over to Saturday, if necessary. Other examples of board activities include, presenting at the NASW-LA Annual Conference and serving on committees.

Are board members paid?

Board members are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred on board business. For example, mileage driven to and from a meeting is reimbursed. We also reserve a hotel room for board members that are required to travel a significant distance to meetings. We provide breakfast and lunch at the meeting. If you need to stay overnight, dinner can be reimbursed up to the amount allowed by the state's travel guidelines.

If you have any questions concerning the board's activities or the time commitment required of board members, please email the board's Administrator, Emily DeAngelo at edeangelo@labswe.org.

UPCOMING DATES

2nd Public Town Hall Meeting regarding ASWB exam data release

Thursday, February 2, 2023, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Rules Committee Meeting

Friday, February 3, 2023, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Board Meetings – all board meetings begin at 8:30 am

February 24 | March 24 | April 28

June 2 | July 7 | August 11

September 15 | October 20 | December 1

Strategic Planning Meetings – time will be announced in registration notification email

April 29 | July 8 | October 21

All meetings are held at the Board Office. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person (space is limited) or via zoom. Registration is required and the link to register is emailed at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Board Orientation Workshops: held virtually via Google Meet

February 3: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

March 3: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

April 1: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

A Board Orientation Workshop is one of the requirements to apply for Board Approved Clinical Supervisor (BACS). Click here <https://www.labswe.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Board-Orientation-Workshop-form-2023.pdf> for the registration form.