



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.

SPRING 2023

News | Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

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Board Member
New Orleans

Vacant
Board Member

From The Chair

Chair- Dr. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS

***Our Board works for Our Public.
Social Workers work for our Public.***

Greetings,

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. The purpose of our board is regulation, as it is a regulatory body comprised of a representation of social work professionals of *multi-scope* licenses and a consumer member. Our regulatory board is charged with ensuring “public protection”. LABSWE is unique in that it is unlike the many other boards that we as social workers are more accustomed to (i.e. advisory, non-profit, association, etc). After being selected by a committee comprised of social work professional associations in Louisiana, members of LABSWE are appointed by the Governor and sworn into serve by the

Senate. There are other professional regulatory boards in our state (i.e. LPC board, MD, Nurses, etc.) that regulate their profession and share the same purpose---public protection. ***To be selected and appointed to serve as a board member is a privilege and an act of volunteer public service.*** To fulfill responsibilities, boards such as LABSWE regulate and adhere to the rules and laws set forth by our state legislature through promulgation. The rules, laws, and practice act are all established with the protection of the public at its foremost. With this, rules and laws also serve as a guide or mandate for professional social work practice in Louisiana.

LABSWE is not a membership association. Social workers are not assessed a fee to join for membership. Social workers apply and remit fees to practice social work and are granted a license upon fulfilling all requirements for practice set forth by the rules and laws established by the legislature. ***To obtain a license in Louisiana to practice as a professional social worker is a privilege.*** There are many social workers who recognize the importance of this opportunity as they know the sacrifices and work it took to obtain the privilege to practice.

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BOARD MEMBERS

Appreciating Dr. Ruth Weinzettle!



Dr. Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW-BACS - two term LABSWE Board Member

The board extends its appreciation to Dr. Ruth Weinzettle, PhD, LCSW-BACS, 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 Ruth has served as Secretary/Treasurer, Vice-Chair and Chair as well as on numerous committees. Her expertise as a professional social worker in higher education allowed for valued input and insight into matters before the board related to clinical supervision, academia, research, child welfare and policy. Serving as Vice-Chair and Chair of LABSWE during a global pandemic was a monumental task and we will be forever grateful for the commitment and dedication that Ruth has shown to the board and its staff. We look forward to witnessing her continued contributions to the public and the profession of social work. Thank you, Ruth!

DID YOU *Know?*

Notice Regarding Continuing Education and Supervision

On September 1, 2023, the 10-hour limit on distance learning for continuing education and the requirement of in-person supervision for licensure will be back in effect.

The board intends to promulgate a rule that allows synchronous, interactive workshops to count as in-person continuing education, but until that rule is final this type of learning is considered distance learning. The current rules limit social workers to 10 hours of continuing education via distance learning per collection period. The current rules allow the board to consider certain circumstances as stated below.

Rule 317.F.

3. The board may grant a social worker approval to complete more than 10 hours of continuing education via distance learning in the case of debilitating, disabling, or other medical conditions making travel impossible or extremely inconvenient. The licensee shall provide satisfactory documentation for the grant of approval.

4. The board may grant a social worker approval to complete more than 10 hours of continuing education via distance learning if the social worker reside out of United States territories where no in-person continuing education is available. The licensee shall provide satisfactory documentation for the grant of approval.

The board voted on April 28, 2023 to reconvene a Supervision Committee to review Chapter 5 and make recommendations

to the Rules Committee and the board. One of the matters that the committee will consider is to allow all supervision to be conducted in a virtual, in-person setting. The current rules allow the board to consider certain circumstances as stated below.

Rule 503.H. Occasionally, a need may arise for supervision to occur using electronic communication rather than on a face-to-face basis. The Board may consider alternatives to face-to-face supervision if the applicant can demonstrate an undue burden due to hardship, disability or travel time. All situations of remote supervision must be approved by the Board. To receive approval, the supervisee should submit a written request containing specific details to the Board. The Board shall consider the request at a regularly scheduled Board meeting and notify the supervisor of its decision within 30 business days. If approved, the supervisor and supervisee agree to use secure technology that provides real-time, visual contact among the individuals involved, and adheres to the confidential nature of the supervisory process.

Requests for waivers of the in-person continuing education or supervision requirements should be made in writing and include documentation to support the request. The board will consider requests at their regularly scheduled board meetings. Board meeting dates and due dates for having something added to the agenda are listed here <https://www.labswe.org/calendar/>.



Continued From The Chair

Cover story

Professional social workers themselves also recognize the responsibilities of being a licensee, as they adhere to rules, laws, practice act as well as a code of ethics that serve as a guide while working with clients and systems--- ***the public. To receive the trust of the public is a privilege.***

As I write this newsletter, I am reminded of a quote from one of our great ancestors, Dr. Maya Angelou, it reads, “*I do my best because I’m counting on you counting on me*”. It is our duty as social workers to allow space for collective, collaborative, candid conversations about the future of social work as a profession, its intent and impact on the lives of the people we serve---the public. We are most effective when we acquire collected information to the best of abilities that is reflective of accuracy and intentionality. It is possible that we can move forward together with this approach in mind so that we can fully embrace the opportunity to remain as trailblazers in the helping profession, just as we have done for over 100 plus years.

With intention, LABSWE is comprised of a group of professionals with diverse areas of expertise, ethnicity, culture, practice, geographical area, and abilities. Board committees have been established with each board member serving as a chair of a committee and the chair of LABSWE serving on all committees as a rotating member. This past season, our committees have been working to address the needs of the public. The Exam Committee hosted two town hall meetings to gauge public input regarding ASWB examination pass/fail rates and disparities. The Rules Committee met to review and develop proposed rules related to informed consent, continuing education, complaint investigation, record keeping, conduct, letter of education, and public comment. The Continuing Education Committee convened and reviewed proposed chapter 11 regarding continuing education and will continue to work strategically on the future of continuing education for social workers and approval organizations. Our Technology Committee continues its efforts by working on matters that will assist our board’s function with its usage of technology that will lead us to become a more modernized efficient board. The Interorganizational Committee (IOC) continues to work as a collaborative, cohesive committee by developing strategic plans to address needs of the public as well as social workers while keeping the board informed with up-to-date issues affecting social work as a profession around the state including macro practice, cultural competency (informed) continuing education, legislation and the ASWB examination.

The board staff reflects our board composition and exemplary work ethic. Under the leadership of our executive director and with the addition of a second licensing analyst position, we believe that **together** we will continue to do our best working for the public as it is--- ***a privilege.***

As always, it is a privilege to serve as the Chair of Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, thank you---Happy Spring!

Notice Regarding

Renewal

Social workers can now renew their license for 2023-2024. Make sure you complete the renewal workflow that indicates August 2023 as the due date on or before August 31, 2023 to avoid paying a lapsed license fee in addition to the renewal fee. If a renewal workflow is not assigned to your Certemy account, please notify the board office at least a week before August 31st to ensure that a renewal is added prior to August 31st.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

BOARD COMMITTEE Information

Rules Committee – Evan Bergeron, Esq., Chair

- Accepts requests from the board, review and make recommendations to full board for rule promulgation

Committee Members: *Karen Austin, LCSW-BACS, Keisha Brown, CSW, Rebecca Chaisson, LCSW, Katie Dotie, LCSW-BACS, and Donna Wimberly, LCSW-BACS*

Policy Committee – Melissa Smith Haley, LMSW, Chair

- Establish, review, and recommend policies to the board as it relates to Board Operations and employees of the board; provide specific advice and suggestions to the LABSWE regarding a comprehensive text that details aspect of board policy, and the procedures for following those policies.

Committee Members: *Joyce Frank Ridgeway, RSW, Harvey Norris, LCSW-BACS, Jacki Savoy, LMSW, and LaSheka Shine, LCSW-BACS*

Exam Committee – Jamie Barney, DSW, LCSW-BACS, Chair

- Acquire and review existing data related to examinations for professional social workers. Works to provide recommendations for examination requirements to the board.

Technology Committee – Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS, Chair

- Assesses the board's technology needs by reviewing business processes and data related to LABSWE board, staff, and stakeholders' functionalities. The technology committee consults with Information Technology subject matter experts and facilitates technology needs discussions with the board as well as vendors.

Continuing Education Committee – Trinity George, RSW, Chair

- The purpose of the Continuing Education Committee is to review existing rules and policies regarding continuing education, and to make recommendations to the licensing board. The CE committee works in coexistence with the Rules Committee in review of Chapter 11.

Committee Members: *Ebony Allen, LCSW-BACS, Cecilia Ryder, RSW, and Ada Nelson, RSW*

Interorganizational Committee (IOC) Representative for LABSWE – Emily DeAngelo, Administrator

- A collaboration of social work professionals that work together to recommend changes to the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

Committee Members: *Louisiana Schools of Social Work, Louisiana Department of Health, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers, Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, National Association of Black Social Workers, Behavioral Health/Mental Health Providers, and other interested parties pertaining to the social work profession.*

Supervision Committee – Hyacinth McKee, DBH, LCSW-BACS, Chair

- Review of the rules regarding social work supervision, make recommendations to the Rules Committee and full board for consideration.

Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, and Hyacinth McKee, DBH, LCSW-BACS, Chair of LABSWE serve as rotating members on all committees.

THANK YOU, COMMITTEES AND STAFF, FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THE CITIZENS OF LOUISIANA!

Do You Wish To SERVE?

LABSWE seeks membership for the following committees:

Exam Committee

Supervision Committee

In accordance with Louisiana's Open Meetings Law, all meetings will be conducted in person and made available for the public to attend virtually. Meetings will be held at the LABSWE Office, 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. Meetings will be scheduled by the committee chair. It is anticipated that all committee members will be required to spend time outside of meetings to review, research and write drafts of recommendations to the full board for consideration. Mileage for travel will be reimbursed. Meal and hotel accommodation will be provided subject to the time scheduled for the meetings.

Please send your vitae/resume and letter of interest to serve with your committee selection via email SUBJECT LINE: EXAM COMMITTEE or SUBJECT LINE: SUPERVISION COMMITTEE to: socialwork@labswe.org by close of business on June 30, 2023.

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 August 27, 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 June 30th.

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

Thursday, June 1, 2023

Continuing Education Committee at 10:00 am

Policy Committee Meeting at 1:30 pm

Board Meetings:

All board meetings begin at 8:30 am

June 2

July 7

August 11

September 15

October 20

December 1

Strategic Planning Meetings:

Are tentatively scheduled

July 8

October 21

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

OTHER NOTABLE NEWS

LABSWE board members Dr. Hyacinth McKee, Dr. Jamie Barney, Dr. Ruth Weinzettle, Trinity George, board administrator, Emily DeAngelo, and the board's complaint consultant Lisa Lipsey provided an ethics training at the annual NASW-LA conference in March. The title of the presentation was The Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and Ethical Considerations. Attendees commented on how much they liked the discussions on ethical dilemmas and complaint scenarios.

Louisiana was the host state this year for Association of Social Work Boards Spring Education Meeting. Board members and staff from social work boards the United States and Canada participated in the meeting which was held in New Orleans in April. This year's meeting was titled The Art & Science of Data. The board's chair, Hyacinth McKee is part of ASWB's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee and presented at the meeting about the results of several DEIJ surveys conducted in previous ASWB meetings. This session also included discussion on best practices and how boards can address DEIJ in regulation.



Left to Right: Hyacinth McKee, Ruth Weinzettle, Trinity George, Lisa Lipsey, Emily DeAngelo, Jamie Barney

Early Exam Approval

MSW graduate students can obtain approval to sit for the Association of Social Work Boards 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.