

May 3, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I would like to be considered for a financial hardship exception to continue supervision virtually. I am 1/3 complete with my supervision and would like to continue meeting with my current supervisor. I work as a Mental Health Provider in the St. Tammany Parish school system, I do not make enough money to pay more than I am paying currently for Supervision (20\$/hour). My current supervisor lives in New Orleans and travelling once a week there is not feasible. My supervisor and I meet virtually for individual and group sessions. Those who are in my group live in different cities but have the same job title as me and we have built a great rapport as a group. This has helped me immensely as it is my first year in the role I am in. My current supervisor is affordable as I am currently not able to afford \$80-\$100 per session. I have searched for a supervisor and am unable to find one that is affordable. Please consider letting me keep my current Supervisor and continuing sessions virtually.

Thank you,

Victoria Dupre, LMSW #14275

Victoria.Dupre@sttammany.k12.la.us

To LABSWE Supervision Committee,

Victoria Dupre has signed a contract with me for clinical supervision towards her goal for licensure as a LCSW. We began virtual supervision on 8/11/2022 and a disruption at this time would be detrimental to her supervision. Victoria has an undue personal hardship. Travel time to my location after a full workday is an unnecessary and exhausting journey. She lives in Slidell, and I live in New Orleans. She is only allowed 30 minutes of lunch, during which she is typically doing notes or other work. Victoria and I have reviewed her supervision needs, and we determined that she would best benefit from virtual supervision at this time.

As a responsible and ethical supervisor, I also guide LMSWs to be responsible for their health and adhere to the NASW Code of Ethics amendment that includes the responsibility of Self Care. I provide a HIPAA technology secure platform and all LMSWs are required to keep their video camera on during supervision. I also ensure attendees participate from a location that ensures confidentiality. In the event the supervisee and I determine face-to-face supervision is needed, we will adjust the plan to incorporate this.

Thank you for your support,

Colleen Simmons, LCSW-BACS

5/19/2023



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RE: Virtual Supervision Appeal

Mitzi Ehrlich, MSW, LMSW

Social Worker 2

Baton Rouge La 70806

May 9, 2023

To Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners,

On behalf of myself and my Social Worker Supervisor, I would like to advocate for the continued virtual option for supervision during the next Board meeting vote. I believe the benefits for my continued secure virtual supervision option include the following:

- Virtual supervision is cost and time effective saving the supervisee gas by using secure technology to enhance supervision. Currently, my supervisor works at LSU as a Field Education Coordinator, and I work at OLOL Mid City. I have a 30-minute lunch, and this creates a time constraint and a transportation barrier to complete the rest of my supervision face to face.
- Virtual supervision is a direct benefit to the client by opening more flexible scheduling. If this changes, I would not be available 3 hours during the week instead of for 1 hour for supervision. We are already short staffed in our clinic.
- Virtual supervision provides the opportunity for the supervisee (myself) to be responsive to virtual technology and benefit from being more flexible. Currently, we utilize ZOOM technology which is a secure virtual technology to conduct our sessions.
- Virtual supervision reduces any stress/frustration of any potential travel from work site to supervision which may include job dissatisfaction and could lead to burn out. If I had to start traveling, this would cause job stress as I would need to utilize paid time off to drive across town to meet face to face with my supervisor.
- Virtual supervision is a time saving option for both the supervisor and the supervisee and creates job satisfaction for social workers as well as employers. Currently, we meet on every Monday at 12:00 pm during part of my lunch (30 minutes) and this is less stressful for my supervisor, patients, employer, and my coworkers.

My current hours towards my LCSW are 58 using secure electronic communication. So far, we have been able to maintain a weekly schedule without missing any supervision hours due to the convenience of virtual scheduling. This is convenient for not only my schedule but for my supervisor as well. If I should have to reschedule due to an illness or family emergency, I would need to use PTO for the face to face. We only receive 5 hours every 2 week of PTO with no sick time. My supervisor and I both are committed to care for our families. We both have children at home with needs that require our undivided attention. Therefore, the weekend would be an undue burden on our family time.

I am currently in supervision with Asia Daiges, MSW, LCSW, BACS. I am working at Our Lady of the Lake Mid City in Baton Rouge, La. in a Medical/Therapist Social Worker position. If the current option is

changed to face to face only for supervision this would be a hardship on me in my current position. There are only me and one other Social Worker to assist over 1300 patients with HIV at the Mid City Clinic.

Currently, we can conveniently use secure technology for virtual supervision. My patients benefit with a more flexible schedule. If this changes, I would be out of the office at least 3 hours a week for supervision with the travel time to and from my supervisor's office. This does not include the cost of gas to travel back and forth from OLOL Mid City to her office at LSU Campus which will be more money coming out of my pocket.

I am asking to continue using secure electronic communication rather than face to face supervision due to an undue burden for me with excessive travel, extra cost of gas, undue job stress with risk of burnout, and inconvenience for patient scheduling. Please consider allowing me to continue all my supervision to be virtual with my current supervisor Asia Daiges, MSW, LCSW, BACS. Social workers should forge a new path forward and Break Barriers to permanently allow the option for secure virtual Supervision.

Sincerely,

Mitzi Ehrlich, MSW, LMSW



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Date: May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Requesting my Exception for Virtual Supervision to be added to the next Board Meeting Agenda

From: Toni Ferdig, Pearl River High School Mental Health Provider

Subject: Virtual Supervision Hours – LCSW

My name is Toni Ferdig and I am the Mental Health Provider (MHP) at Pearl River High School (PRHS) in Pearl River, LA. I began working at PRHS in December 2020, and have been working towards my Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) license since September 2021. I recently was informed about the board's decision to stop accepting virtual supervision hours and that all meetings must now take place in person. I would like to explain my position and thoughts on why it is unreasonable and plead my case for continuing these virtual meetings. I personally have over 60 hours of supervision already completed, and will be done completely by early 2024 if I stay on my current track.

In June 2020, I moved from Minnesota to Louisiana after completing my Master of Social Work (MSW). In October 2020, I passed my Licensed Master of Social Work (LMSW), applied to St. Tammany Parish Public Schools (STPPS), and proceeded to be hired by PRHS as their MHP. When I started pursuing my LCSW, finding a suitable supervisor was very difficult. PRHS does not provide in-house supervision, nor do they support MHPs in finding an individual supervisor. When I first started searching for a qualified individual shortly after I was hired, I struggled, and it took months for me to even contact someone offering supervision. Those that I did find were extremely expensive relative to recent college graduates like myself. I knew that I was not going to be able to start supervision paying the standard price, so I decided to wait until the 2021-2022 school year. Luckily enough, I was able to connect with Colleen Simmons in the fall of 2021 via another coworker looking for supervision hours. Her hourly prices are perfectly suited for my situation, being that she charges a very low rate which is especially hard to come by. She now oversees 4 other MHPs in the STPPS system, all working towards our LCSWs and we have all been meeting weekly ever since.

Colleen has been an absolute blessing in my life. We have built tremendous rapport and I feel comfortable with asking her anything. I truly can say that when I need guidance or professional advice, she is my absolute first person I go to. This results in us speaking more than once a week for professional, personal, or ethical advice; she has become a true mentor for me. During group supervision hours, I am also able to collaborate and learn from my coworkers that are in the same role as me and have the same job duties as I do. Considering my current employment does not offer this kind of collaboration and support, Colleen and my group members are something I look forward to weekly.

Colleen has proven to be a very reliable supervisor, and I am never worried if she is going to cancel or change dates on me. If something ever does come up, we accommodate to it months in advance. When we meet virtually, it is so nice having that ability to either meet at work or home and not worry about travelling to an external location. Time is saved on both ends, as we only need to prepare for a few minutes beforehand to join the video meeting.

Due to the option of virtual meetings, I have been able to attend every session and schedule changes as needed through the flexibility and ease of rearrangement it provides. By switching to strictly in-person meetings, the downfalls vastly outweigh the benefits. If I were to switch, my one-way travel time to her residence it is at least 45 minutes (not including traffic that takes place in New Orleans.) More likely than not, due to Colleen's schedule, she would not be able to support in-person hours, which would force me to now find a new supervisor. The rapport and relationship I have built with her over these past 2 years would be wiped away and leave me no choice but to start new with someone else. More importantly than that, mandating in-person supervision is the complete opposite of how we are supposed to conduct ourselves as Social Workers and directly does not follow our Code of Ethics. As you know these Ethics consist of service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence. The broad overarching theme of these Ethics is to do what is best for the client. In this case, I am my own client and my current dynamic with Colleen is of my best interest.

The kind of rapport between Colleen and myself has such a huge significance when establishing a supervisor-supervisee relationship, and has given me the confidence to trust and learn from her in a very meaningful way. Such human relationships are what bring us closer to our clients and/or coworkers, and by taking away the option to continue with the bonds we've already created shows there is no respect for the amount of time we have spent together and the relationship we've built. I believe that understanding every component that affects our growth and ability is very important for deciding what is best for us.

After working with Colleen and my group members for the past two school years, I feel as if we should have an equal opportunity to decide what is best for us and our development, and how we want to receive our supervision. I currently am over halfway done with my supervision hours; switching to a new supervisor because of these new conditions forces me to walk back on all the progress I have made. By not giving us the option to make our own decision regarding how we want to finish out our supervision hours is not only making us feel disrespected but is also showing no mindful appreciation of all the benefits it has offered to us. Lastly, my work competence has increased tremendously from being able to collaborate with Colleen on specific issues, and has been made possible by the ease of a simple video call, rather than a long commute to ultimately discuss the same matter at hand.

I truly hope that this letter is viewed carefully and with importance for my sake. I am very proud of everything Colleen has provided to me when I need the guidance that cannot always be found internally from the St. Tammany Public School System. Please consider many of the reasons above when making this decision and take note of what you are taking away from not only me, but my ability to offer the best service I can to my students and my colleagues within the PRHS system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Toni Ferdig



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Break





To the board,

I am requesting this to be added to the next board meeting agenda. I am currently in the supervision process for receiving my LCSW and I have been working with the same supervisor, Colleen Simmons since August of 2021. I understand that the board has made the decision to return to in person supervision effective September 1, 2023, however I have some concerns on how this will affect me personally, financially, and professionally.

To start I would like to address the travel concern, as my supervisor lives in New Orleans and I live in Slidell I would be having to travel more than 30 minutes to supervision after work. Colleen is a mother of two young children as well as working a full-time job, so her being able and willing to drive to Slidell is not a possibility. Furthermore, I am currently in supervision with four other women in the same role as me in the school system. Colleen holds group supervision with all of us every other week, which is very beneficial for us to bounce ideas off of each other and collaborate. Being able to do group supervision is possible through zoom, without the virtual option we would not be able to meet as a group due to the travel we would all have to partake in since we are in different areas of the state.

As I have been in the process of seeking potential new supervisors I am concerned about being able to swing the financial burden it will put on me. Currently, Colleen charges \$20 per week for supervision whereas other supervisors I have contacted charge \$80-\$100 per week. My employer, St. Tammany Parish School Board, does not offer any type of stipend for supervision, it is completely out of pocket. I feel I did my due diligence in finding a supervisor who met my financial budget and, in my search, I have not found another supervisor who meets the budget I have set.

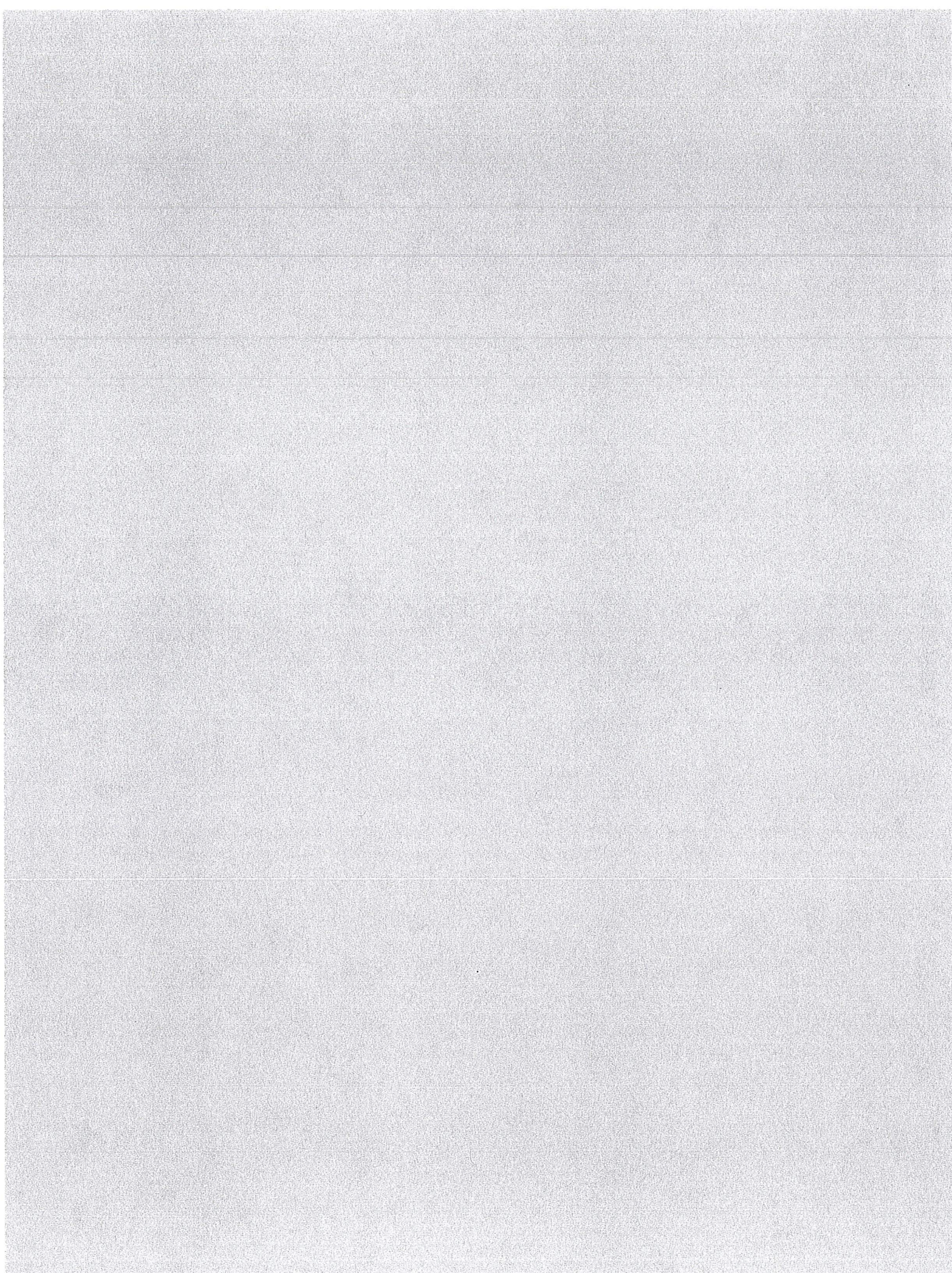
The option of virtual supervision has also allowed for me to take care of my personal responsibilities. On top of working a full-time job at the school board I also work as a dance teacher at a studio as well as being the caregiver of my elderly grandmother. These are responsibilities I cannot afford or am able to give up. Knowing my schedule and responsibilities I fear I would have to miss out on supervision more often or not to meet the needs of my grandmother, and with virtual supervision it offers more flexibility to reschedule and make up any missed sessions.

Lastly, I have built a rapport with Colleen, both professionally and personally. After having completed over half of my supervision hours Colleen knows my strengths, my challenges, and my job as a Social Worker; she understands where I need help and knows the kind of resources to provide to me when needed. I believe it would be doing a disservice to me as a professional to have to start over with another supervisor to finish my hours considering the relationship I have with Colleen.

I truly hope that the board takes this letter into consideration. I hope to hear back soon. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Danielle Tardo, LMSW







May 7, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I would like to be considered for a financial hardship exception to continue supervision virtually. I currently have 33 more sessions to complete supervision and would like to finish with my current supervisor. I work as a Mental Health Provider in the St. Tammany Parish school system, as well as a Social Worker at St. Tammany Parish Hospital do not make enough money to pay more than I am paying currently for Supervision (\$20/hour). My current supervisor lives in New Orleans and traveling once a week there is not feasible due to time, transportation, and a rigorous work schedule. My supervisor and I meet virtually for individual and group sessions. The flexibility in virtual sessions allows me to work over the summer to meet the needs of supervision requirements. If I had to travel to a new supervisor I would be unable to work the schedule set forth for me. Those who are in my group live in different cities but have the same job title as me and we have built a great rapport as a group. This has helped me immensely in growing in my role as I do not have someone at my school who is like minded in our career field. My current supervisor is affordable as I am currently not able to afford \$80-\$100 per session. I have searched for a supervisor and am unable to find one that is affordable.

I am asking to be placed on the next agenda in June for consideration to keep supervision virtual.

Thank you,

Kristyn Wood, LMSW #15589

[kristyn.wood@stpsd.org](mailto:kristyn.wood@stpsd.org)

770-0333



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Break





To LABSWE Supervision Committee,

Danielle Tardo has signed a contract with me for clinical supervision towards her goal for licensure as a LCSW. We began virtual supervision on 9/22/2021 and a disruption at this time would be detrimental to her supervision. Danielle has an undue personal hardship. Travel time to my location after a full workday is an unnecessary and exhausting journey. She lives in Slidell, and I live in New Orleans. She is only allowed 30 minutes of lunch, during which she is typically doing notes or other work. Kristyn and I have reviewed her supervision needs, and we determined that she would best benefit from virtual supervision at this time.

As a responsible and ethical supervisor, I also guide LMSWs to be responsible for their health and adhere to the NASW Code of Ethics amendment that includes the responsibility of Self Care. I provide a HIPAA technology secure platform and all LMSWs are required to keep their video camera on during supervision. I also ensure attendees participate from a location that ensures confidentiality. In the event the supervisee and I determine face-to-face supervision is needed, we will adjust the plan to incorporate this.

Thank you for your support,

Colleen Simmons, LCSW-BACS

5/19/2023



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To LABSWE Supervision Committee,

Kristyn Wood has signed a contract with me for clinical supervision towards her goal for licensure as a LCSW. We began virtual supervision on 9/14/2021 and a disruption at this time would be detrimental to her supervision. Kristyn has an undue personal hardship. Travel time to my location after a full workday is an unnecessary and exhausting journey. She lives in Slidell, and I live in New Orleans. She is only allowed 30 minutes of lunch, during which she is typically doing notes or other work. Kristyn and I have reviewed her supervision needs, and we determined that she would best benefit from virtual supervision at this time.

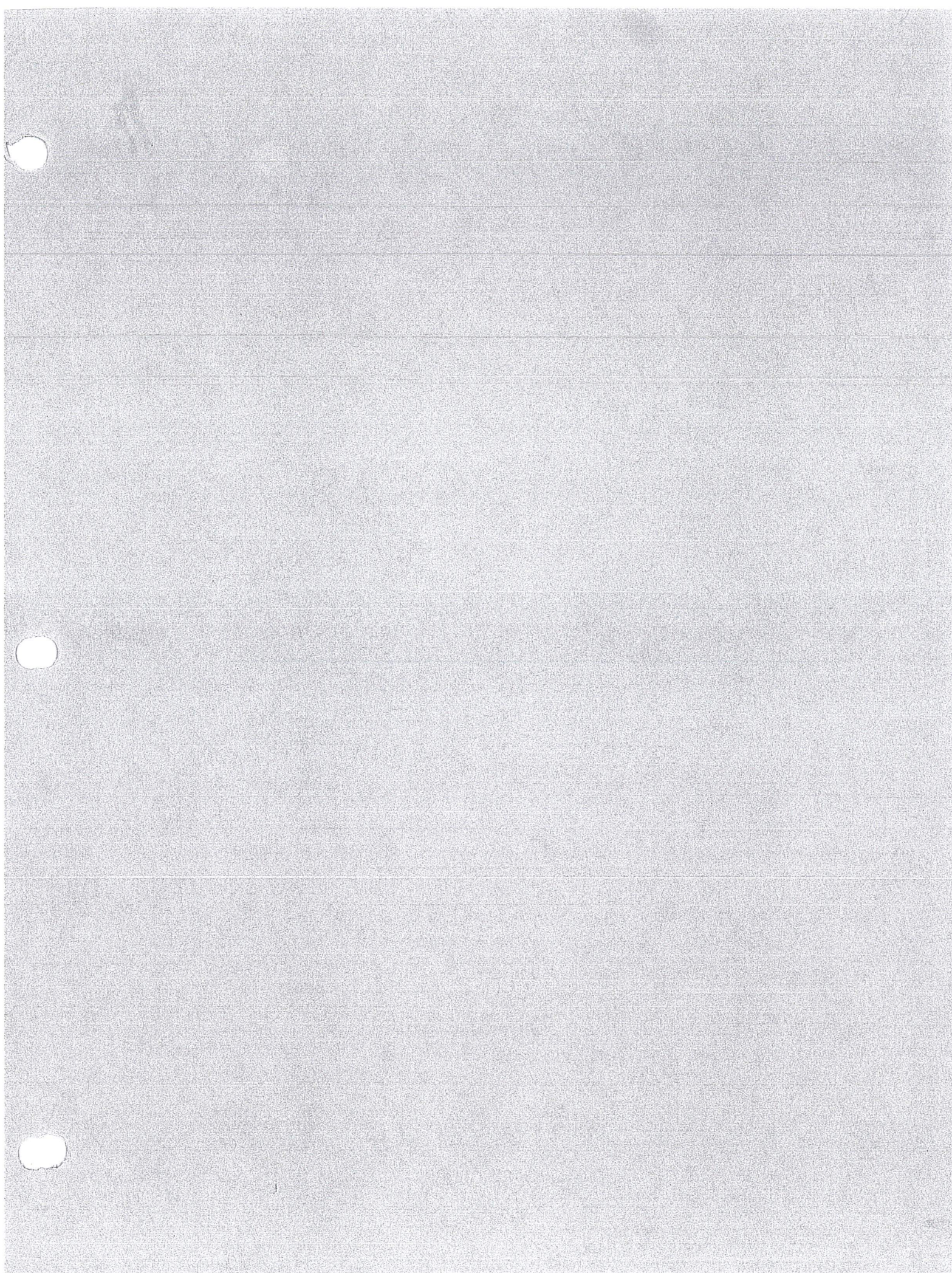
As a responsible and ethical supervisor, I also guide LMSWs to be responsible for their health and adhere to the NASW Code of Ethics amendment that includes the responsibility of Self Care. I provide a HIPAA technology secure platform and all LMSWs are required to keep their video camera on during supervision. I also ensure attendees participate from a location that ensures confidentiality. In the event the supervisee and I determine face-to-face supervision is needed, we will adjust the plan to incorporate this.

Thank you for your support,

Colleen Simmons, LCSW-BACS

5/19/2023







To whom this may concern:

I, Claire Guidry (16381), LMSW am asking the Louisiana State Board of Social Worker Examiners to review my case, undoing the hardship of going back into person for clinical supervision. I currently am living over 45 minutes away from my supervisor and working full-time; occasionally working evenings with a crazy work schedule that is forever changing. Brandy Skidmore, LCSW-BACS is my current supervisor we are halfway through with my clinical hours, preparing to take the clinical board exam by the end of the year. When starting supervision, virtual supervision allowed making meetings once a week much easier and practical. With going back in person, it would make meeting once a week extremely difficult; requiring me to leave work early to complete hours, having to find a safe place to meet in evenings and a private space to discuss confidential topics.

I am asking to finish supervision virtually in order to get the best possible experience and gain the most knowledge that I possibly can from my supervisor without distractions and added stressors.

Thank You,

Claire Guidry

Claire Guidry, LMSW

Phone: 225-939-4630

Email: [Clairekguidry@gmail.com](mailto:Clairekguidry@gmail.com)



# Page Break





Shaleah T. Celestin, LMSW

Thibodaux, LA 70301

May 12, 2023

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners (LASBSWE)  
18550 Highland Road B  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
[socialwork@labswe.org](mailto:socialwork@labswe.org)

Dear Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners:

I am writing this letter in regards to the upcoming reinstatement of required in person supervision for LMSWs seeking supervision with LCSW-BACS. I started the journey of seeking supervision from a LCSW-BACS a year ago. Due to living and working in Thibodaux, LA, a rural town south of Baton Rouge, it was hard to find qualified supervisors that were 1) willing to supervise me and 2) were within my budget. I found a hard time locating someone who met those criteria and I had to look further out from where I reside.

I was fortunate to find a supervisor that was able to meet both of my needs; however, she resides in Denham Springs, LA. We met in person for our first supervision, and I knew from that conversation I made the right choice. Since then, Jenny and I have built great rapport and I am not only learning new things from her but also she is learning from me.

I am requesting to continue with virtual supervision since I have developed a positive relationship with my current LCSW-BACS supervisor within the last year. Also, if we meet in person weekly or bi-weekly, I will incur the following hardships:

1. I will have to commute 2 hours to Denham Springs, LA or vice-versa, my supervisor would have to commute 2 hours of her time.
2. I would have to utilize my leave time to commute 2 hours for supervision vs. having the flexibility to have supervision during my lunch period.
3. Both my supervisor and I not only work full-time jobs but we also work PRN shifts at a hospital so we would not be able to meet on weekends.

As a social worker one thing I pride myself with is integrity and I believe you can gain the full benefits from supervision in person as well as virtually. I hope this letter is able to give you more insight into the challenges of having in-person supervision and that the board will allow me to continue my supervision in a virtual setting.

Sincerely,

Shaleah T. Celestin, LMSW

License #16374



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May 12, 2023

LA Board of Social Work Examiners  
18550 Highland Road, Suite B  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Dear Members of the LABSWE:

I am writing on behalf of myself and my Board Approved Clinical Supervisor, Angela Moran. Considering the Board's recent decision to discontinue the allowance of virtual supervision after August 31, Ms. Moran and I are requesting consideration for an exception to the in-person supervision requirement, so that we may continue our current work together towards my pursuit of clinical licensure.

At the end of the virtual allowance timeframe, I will have completed 7 months of supervision, which is a goal that I have deferred for over 18 years and am now actively pursuing. The use of virtual supervision is a large part of the reason that I have been able to begin this journey. Since working with my current supervisor, we have established a great working relationship. Angela has created a safe environment that is both educational and allows for growth and self-reflection as a person and a professional. I do not believe the virtual setting has taken away from the learning aspect of supervision. The disallowance of virtual supervision will create a concerning roadblock as well as a disparity regarding rural social work in our field. The requirement for in person supervision will tremendously impede my ability to complete my supervision requirements in the following ways:

1. Meeting with my current supervisor weekly/biweekly in person is not feasible and would cause hardship, as there is a 2-hour drive time between the 2 locations.
2. Due to living in a rural area, the availability of BACS in my immediate community is extremely limited and I would have to drive at minimum 45 minutes to a larger city for supervision. This will cause a hardship requiring additional time off work and create additional financial requirements due to travel.
3. Due to limitations of available in person supervision options, my goal of completing supervision may be delayed indefinitely.

We ask that the board allow an exception to in person supervision, so that I may complete my work towards clinical licensure through virtual supervision.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Vicknair Adams, LMSW*

License #: 10727

Minden, LA 71055

May 10, 2023

LA Board of Social Work Examiners  
18550 Highland Road, Suite B  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Dear Members of the LABSWE:

I am writing on behalf of myself, as a Board Approved Clinical Supervisor, and my current fully virtual supervisee, Jennifer Vicknair Adams. In light of the Board's recent decision to discontinue the allowance of virtual supervision after August 31, Jennifer and I are requesting consideration for an exception to the in person supervision requirement, so that we may continue our current work together towards her pursuit of clinical licensure.

At the end of the virtual allowance timeframe, Jennifer will have completed 7 months of supervision, which is a goal that she has deferred for many years and is now actively pursuing. The use of virtual supervision is a large part of the reason that she has been able to begin this journey. The disallowance of virtual supervision will create a concerning roadblock for Jennifer, as well as a disparity regarding rural social work in our field. The requirement for in person supervision will tremendously impede Jennifer's ability to complete her supervision requirements in the following ways:

1. Meeting with current supervisor weekly/biweekly in person is not feasible and would cause a hardship, as there is a 2 hour drive time between the 2 locations.
2. Due to living in a rural area, the availability of BACS in Jennifer's immediate community is extremely limited and she would have to drive at minimum 45 minutes to a larger city for supervision. This will cause a hardship for Jennifer as she will have to take additional time off work and create additional financial requirements due to travel.
3. Due to limitations of available in person supervision options, Jennifer's goal of completing supervision may be delayed indefinitely.

We ask that the board allow an exception to in person supervision, so that Jennifer may complete her work towards clinical licensure through virtual supervision.

Sincerely,

*Angela Denise Moran, LCSW-BACS*

LA Social Work License #12455



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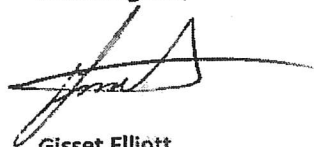
**Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners**

18550 HIGHLAND ROAD, SUITE B, BATON ROUGE LA 70809

I am a Licensed Master's Social Worker (license #16199), and currently overseas as a dependent of, and accompanying my Active-Duty Spouse. Additionally, I am currently employed as a social worker as part of the U.S Army Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) in the Kaiserslautern Germany region. As of today, May 20, 2023, American Social Workers currently residing in Germany do not have the option to attend continuing education (CEUs) in person. All of my counterparts have to do so virtually, including LCSWs. There is currently, no means nor the personnel to conduct Louisiana-approved CEUs workshops/classes. Additionally, after thorough research, there is also not an LCSW-BACS supervisor within my geographical area. Currently, I am receiving supervision virtually with an LCSW-BACS J.B. Other LMSWs within my workplace receive supervision virtually as well. Attached are the active-duty Military orders that moved us to Germany and will keep us here for at least another 2 years.

I am requesting approval to complete more than 10 hours of continuing education via distance learning. Additionally, I am requesting to continue to receive supervision using electronic communications rather than on a face-to-face basis for the reason stated above. The method used for virtual in-person supervision is Google Meet. Google Meet video and audio streams in Meet are encrypted so meeting content is secure. Furthermore, Google Meet supports customers' compliance with the U.S. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), governs the safeguarding, use, and disclosure of protected health information (PHI). Customers who are subject to HIPAA and wish to use G Suite for PHI processing or storage can sign a business associate amendment with Google if necessary. If this request is denied, I would be unable to maintain the license requirements of Louisiana, and I would not be able to continue to pursue the supervision hours required to obtain my LCSW.

Warm regards,



Gisset Elliott  
LMSW

May 20, 2023

Attachment 1 (Military orders to Wiesbaden)

Attachment 2 (Military orders to Einseidlerhof)

+49 1522 9948281

gisset.elliott@gmail.com

GISSET ELLIOTT  
LMSW



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## Social Work

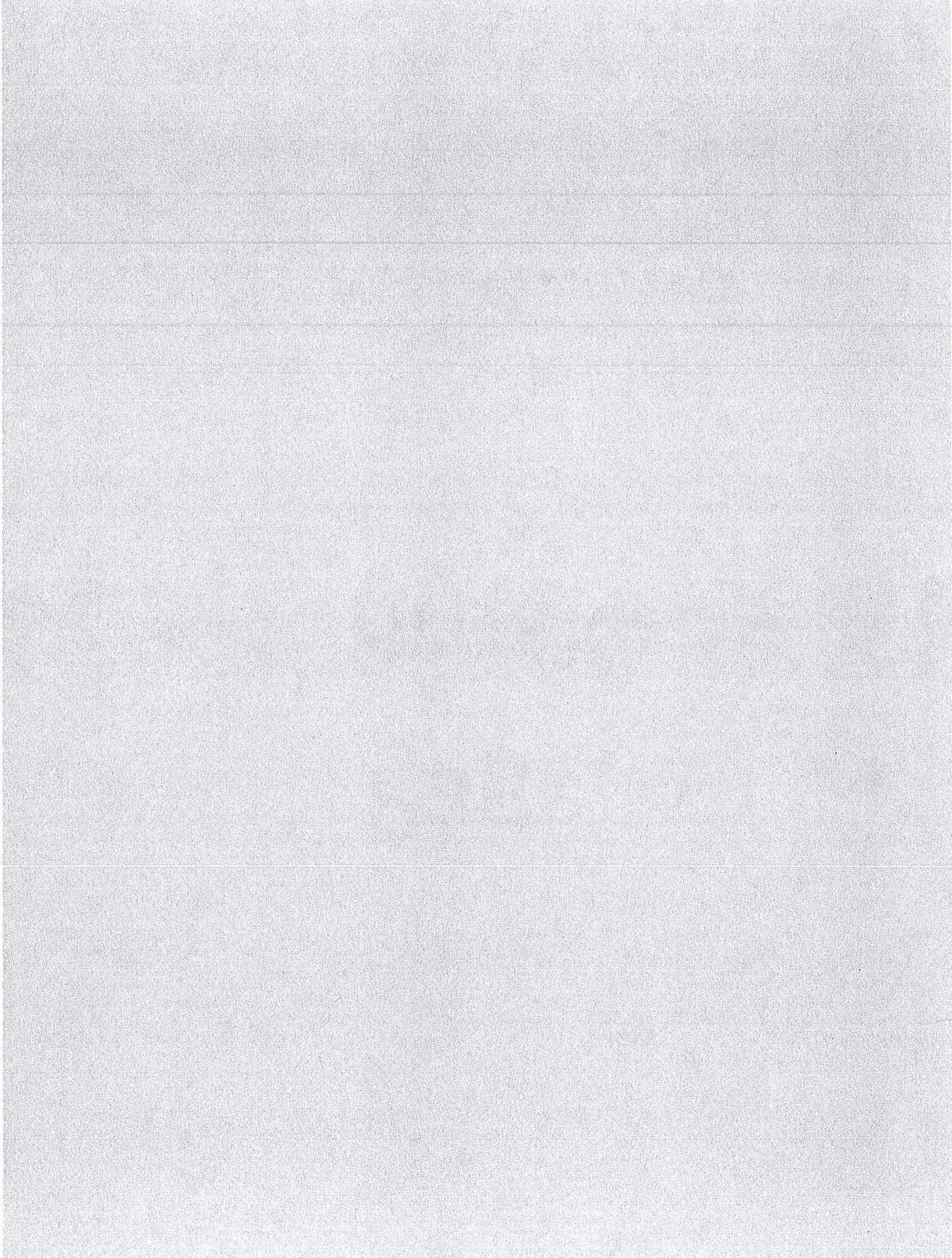
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**From:** briyonna lewis <briyonna.lewis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:03 PM  
**To:** Social Work  
**Subject:** Endorsement application

Greetings. I am a veteran currently licensed in Texas. Is there any way to get the endorsement application fee waived? I am currently going through financial hardship and could obtain employment from my previous employer, Resources for Human Development: Metro Crisis Response Unit, located in New Orleans once I transfer my licence to Louisiana.

LA LMSW # 15571 exp 2022  
TX LMSW # 108707 exp 2023







Julia Placuche, LMSW #17077

New Orleans, LA 70115

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

18550 Highland Rd b,

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

[socialwork@lswbe.org](mailto:socialwork@lswbe.org)

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to request that the board continue my tele supervision. I am declaring an undue burden exemption for the following reasons. Genevieve Durkin, LCSW-BACS #9575, has been my sole supervisor since June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We are both employed by the Children's Bureau of New Orleans. I am working at the agency as a Mental Health Counselor, and she is working as the Director of Clinical Operations and Performance. She is a fully remote employee. I also have a separate agency supervisor who oversees agency-related work. My supervision with Genevieve is solely focused on social work licensure supervision. We meet on a weekly basis via Ring Central, which is a HIPAA compliant audio and video platform. We have only been engaging in individual supervision, thus, my request is solely for individual, not group, considerations. In addition to meeting virtually, we occasionally have in-person supervision when she is in New Orleans, LA for work-related trips.

Due to Genevieve being a fully remote employee, we are unable to transition to fully in-person supervision by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, as according to the ending of the allowance of all supervision hours allowed via tele supervision. This causes a significant hardship due to the following reasons.

- One hardship is the rapidness of the decision to not extend the date of allowance. We knew the allowance could expire by August 2023; however, we anticipated more notice if a required transition were to occur.
- My job is embedded in a school system that does not allow for travel to and from an in-person supervisor from outside the agency during work hours, whereas I am able to

schedule supervision with Genevieve in that way. This burden impacts my self-care, the importance of which is highlighted in the 2021 revisions to the Code of Ethics.

- Supervision with Genevieve is provided through our work relationship. Finding a new supervisor could result in costs that I was not anticipating.
- Ultimately, without approval of continued tele supervision, Genevieve and I would have to end supervision and I would be forced to find a new supervisor, which would extend my unsupervised time and postpone my ability to work towards my LCSW.
- Though changes in supervisor relationships are known to occur, the lack of allowance of tele supervision would be the only event occurring that would trigger a change in my supervisor relationship. Therefore, it would be a hardship to have to find and begin a relationship with another supervisor when I am halfway through my LCSW-BACS supervision hours.

There have been found benefits of our relationship, which are listed below.

- Our tele supervision allows for ease of scheduling and timely crisis support.
- In that flexibility, I am able to access appropriate and necessary supervision that promotes the importance of my self-care, which is highlighted in the 2021 revisions to the Code of Ethics
  - Tele supervision allows for the needed flexible scheduling of timely supervised debriefing and crisis support.
  - Tele supervision allows for a healthy work-life balance in that we do not have to regularly adjust to added travel time and we are not forced to hold supervision outside of work hours.
- We have not lost the ability of on-site supervision via tele meetings. For instance, a benefit has been increased access to experiencing my day-to-day workspace via tele supervision.
- Working with Genevieve allows me to devote more focused time on social work and career-related supervision, while still having context to my specific work as a fellow employee.
- During each tele supervision meeting, Genevieve and I remain on video, devote our full attention, and ensure that we are each in a confidential setting with minimal distractions for the duration of the meeting.

For all of these reasons, I request that the board allow me to continue engaging in tele supervision with Genevieve Durkin, LCSW-BACS #9575. Please see attached: Letters of Support from Laura Cornell, Ph.D., Erin De Vita, LCSW, and Genevieve Durkin, LCSW-BACS.

Sincerely,

*Julia Plauche, LMSW*

Julia Plauche, LMSW #17077

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# Children's Bureau

*of New Orleans*

935 Calhoun Street, Ste 101 • New Orleans, La 70118

Tel: (504) 525-2366 • Fax: (504) 584-7780

[cbno@ChildrensBureauNOLA.org](mailto:cbno@ChildrensBureauNOLA.org)

[www.ChildrensBureauNOLA.org](http://www.ChildrensBureauNOLA.org)

Genevieve Durkin, LCSW-BACS  
Children's Bureau of New Orleans  
935 Calhoun St. Ste. 101  
New Orleans, LA 70118

May 17, 2023

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners  
18550 Highland Rd. Ste. B  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Dear LABSWE Supervision Committee,

Please accept this letter as supporting documentation for Julia Plauche's # 17007 written request for approval to continue tele-supervision for the remainder of her pre licensure hours.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Plauche professionally since she was a MSW intern at Children's Bureau. Due to the internship period occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic opportunities for engaging in tele-mental health and tele-supervision experiences arose that would not have otherwise. After graduation, Ms. Plauche accepted an offer for employment in the position of Mental Health Clinician. Though we are both employed at Children's Bureau, I am a completely remote employee. Ms. Plauche's learning experiences and my remote employment has provided us both with valuable experience in building relationships in virtual settings. This also supports the appropriateness of us both engaging in supervision in a virtual setting.

With the Board's allowance of tele-supervision through August 2023, Ms. Plauche and I began Clinical Supervision towards licensure in June 2022. We utilize tele-supervision because geographic distance doesn't allow for us to meet in person weekly. However, we have had in-person meetings when I am in New Orleans. In addition to the Clinical Supervision towards licensure that I provide, Ms. Plauche also has an agency supervisor who is a licensed clinician that is on site. We are in regular communication and work as a team in support of Ms. Plauche's ongoing growth and learning.

We utilize the HIPAA compliant audio and visual platform RingCentral. Both Ms. Plauche and my videos remain on to ensure real time visual contact is ensured. We require each other's full attention during supervision. We both ensure that we are in a setting that allows for confidentiality and be free of distractions. Tele-supervision is conducted in the same manner that any tele-mental health service is provided.

Tele-supervision has allowed for flexibility in scheduling that has resulted in very consistent supervision. The ability to access supervision without travel time, during the work day, and from various locations is supported by the updated NASW code of ethics element on self-care that indicates: professional self-care is paramount for competent and ethical social work practice.

Unfortunately, without approval for continued use of tele-supervision I will not be able to continue as Ms. Plauche's BACS supervisor. Termination of our supervisory relationship at this stage in Ms. Plauche's work towards licensure would be an undue burden. I ask that the Board approve this request without hesitation.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Durkin, LCSW-BACS #9575  
Director of Clinical Operations and Performance





# Children's Bureau

*of New Orleans*

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Laura Cornell, Ph.D.  
Children's Bureau of New Orleans  
935 Calhoun St.  
New Orleans, LA 70118

May 12, 2023

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners  
18550 Highland Rd b,  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Julia Plauche, LMSW being granted permission by the board to continue tele supervision with Genevieve Durkin, LCSW-BACS #9575 until the completion of her pre licensure hours.

I have been Ms. Plauche's agency supervisor at Children's Bureau of New Orleans for the duration of her time working with Ms. Durkin. Ms. Plauche meets with me for at least one hour per week in-person for agency supervision, and then with Ms. Durkin for at least one hour per week via RingCentral for HIPAA compliant tele supervision. This arrangement has been extremely beneficial to Julia clinically and to our agency. First, the flexibility of this format allows Ms. Plauche to have BACS supervision with someone who is familiar with our agency's policies and specific work. This allows Ms. Durkin and I to collaborate more while providing different types of supervision to Ms. Plauche. This provides more time for her to receive supervision focused on the goals of her social work practice, career goals, clinical skills and clinical questions. Second, Ms. Plauche works in an embedded care setting in multiple schools, and cannot travel to receive in-person supervision without disrupting her very particular client schedule.

Additionally, Ms. Plauche has spent the last eleven months developing a supervisor-supervisee relationship with Ms. Durkin that I can attest has improved her ability to provide the highest quality clinical care to her clients. Identifying and contracting with another BACS supervisor has the potential to interrupt such growth while a new relationship is developed.

I support the request for an allowance for continued tele supervision between Ms. Plauche and Ms. Durkin without reservation. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this matter or for any further information.

Sincerely,

Laura Cornell, Ph.D.  
Licensed Psychologist #1653





**Children's  
Bureau**  
*of New Orleans*

935 Calhoun Street, Ste 101 • New Orleans, La 70118

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[www.ChildrensBureauNOLA.org](http://www.ChildrensBureauNOLA.org)

Erin De Vita  
Children's Bureau of New Orleans  
935 Calhoun St. Ste 101  
New Orleans LA, 701178

May 15, 2023

Louisiana State Licensure Board of Social Work Examiners  
18550 Highland Rd b,  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

To whom this may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Julia Plauche, LMSW being granted permission to continue tele supervision for BACS licensure with Genevieve Durkin, LCSW-BACS #9575 until the completion of her hours.

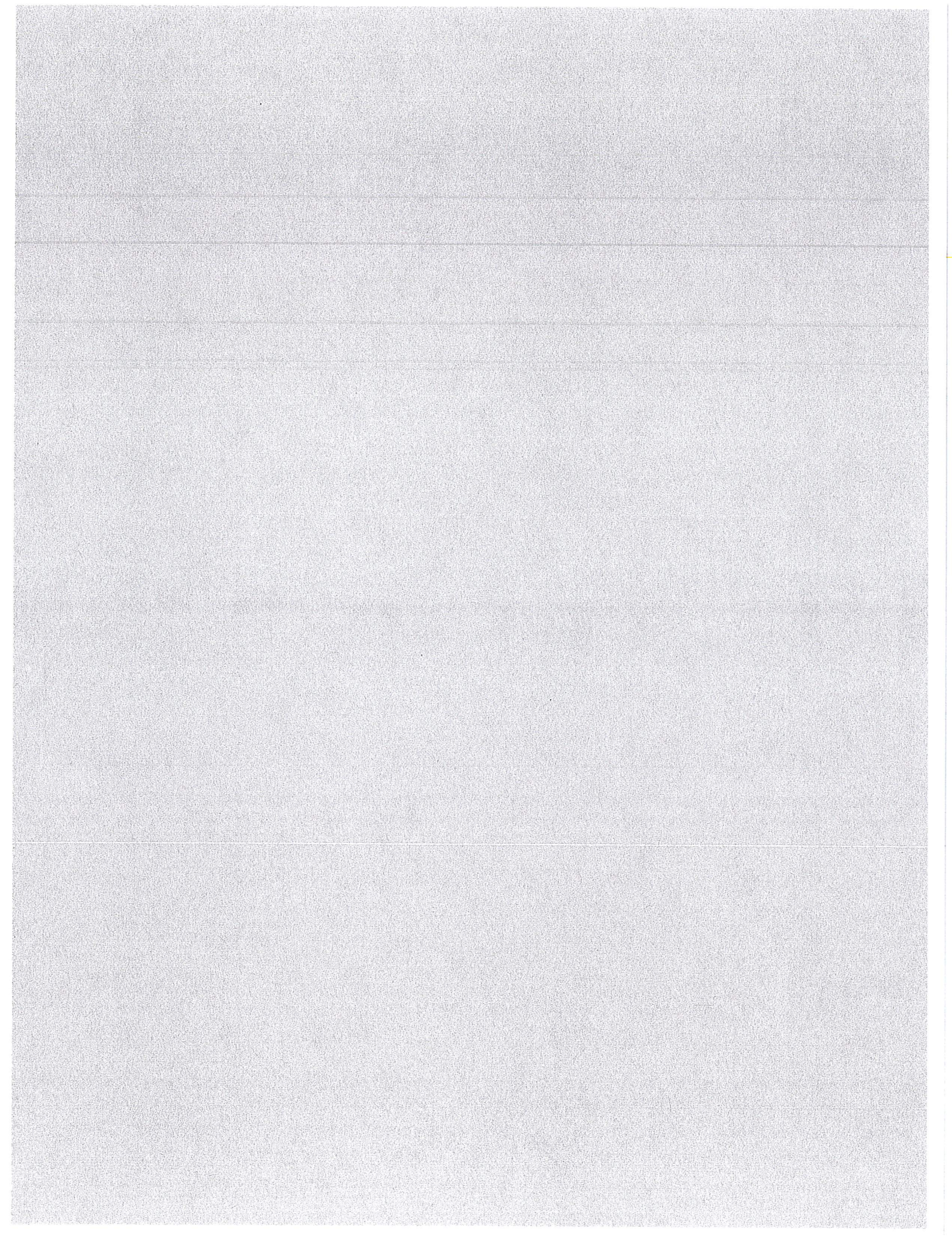
I am a current LCSW at Children's Bureau and had the duration of my supervision during COVID-19 and therefore my BACS supervision was done all virtually. I am writing this letter in support because I feel the availability of tele supervision expanded my learning and never once hindered it. My learning was expanded through greater scheduling flexibility of getting regular consistent supervision. My supervisor was able to see my place of work with ease to have a better understanding of the environments I worked in. This led to a deeper understanding of my work and better support and guidance of my learning. The relationship that was formed with my supervisor throughout our 3-year period was vital to my growth and learning. Having Ms. Plauche switch in her last year will cause undue hardship and slow down her learning. A new supervisor not within our agency will need time to understand the unique work Ms. Plauche does.

Therefore, I support the request for permission for continued tele supervision between Ms. Plauche and Ms. Durkin. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Best,

Erin De Vita, LCSW  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker #17312







## Social Work

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**From:** ABIGAIL MULLEN  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 24, 2023 1:43 PM  
**To:** Social Work  
**Subject:** online supervision

I am here to request, as many others are, that we continue to be able to use online supervision. My supervisor provides a secure HIPAA approved platform. My supervisor requires my video to remain on so that real time visual contact is ensured. My supervisor requires my full attention during virtual supervision. My supervisor requires that supervision be conducted in a setting that allows for confidentiality and be free of distractions. I do not multitask during supervision. My supervisor and I agree that virtual meetings are determined to be necessary and appropriate. I should not have to disclose any medical diagnoses to further explain the need for virtual supervision in an email that may be part of a public meeting around the issue so I will not. This is an undue burden and an unnecessary ask for people who work extremely challenging jobs and pay a great deal of money to fulfill this requirement. It will probably add months onto my ability to get my LCSW if you require in person sessions only as these can be challenging to do every single week for both of us which also means you are denying a state with high needs fully licensed social workers by adding barriers for clinicians.

--  
**Abigail Mullen, LMSW**  
*Early Intervention Social Worker*  
abigail.mullen@inschools.org

Lincoln School for the Arts  
1429 Ames Avenue  
Marrero, LA 70072  
Office: 504-383-1614  
School: 504-340-8489

Airline Park Academy  
for Advanced Studies  
6201 Camphor St  
Metairie, LA 70003  
Office: 504-780-3708  
School: 504-888-0969

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May 24, 2023

To LABSWE Supervision Committee

From: Clarice Morgan, LMSW

My name is Clarice Morgan, and I am requesting a waiver to continue virtual supervision. I began supervision on May 10, 2022, and specifically chose virtual supervision because of my situation. I request I be allowed to continue in my current virtual clinical supervisory relationship. My place of employment does not employ an approved BACS supervisor. As a result, I must be in supervision with an off-site supervisor.

I currently have two jobs and in person supervision would cause a disruption as I would not have the time to drive to and from the specified site. I usually get off work during peak traffic times in my area. I live in Benton which is approximately 45 minutes from my supervisor's location. I work a high stress job as a Hospice Social Worker and traveling during this high traffic time would cause needless stress. The convenience of coming home takes away the stress as I can unwind before supervision and take care of some of my family obligations.

In person supervision would compromise my already fleeting self-care time. Virtual supervision permits me to control my time away from home, preserve my health and engage in self-care so that I can be present and accessible to my patients. "Professional self-care is paramount for competent and ethical social work practice. Professional demands, challenging workplace climates, and exposure to trauma warrant that social workers maintain personal and professional health, safety, and integrity. Social work organizations, agencies, and educational institutions are encouraged to promote organizational policies, practices, and materials to support social workers' self-care."

My supervisor offers group supervision in person at a time where everyone can participate. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage in healthy discussions about our different employment. However, I struggle with focusing on the topics due to the outside stimuli. Virtual supervision cuts down on distractions as I am in my home and family members are respectful of my space.

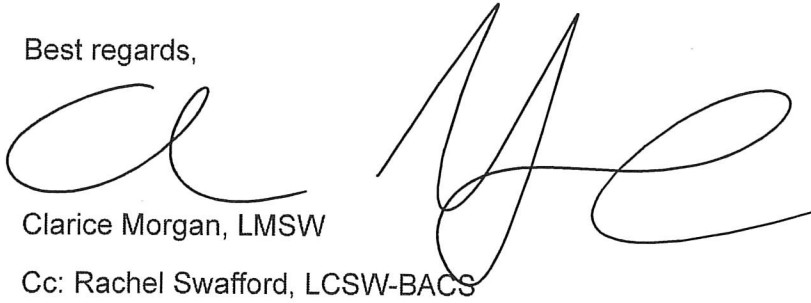
My supervisor and I adhere to the following to properly participate in virtual supervision. We are both in a secure place during supervision and have cameras on during the entire session to ensure real-time visual contact is ensured. My supervisor provides secure HIPAA approved platform technology and requires my full attention during virtual supervision. She requires that supervision be conducted in a setting that allows for confidentiality and be free of distractions. I do not multitask during supervision.

My supervisor and I agree that in the event a face-to-face supervision meeting is determined to be necessary and appropriate, we will revise our meetings to meet this need.



Thank you for considering my request to continue virtual supervision.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Clarice Morgan', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the text 'Best regards,'.

Clarice Morgan, LMSW

Cc: Rachel Swafford, LCSW-BACS





May 24, 2023

To: LABSWE Supervision Committee

From: Rachel Swafford, LCSW-BACS

Clarice Morgan entered clinical supervision with me to work towards her goal for licensure as a LCSW. We began virtual clinical supervision on May 10, 2022, and a disruption at this time would be detrimental to their supervision.

Clarice lives in Benton, Louisiana. It will take her more than forty-five minutes to travel to a destination in Shreveport to meet with me; this is after getting off work from a sometimes stressful day of caring for Hospice patients. Travel time to my location, after a full workday, is an unnecessary and exhausting journey.

Clarice does not have a set lunch time which makes noon supervision unfeasible. Given the nature of Clarice's job, scheduling supervision during traditional lunchtime would interfere with the care of her patients. Evening supervision appointments would occur during the busiest traffic times with a travel time of at least an hour and a half which would add more stress and undue hardship.

Clarice and I have reviewed her supervision needs and determined that she would best benefit from virtual supervision at this time.

As a responsible and ethical supervisor, I also guide LMSWs to be responsible for their health and adhere to the NASW Code of Ethics amendment that includes the responsibility of Self Care.

I provide a HIPAA technology secure platform and all LMSWs are required to keep their video camera on during supervision.

I also ensure attendees participate from a location that ensures confidentiality.

In the event, the supervisee and I determine face -to-face supervision is needed, we adjust the plan to incorporate this.

Thank you for reviewing our request to continue virtual supervision.

Respectfully,

*Rachel Swafford*  
Rachel Swafford

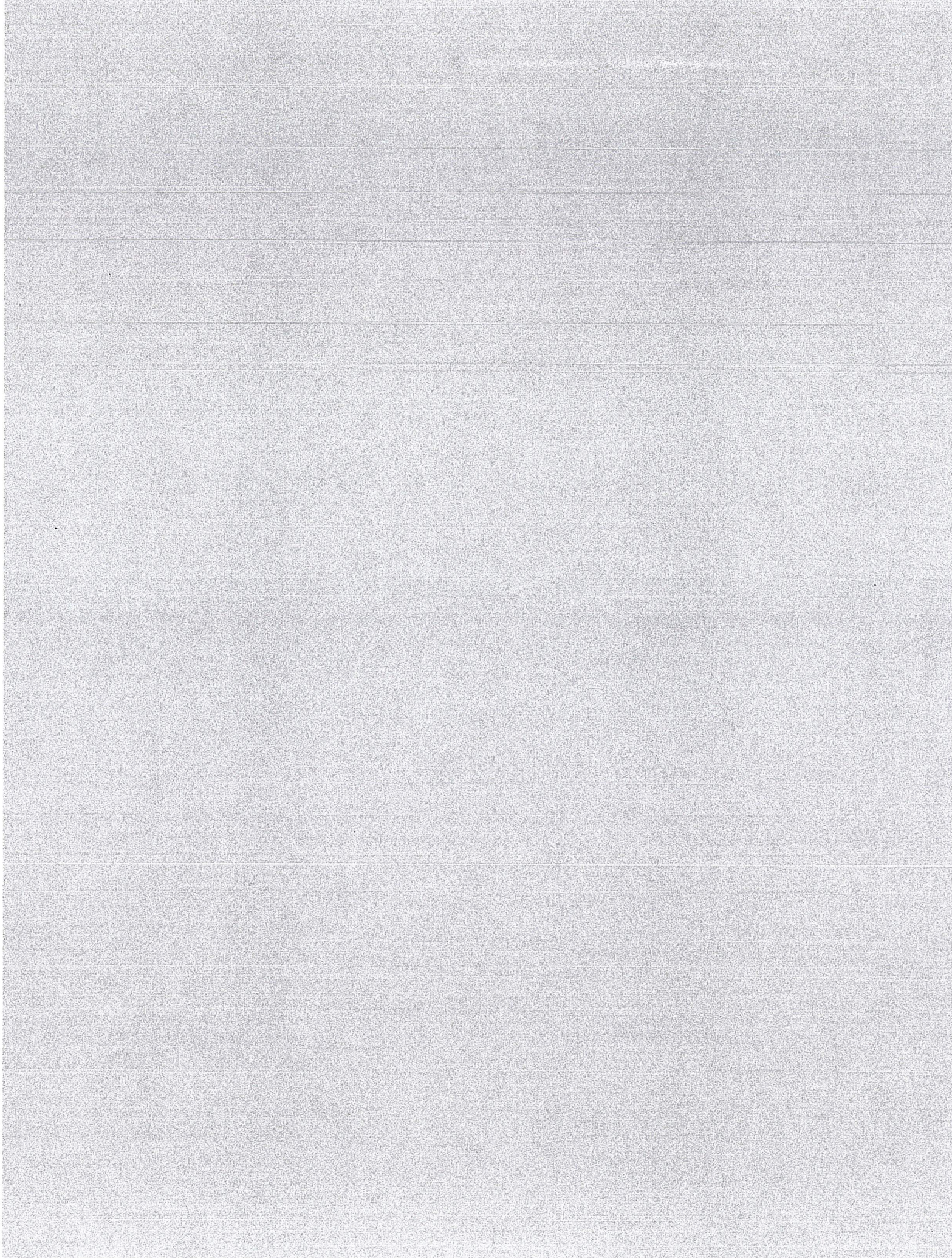
Empowering You Social Work Services, LLC

Phone: 318-834-5454

Email:

Website: <https://empoweringyousws.com/>







Nicole Sweet  
Spring Rd.  
Frierson, La  
(337) 208-4886

To: Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request the LABSWE board to allow me to continue supervision virtually via ZOOM. Due to my work schedule hours, along with living in a rural area that does not have any childcare facilities to keep my daughter after work hours, I am unable to attend supervisions face to face. I also do not have social supports to keep my daughter during afterhours when supervision is conducted. Attending supervision session via Zoom has allowed me to continue pursuing a higher level of licensure while also being able to tend to my family and personal needs. If I cannot continue via zoom, I will have to stop supervision. Please consider my request regarding the matter.

If you have any questions, please contact me @

Best regards,  
Nicole Sweet, LMSW  
License #13556



Worlita L. Jackson  
Mansfield, LA 71052

May 25, 2023

To: Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Nicole Sweet continuing her supervision with me virtual via ZOOM. Due to her work schedule hours as well as my work hours it will place a hardship on Nicole to do it face to face. There will also be an issue with where the supervision will be done, my office is closed at 6PM due to safety reasons and we will not be able to use the building. Nicole also has a young child and there are no childcare centers in the rural community to keep her child after 6PM.

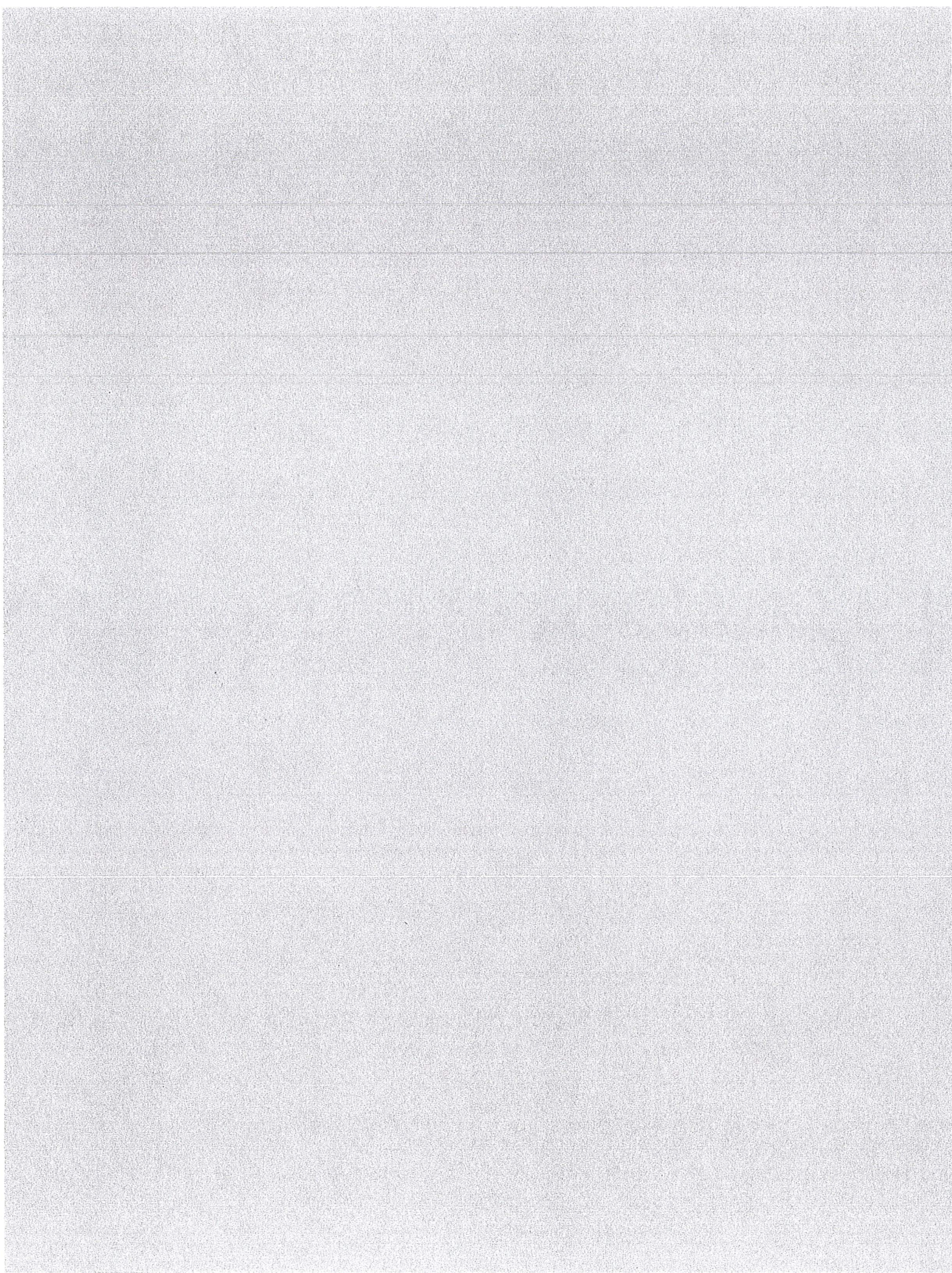
Thank you so much for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions you may contact me at [Worlita@wls.com](mailto:Worlita@wls.com)

Sincerely,

*Worlita L. Jackson*

Worlita L. Jackson, LCSW, BACS  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker







Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

18550 Highland Road, Suite B

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

5/26/2023

Dear members of the Board:

I am currently under supervision of Rachel Luria, LCSW, BACS and am writing to request to continue LCSW supervision using electronic communication due to an undue burden of hardship related to travel time.

As of May 22, 2023, I am employed at the University of New Orleans as a mental health counselor in Counseling Services and my supervisor's office is a 20-minute drive from my office (without traffic). I have received permission from my UNO supervisor to receive one hour of virtual supervision during work hours per week and my BACS is only available to conduct supervision during the hours that I work. Traveling at least 40 minutes each week for supervision will not be tolerated by my employer.

Prior to starting this job at UNO, all supervision I have engaged in has been in person, 34 hours so far. I respectfully request that the Board grant me permission to continue supervision electronically, through a secure technology that provides real-time, visual contact with my supervisor, such as Zoom.

Please see the accompanying letter from my supervisor with her support of this request.

Sincerely,

*Tamar Starck*

Tamar Starck, LMSW

License #16713



New Orleans Psychotherapy and Training Center

New Orleans, LA 70115

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

18550 Highland Road, Suite B

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

5/26/2023

Dear members of the Board:

I am currently supervising Tamar Starck for her LCSW application and am writing in support of Tamar's request to continue LCSW supervision with me using electronic communication due to an undue burden of hardship related to travel time.

The hours I can provide supervision coincide with Tamar's scheduled work hours at UNO Counseling Services, and I understand that her UNO supervisor permits her to receive one hour of virtual supervision during work hours per week. Traveling at least 40 minutes each week for supervision during her work hours will not be tolerated by her employer. Before Tamar started her job at UNO, all supervision I conducted with Tamar was in person, and I am confident that moving supervision to Zoom will be as effective as our in-person supervision has been.

Please consider Tamar's request to continue supervision with me through electronic communication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Luria', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachel Luria, LCSW BACS