

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:
HEATHER ANTHONY, LMSW
LICENSE NO. 16301**

COMPLAINT NO. 2023-103 CW 2023-154

FINDINGS OF FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

The above-captioned matter came before the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners ("Board") on August 11, 2023, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:961(C) and L.A.C. 46:XXV.911(B) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures, and consistent with the Board's duty to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare.

Present at the Board's Office were:

Board members: Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS, Chair; Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS; Evan Bergeron, Consumer Member; Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS; Melissa Smith Haley, LMSW; and Candice Sorapuru, LCSW-BACS.

Sheri M. Morris, counsel to the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Heather Anthony ("Licensee") was licensed by the Board as Licensed Master Social Worker on June 22, 2022, as evidenced by LMSW License No. 16301 valid through August 31, 2023.
2. On January 31, 2023, Licensee was selected by her employer for a random drug screen and tested positive for amphetamines, cannabinooids, MDMA, and fentanyl. Licensee could not provide a current prescription for the drugs present in her system.
4. On February 16, 2023, the Board sent to Licensee's address of record via U.S. Certified Mail, notice of the Board's receipt of the complaint and requested a written response.
5. On June 14, 2023, the Board received a complaint from Steven Morphew with Family Preservation Services Assertive Community Treatment Team that Heather Anthony was exhibiting behaviors at work consistent with being impaired including but not limited to falling asleep at her computer, slurred speech, little to no eye contact in most interactions, skin picking, agitated mood, and unprofessional and unethical engagements with clients.
6. On June 14, 2023, Heather Anthony was terminated from Family Preservation Services for refusing to comply with a drug screening.
7. On June 23, 2023, the Board sent to Licensee's address of record via U.S. First Class mail notice of the second complaint.
8. As of August 11, 2023, Licensee has not contacted the Board or responded to the Board's February 16, 2023, and June 23, 2023, requests for a response.

9. Licensee has an active license with no restrictions; therefore, allowing her to gain employment as a social worker.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Licensee failed to comply with L.A.C. 46:XXV.117(A) by practicing while impaired by drugs which is a violation of La R.S. 37:2717(A)(2).
2. Failure to comply with L.A.C. 46:XXV.117(A) "constitutes unprofessional or unethical conduct and constitutes grounds for disciplinary action," including revocation of the license, L.A.C. XXV.105.
3. Terminations by employers for a positive drug test and subsequently, for refusal to take a drug test after suspicion of impairment necessitate the emergency action of suspension of a social work license pending proceedings for revocation of a license pursuant to L.A.C. 46:XXV.911(B).

ORDER

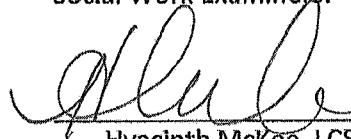
Considering the complaints and the failure of licensee to respond to the notices of complaint, the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners finds that a summary suspension is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that LMSW License No. 16301 issued to Heather Anthony is summarily suspended effective August 11, 2023. Heather Anthony shall not practice social work in the State of Louisiana until further orders of the Board; and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that an administrative hearing for revocation of LMSW License No. 16301 issued to Heather Anthony shall be set for 9:00 a.m. on September 15, 2023, at the Board office, located at 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809.

Signed on August 15, 2023.

For the Louisiana State Board of
Social Work Examiners:



Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS, Chair