

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

**IN THE MATTER OF
YOLANDA OWENS
LICENSE NO. 13716**

COMPLAINT NO. 2022-115

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Yolanda Owens (“Ms. Owens”) is a credentialed social worker subject to the jurisdiction and the rules and regulations of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners (“Board” or “LABSWE”);

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2022, a complaint was filed with the Board against Ms. Owens by a licensed social worker in New York, upon information received from a former client of Ms. Owens advising that Ms. Owens engaged in unprofessional and/or unethical conduct by (1) pursuing a dual relationship with a client; and (2) having a sexual relationship with a client;

WHEREAS, by letter dated July 5, 2022, the Board notified Ms. Owens of the complaint filed against her, provided Ms. Owens with a summary of the nature of the complaint, and notified her that the complaint was sent to Advanced Investigative Technologies, LLC for investigation. The letter further informed Ms. Owens that she could provide a written response giving her review of the allegations raised in the complaint or provide other information relevant to the investigation;

WHEREAS, by correspondence received by the Board on July 20, 2022, Ms. Owens responded to the complaint, giving her response to the allegations contained therein;

WHEREAS, pursuant to a complaint and an administrative investigation, Ms. Owens has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order as provided

Yolanda Owens #2022-115
initial:
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for in Rule No. 907 of the Board's Rules, Standards and Procedures and La. R.S. 49:975(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act;

WHEREAS, Ms. Owens has admitted to the following:

1. Ms. Owens is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker ("LCSW"), licensed by the Board to engage in the practice of social work in the State of Louisiana pursuant to the Social Work Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:2701 et. seq., as evidenced by License Number 13716.
2. Ms. Owens had an inappropriate relationship with a client under her care. Ms. Owens acknowledged that if she had complied with the statutes, rules, and regulations of the LABSWE, the inappropriate relationship could have been avoided.
3. Ms. Owens failed to recognize appropriate relationship boundaries with her clients, which resulted in her engaging in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a client.

WHEREAS, (1) by engaging in an inappropriate relationship with a client; (2) by having a sexual relationship with a patient that took advantage of her vulnerability, Ms. Owens violated La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(5),(7),(11)&(12), La. Admin. Code tit. 46:XXV §107(A)&(B), §113(A)(1),(5),(6)&(7), and §113 (B)(1),(3)&(9).

WHEREAS, undersigned counsel has confirmed Ms. Owens desires to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

WHEREAS, Ms. Owens agrees not to repeat the misconduct mentioned in this Consent Agreement and Order, and acknowledges that any further misconduct mentioned in this Consent Agreement and Order will be considered a violation of the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order and shall be cause for further disciplinary action;

WHEREAS, Ms. Owens recognizes her right to have an administrative adjudication of the charges outlined in the complaint and notice letter, at which time Ms. Owens would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses, and to present witnesses on her behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charges made, and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act. Ms. Owens nonetheless waives her right to formal adjudication and, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), consents to the entry of the Consent Agreement and Order set forth hereinafter. Ms. Owens also acknowledges that she waives any rights to which she may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:951, et seq., or which she otherwise may be afforded by any law, to contest her agreement to, or the force and effect of this Consent Agreement and Order, in any Court or other forum.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 49:975(D), the Board orders and Ms. Owens accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977:

1. The LCSW license of Yolanda Owens to be engaged in the practice of social work in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by LCSW license number 13716 shall be, and is hereby REVOKED effective the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order.
1. Any application filed on or before five (5) years following the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order shall be denied.
2. In the event Ms. Owens reapplies for a social work credential with the LABSWE, she must meet all requirements of a new applicant.

3. Should Ms. Owens obtain a social work credential to practice social work, the Board shall have the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to place restrictions on Ms. Owens' credential to practice social work.
4. Ms. Owens shall reimburse legal costs associated with Complaint No. 2022-115 in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO AND 50/100 (\$562.50) within two (2) years from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. The payments shall be made on a quarterly basis with the first payment due within ninety (90) days from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. Payment shall be made by credit card, certified check, or money order.
5. Ms. Owens shall pay a fine in the amount of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$1,000.00) within two (2) years from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. The payments shall be made on a quarterly basis with the first payment due within ninety (90) days from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. Payment shall be made by credit card, certified check, or money order.
6. Ms. Owens specifically acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order may result in a denial, revocation, or suspension of any license, certificate, or registration issued by, or applied for, in accordance with La. R.S. 37:2717.
7. Ms. Owens shall report the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order to any board or agency with which she is licensed or registered.
8. By agreeing to the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, Ms. Owens waives all rights to appeal this adjudication.

Effect of Non-Acceptance of Agreement. Ms. Owens acknowledges that this Consent Agreement and Order is subject to the approval of the Board. She further acknowledges and agrees that if the Board rejects this Consent Agreement and Order, it will be void, and an Administrative Complaint may be filed relative to the allegations contained herein. If this Consent Agreement and Order is rejected by the Board, it will not constitute a waiver of Ms. Owens' right to a hearing on the matters alleged in an Administrative Complaint and the admissions contained herein will have no effect. She further agrees that if the Board rejects this Consent Agreement and Order, the members of the Board may decide the matter after a hearing, and their consideration of this Consent Agreement and Order shall not alone be grounds for recusal of any member of the Board, including any claims that the Board is biased against her, that it cannot fairly decide the case, or that it has received ex parte communication.

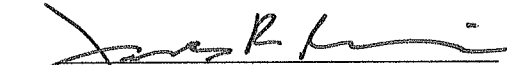
Address of Board. All payments ordered and any reports required by this Consent Agreement and Order shall be addressed to: Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Agreement and Order shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Board and is a public record of the Board. The terms of this Consent Agreement and Order may be published and reported in, including but not limited to, the LABSWE Newsletter, the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), and the National Practitioner Data Bank-Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (NPDB-HIPDB).

The prosecutor acknowledges negotiation and preparation of this Consent Agreement and Order in order to resolve, with prejudice, all matters for which the social worker could be charged under Complaint 2022-115, and further certifies that this Consent Agreement and Order is consistent with the evidence, adequately addresses the complaint, and represents a true and correct

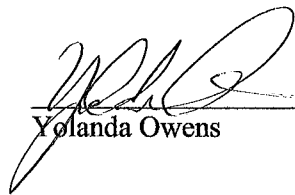
statement of that which could be proven at a hearing of this matter.

DATED: 10/10/23


James Raines
Prosecutor

I, Yolanda Owens, have read the Consent Agreement and Order, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions. I specifically acknowledge that failure to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order may result in revocation or suspension of my license. The admissions contained herein will be considered proven and the only issue will be failure to follow the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order. I make these acknowledgements and waivers in support of a final disposition of the pending investigation of Complaint No. 2022-115 by Consent Agreement and Order pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), in lieu of the institution and prosecution of formal administrative proceedings, and accordingly consent to the entirety of the Order set forth above and further waive any right to which I may be entitled under the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act or any other law to contest, in any court, my agreement to this Order. By my subscription hereto, I also hereby authorize the Prosecutor to present this Order to the LABSWE for its consideration and to disclose to and discuss with the LABSWE the nature and results of the investigation of this matter. I herein waive any objection to such disclosure based on due process of law under either the State or Federal Constitution or under State statutory law, including La. R.S. 49:977.2. I expressly acknowledge that the disclosure of such information to the LABSWE shall be without prejudice to the Prosecutor's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint, or the LABSWE's capacity to adjudicate such Administrative Complaint, should the LABSWE decline to approve this Consent Agreement and Order. I further acknowledge my awareness that should the LABSWE approve this Consent Agreement and Order that the Consent Agreement and Order will become a matter of public record.

DATED: 9/26/2023



Yolanda Owens

ORDER

The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, having examined the Consent Agreement and Order, Case No. 2022-115, adopted the Consent Agreement and Order in this matter.

DATED this 20 day of October, 2023, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

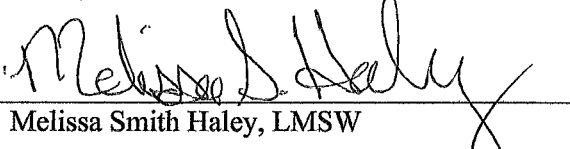
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL
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Dr. Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS

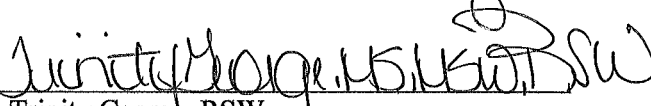
Evan Bergeron, Esq., Consumer Member



Dr. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS




Melissa Smith Haley, LMSW



Trinity George, RSW



Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS



Candice Sorapuru, LCSW-BACS