

Application for Continuing Education Approval Organization

Section A: Organizational Information

City of New Orleans Health Department		
Name of Organization		
Dr. Jennifer Avegno		
Name of Director/President		
1300 Perdido Street, Suite 8E18	New Orleans, LA	70115
Mailing Address	City/State	Zip
Physical Address (if different from above)	City/State	Zip
504 / 658-2500	/	
Telephone	Fax	
Jennifer.Avegno@nola.gov	https://nola.gov/health-department/	
Email Address	Website	

Organization applying for *Continuing Education Approval Organization* status must have a significant and continual affiliation with the social work profession. Please indicate that which applies:

☐ Professional Social Work Organization ☒ Social Work Service Provider
☐ CSWE Accredited School of Social Work

Organization applying for Continuing Education Approval Organization must have three (3) letters of references from any combination of the following:

☐ Professional Social Work Organization ☒ Social Work Service Provider
☐ CSWE Accredited School of Social Work

Section B: Continuing Education Program

Review and approval of continuing education applications from continuing education providers must be completed by a credentialed social worker. Identify the social worker assigned to administer this process for the organization.

Jocelyn Pinkerton, MSW, LCSW-BACS		
Name/Social Work Degree/Social Work Credential		
Employee		
Relationship to Organization		
1300 Perdido Street, Suite 8E18	New Orleans, LA	70115
Mailing Address	City/State	Zip
Physical Address (if different from above)	City/State	Zip
504 / 940-4576	/	
Telephone	Fax	
jocelyn.pinkerton@nola.gov		
Email Address		

Section C: Approval Guidelines, Process and Agreement

Protocol for receiving request for approval from education presenters:

- Organization will provide LABSWE Continuing Education Approval Application to education presenters upon request.
- LABSWE Continuing Education Approval Application may be mailed, faxed, sent electronically and/or published on Organization website.
- Organization will accept only LABSWE Continuing Education Approval Applications, completed in its entirety and accompanied by required documentation.

Process by which Organization will study and assess the proposed education offering:

- Organization will review application and supporting documentation to determine that it meets all standards and guidelines established in "Criteria for Approving Continuing Education Offerings" and "Guide for Assessment of Continuing Education."

As each organization is structured and staffed differently, organizations shall determine timeline for administering the continuing education program.

- Describe time limit set for making a decision on an educational offering's suitability:

NOHD shall make a decision regarding an educational offering's suitability within one week of receiving an application.

As each organization is structured and staffed differently, organizations shall determine their own fees, if any, charged for these services.

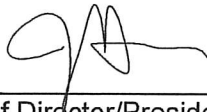
- Describe fees agency will charge to process Continuing Education Applications:

NOHD shall not collect any fees related to processing continuing education applications.

Section D: Authority

Submission of this signed application certifies that the Organization has studied the "Criteria for Approving Continuing Education Offerings" and "Guide for Assessment of Continuing Education," and determined that the Organization is prepared to assess continuing education opportunities by these guidelines on a timely bases; and has ample storage to maintain all continuing education records for a minimum of three years, and in accordance with Louisiana law. Organization understands that if approved, the organization will be given authority to pre-approve social work continuing education for three (3) years. After three (3) years, the organization shall reapply to the Board if interested in maintaining designation as a pre-approving body. Organization agrees to comply with scheduled LABSWE Continuing Education audits and submit a list of all approved programs to the board office for current collection period by July 15 of each year. Organization agrees to notify LABSWE within thirty (30) days if any information submitted on this application changes. Organization understands that approval is granted at the discretion of the Board and may be revoked if Organization is found to be out of compliance with any aspect of established guidelines.

This designation also designates the organization as an approved provider of continuing education. This designation will be authorized for three (3) years from the date LABSWE approves the application.



10/4/2023

Signature of Director/President

Date

Submit completed and signed application, along with three (3) reference letters, to:

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

For LABSWE office use only:

Application Received _____ Application Reviewed _____ Application Approved/Denied _____

Approval Expires _____

Revised 5/16



10/5/2023

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to recommend the New Orleans Health Department (NOHD) as a pre-approval organization for social work CEU trainings.

I have worked closely with New Orleans Health Department for nearly a decade and the have attended multiple high-quality trainings that NOHD has planned and facilitated. The New Orleans Health Department consistently provides training that is engaging, informative and well organized, with strong content and skilled trainers. NOHD provides essential training to community members and organizations on a wide range of topics related to sexual and domestic violence, violence prevention, public health and more. I believe that being a pre-approval organization will allow NOHD to get information and training to more social workers in the Greater New Orleans area.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Take care,

Amanda Tonkovich, LCSW-BACS

Co-Director, Beyond Harm

amanda@beyondharmnola.org

504.321.3193

October 17, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the New Orleans Health Department (NOHD) becoming a pre-approval organization for social work continuing education trainings.

As a former employee of the New Orleans Health Department, I can attest to the varied, rigorous trainings that members of the Department have planned and facilitated over the years. The New Orleans Health Department provides training that is detailed, well-researched, and extremely informative. Their trainings include topics such as intimate partner violence, crisis response, public health issues, responding to disasters, among others. NOHD's trainings are attended by community members such as social workers, victim advocates, attorneys, public servants, and members of the judiciary. I believe that being a pre-approval organization will allow NOHD to reach and train more social workers in the New Orleans community, which would be a tremendous benefit to the profession.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nelle Noble', with a stylized, flowing script.

E. "Nelle" Noble, JD, LCSW-BACS
Restorative Practices Manager
Tulane University | Office of Human Resources & Institutional Equity
1555 Poydras St., Suite 964, New Orleans, LA 70112
Office: 504.247.1757
enoble@tulane.edu



To whom it may concern,

I am writing to recommend the New Orleans Health Department (NOHD) as a pre-approval organization for social work CEU trainings.

I have worked closely with New Orleans Health Department for 5 years and the have attended multiple high-quality trainings that NOHD has planned and facilitated. The New Orleans Health Department consistently provides training that is engaging, informative, and well organized, with strong content and skilled trainers. NOHD provides essential training to community members and organizations on a wide range of topics related to sexual and domestic violence, violence prevention, public health and more. Their expertise in this area provides much needed information to social workers on topics in which practices and resources are essential to be kept up to date. Not only does NOHD provide impactful trainings to professionals, they also work hard to provide these trainings to a variety of service providers - ensuring knowledge is spread across practices. I believe that being a pre- approval organization will allow NOHD to get information and training to more social workers in the Greater New Orleans area.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherrard", is placed above the typed name.

Sherrard Crespo, LCSW
Director of Outreach & Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana (PCAL)
VIA LINK
screspo@vialink.org
504-708-2937



Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans

3300 West Esplanade Ave. S.
Suite 603
Metairie, Louisiana 70002
504.831.8475
504.831.1130 (FAX)

November 1, 2023

jfs@jfsneworleans.org
www.jfsneworleans.org

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

REC'D NOV 06 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I received correspondence from the board dated October 24, 2023 informing me that the letter of support submitted by Gail Pesses, LCSW was not accepted, as she is a current board member. Please see the attached letter of support from Rachel Eriksen, LCSW-BACS. This should complete Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans' (JFS) application to become a CEU Approval Organization.

Sincerely,

 LCSW-BACS

Michelle Beard, LCSW-BACS
Director of Clinical Services

Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans is a social service agency dedicated to preserving, strengthening and enhancing the well-being and self-sufficiency of individuals and families at every stage of life.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS





Dear Social Work Approval Board:

I am writing to you to recommend that Michelle Beard, LCSW-BACS, Director of Clinical Services t Jewish Family Service, continue as a CEU approval agency through LABSW. During her time at JFS, I have always known her to be professional, reliable, and organized. Allowing JFS to approve CEU's will only continue to benefit professionals in the area. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Eriksen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rachel L. Eriksen, LCSW-BACS

Care NOLA CEO/Founder

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

Application for Continuing Education Approval Organization

Section A: Organizational Information

Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans
Name of Organization ✓
Roselle Ungar
Name of Director/President
3300 W. Esplanade Ave. Ste. 603 Metairie, LA 70002
Mailing Address City/State Zip
same
Physical Address (if different from above) City/State Zip
504 / 831-8475
Telephone Fax
roselle@jfsneworleans.org jfsneworleans.org
Email Address Website

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☐ CSWE Accredited School of Social Work

☒ Social Work Service Provider

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☐ CSWE Accredited School of Social Work

☐ Social Work Service Provider

Section B: Continuing Education Program

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Michelle Beard / MSW / LCSW-BACS
Name/Social Work Degree/Social Work Credential
Director of Clinical Services
Relationship to Organization
same as above
Mailing Address City/State Zip
Physical Address (if different from above) City/State Zip
504 / 350-0587
Telephone Fax
michelle@jfsneworleans.org
Email Address

REC'D AUG 28 2023

Section C: Approval Guidelines, Process and Agreement

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- LABSWE Continuing Education Approval Application may be mailed, faxed, sent electronically and/or published on Organization website.
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- Organization will review application and supporting documentation to determine that it meets all standards and guidelines established in "Criteria for Approving Continuing Education Offerings" and "Guide for Assessment of Continuing Education."

As each organization is structured and staffed differently, organizations shall determine timeline for administering the continuing education program.

- Describe time limit set for making a decision on an educational offering's suitability:

We will respond to all requests within 2 weeks at a maximum.

As each organization is structured and staffed differently, organizations shall determine their own fees, if any, charged for these services.

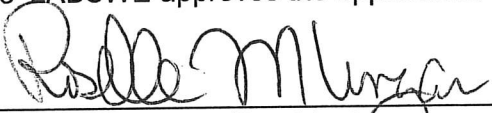
- Describe fees agency will charge to process Continuing Education Applications:

We will charge \$50 per application.

Section D: Authority

Submission of this signed application certifies that the Organization has studied the "Criteria for Approving Continuing Education Offerings" and "Guide for Assessment of Continuing Education," and determined that the Organization is prepared to assess continuing education opportunities by these guidelines on a timely bases; and has ample storage to maintain all continuing education records for a minimum of three years, and in accordance with Louisiana law. Organization understands that if approved, the organization will be given authority to pre-approve social work continuing education for three (3) years. After three (3) years, the organization shall reapply to the Board if interested in maintaining designation as a pre-approving body. Organization agrees to comply with scheduled LABSWE Continuing Education audits and submit a list of all approved programs to the board office for current collection period by July 15 of each year. Organization agrees to notify LABSWE within thirty (30) days if any information submitted on this application changes. Organization understands that approval is granted at the discretion of the Board and may be revoked if Organization is found to be out of compliance with any aspect of established guidelines.

This designation also designates the organization as an approved provider of continuing education. This designation will be authorized for three (3) years from the date LABSWE approves the application.


Signature of Director/President _____ Date 8/21/23

Submit completed and signed application, along with three (3) reference letters, to:

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

For LABSWE office use only:

Application Received _____ Application Reviewed _____ Application Approved/Denied _____

Approval Expires _____

Revised 5/16



JCRS
Jewish Children's Regional Service

SERVING JEWISH YOUTH
AND FAMILIES SINCE 1855

August 18, 2023

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

Dear Social Work Approval Board,

I am writing to you as the director of client services of Jewish Children's Regional Service. I would like to take this opportunity to recommend that you recertify Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans as a CEU approval organization for the New Orleans area.

For a number of years, I have periodically attended CEU programs that they have sponsored on a number of clinical topics. I have found the presenters to be both qualified and effective, the content to be highly academic and comprehensive, and the presentation setting to be conducive to learning. JFS provides a number of important social services to a wide variety of populations in the Greater New Orleans area, which has consistently included continuing education for individuals working in a variety of social service-related fields. I respect the work that they do as an agency and know that approving them will enhance the opportunities for professional education in our area.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Lustig, LCSW

AFFILIATIONS



NETWORK
of Jewish Human
Service Agencies



AMERICA'S BEST
CHARITIES



Together, Making Children
and Families a National Priority



Four Star Charity

*Amy Alvarez, LCSW-BACS/MPH
Clinical and Forensic Social Work, LLC
5530 South Liberty Street
New Orleans, LA 70115
504-452-5613
amyalvarezadoptionconsult@gmail.com*

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

September 29, 2023

RE: JFS New Orleans – CEU Provider

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing to recommend that JFS New Orleans continue to provide continuing education offerings.

I have experience both attending and providing CEU programs through JFS New Orleans. JFS consistently demonstrated an interest in providing high quality educational programs for the mental health community. As a presenter, I was impressed with their organization and professionalism. As an attendee, I appreciated the wide variety of offerings and expertise of the speakers.

When looking for convenient, interesting and satisfying CEU classes to fulfill my continuing education requirements, I always look to JFS New Orleans.

I highly endorse JFS New Orleans as a continuing education provider.

Sincerely,

Amy Alvarez LCSW-BACS/MPH

Amy Alvarez, LCSW-BACS, MPH
LA License #3541



LOUISIANA

STATE BOARD *of* SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

September 18, 2023

NAMI New Orleans
Att: Patricia Hattier, LCSW-BACS
2051 8th Street
Harvey, LA 70058

Re: Application for CE Approval Organization

Dear Ms. Hattier,

The Louisiana state Board of Social Work Examiners reviewed your application for Continuing Education Approval Organization at their meeting held September 15, 2023. After reviewing your application, members of the board stated that they will reconsider your application after submission of the following:

1. Please have Julie Beard, LCSW-BACS, submit her letter of reference on letterhead including her contact information.
2. Submit a new completed application for continuing education approval organization.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Regina M. DeWitt
Administrative Assistant

Julie Beard, LCSW, BACS

503 Gassen Street
Luling, Louisiana 70070
504-259-6024
PJBeard1@bellsouth.net

October 10, 2023

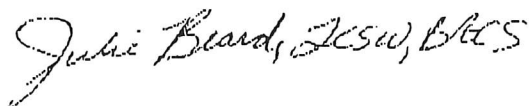
To: The Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners

RE: NAMI New Orleans

I am writing you today on behalf of NAMI New Orleans who is in the process of renewing pre-approval continue education opportunities from the LABSWF for their ongoing continue education for their employees, board members and student interns. NAMI is an organization that prides itself in providing educational information to the clients, community related to mental health resources and education on mental health training. It is through these in house continuing education trainings that staff stay abreast in the latest trends, have the best evidenced based practice measures and learn tools to help their clients and community.

I ask the LABSWF consider the work that NAMI has been doing and approve the renew application for NAMI to provide Continuing Education opportunities for social workers. Please feel free to contact me at 504-259-6024 if you need any additional information.

Respectfully,



Julie Beard, LCSW, BACS

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

Application for Continuing Education Approval Organization

Section A: Organizational Information

National Alliance on Mental Illness New Orleans
Name of Organization
Ashleigh Castro
Name of Director/President
2051 8th St. Harvey, La 70058
Mailing Address City/State Zip
same
Physical Address (if different from above) City/State Zip
504 1368-1944
Telephone Fax
trish@namineworeans.org namineworeans
Email Address Website

Organization applying for Continuing Education Approval Organization status must have a significant and continual affiliation with the social work profession. Please indicate that which applies:

☐ Professional Social Work Organization
☐ CSWE Accredited School of Social Work

☒ Social Work Service Provider

Organization applying for Continuing Education Approval Organization must have three (3) letters of references from any combination of the following:

☐ Professional Social Work Organization
☐ CSWE Accredited School of Social Work

☒ Social Work Service Provider

Section B: Continuing Education Program

Review and approval of continuing education applications from continuing education providers must be completed by a credentialed social worker. Identify the social worker assigned to administer this process for the organization:

Patricia Hattier (MSW) LCSW-BACS
Name/Social Work Degree/Social Work Credential
Clinical Manager
Relationship to Organization
2051 8th St. Harvey, La 70058
Mailing Address City/State Zip
same
Physical Address (if different from above) City/State Zip
504 1368-1944 504-368-9784
Telephone Fax
trish@namineworeans.org
Email Address

Section C: Approval Guidelines, Process and Agreement

Protocol for receiving request for approval from education presenters:

- Organization will provide LABSWE Continuing Education Approval Application to education presenters upon request.
- LABSWE Continuing Education Approval Application may be mailed, faxed, sent electronically and/or published on Organization website.
- Organization will accept only LABSWE Continuing Education Approval Applications, completed in its entirety and accompanied by required documentation.

Process by which Organization will study and assess the proposed education offering:

- Organization will review application and supporting documentation to determine that it meets all standards and guidelines established in "Criteria for Approving Continuing Education Offerings" and "Guide for Assessment of Continuing Education."

As each organization is structured and staffed differently, organizations shall determine timeline for administering the continuing education program.

- Describe time limit set for making a decision on an educational offering's suitability:

It will take NAMI New Orleans 1 week to study and make a decision on an educational offering.

As each organization is structured and staffed differently, organizations shall determine their own fees, if any, charged for these services.

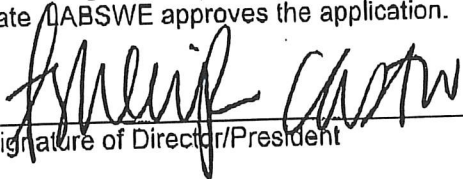
- Describe fees agency will charge to process Continuing Education Applications:

There are no fees charged by NAMI NO for a ceu offering.

Section D: Authority

Submission of this signed application certifies that the Organization has studied the "Criteria for Approving Continuing Education Offerings" and "Guide for Assessment of Continuing Education," and determined that the Organization is prepared to assess continuing education opportunities by these guidelines on a timely bases; and has ample storage to maintain all continuing education records for a minimum of three years, and in accordance with Louisiana law. Organization understands that if approved, the organization will be given authority to pre-approve social work continuing education for three (3) years. After three (3) years, the organization shall reapply to the Board if interested in maintaining designation as a pre-approving body. Organization agrees to comply with scheduled LABSWE Continuing Education audits and submit a list of all approved programs to the board office for current collection period by July 15 of each year. Organization agrees to notify LABSWE within thirty (30) days if any information submitted on this application changes. Organization understands that approval is granted at the discretion of the Board and may be revoked if Organization is found to be out of compliance with any aspect of established guidelines.

This designation also designates the organization as an approved provider of continuing education. This designation will be authorized for three (3) years from the date LABSWE approves the application.


Signature of Director/President

8/30/2023
Date

Submit completed and signed application, along with three (3) reference letters, to:

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

For LABSWE office use only:

Application Received _____ Application Reviewed _____ Application Approved/Denied _____
Approval Expires _____

Revised 5/16

SARAH SCHURMAN EBERLY, MSW LCSW

716 Adams Street ■ New Orleans, LA 70118

sarahcberlyLCSW@gmail.com

August 14, 2023

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
18550 Highland Rd, Suite B
Baton Rouge, La 70809

Dear Members of the Board,

Please accept my recommendation for the re-approval of NAMI New Orleans as a Continuing Education Approval Organization. NAMI New Orleans has provided social work services to those with mental illnesses in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Bernard Parishes. The wellbeing of families and communities struggling with behavioral health issues continues to be a priority. The continuing education classes are offered to staff, undergraduate and graduate interns, social work professionals, and local communities and enrich the knowledge base of many people as well as the quality of social work services.

Your re-approval of NAMI New Orleans as a continuing education approval organization will strengthen the continuation of research-based and best-practice social work in Southeast Louisiana.

Please contact me at (504) 585-1111 for
clarifications.

or at SarahcberlyLCSW@gmail.com with any questions or

Sincerely,



Sarah Schurman Eberly, LCSW
LA License: 10528
NPI: 1770895278

HENRY M. MANNHEIMER, MSW, LCSW #1256
P.O. Box 10638
New Orleans, Louisiana 70181
(504) 585-0000

September 6, 2023

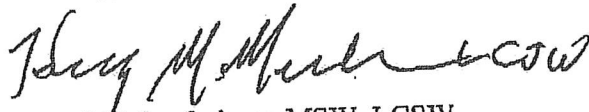
To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend the approval by the Louisiana LCSW Board of NAMI-New Orleans as a provider of continuing education programs. It is my understanding that they wish to provide these services to staff and social workers.

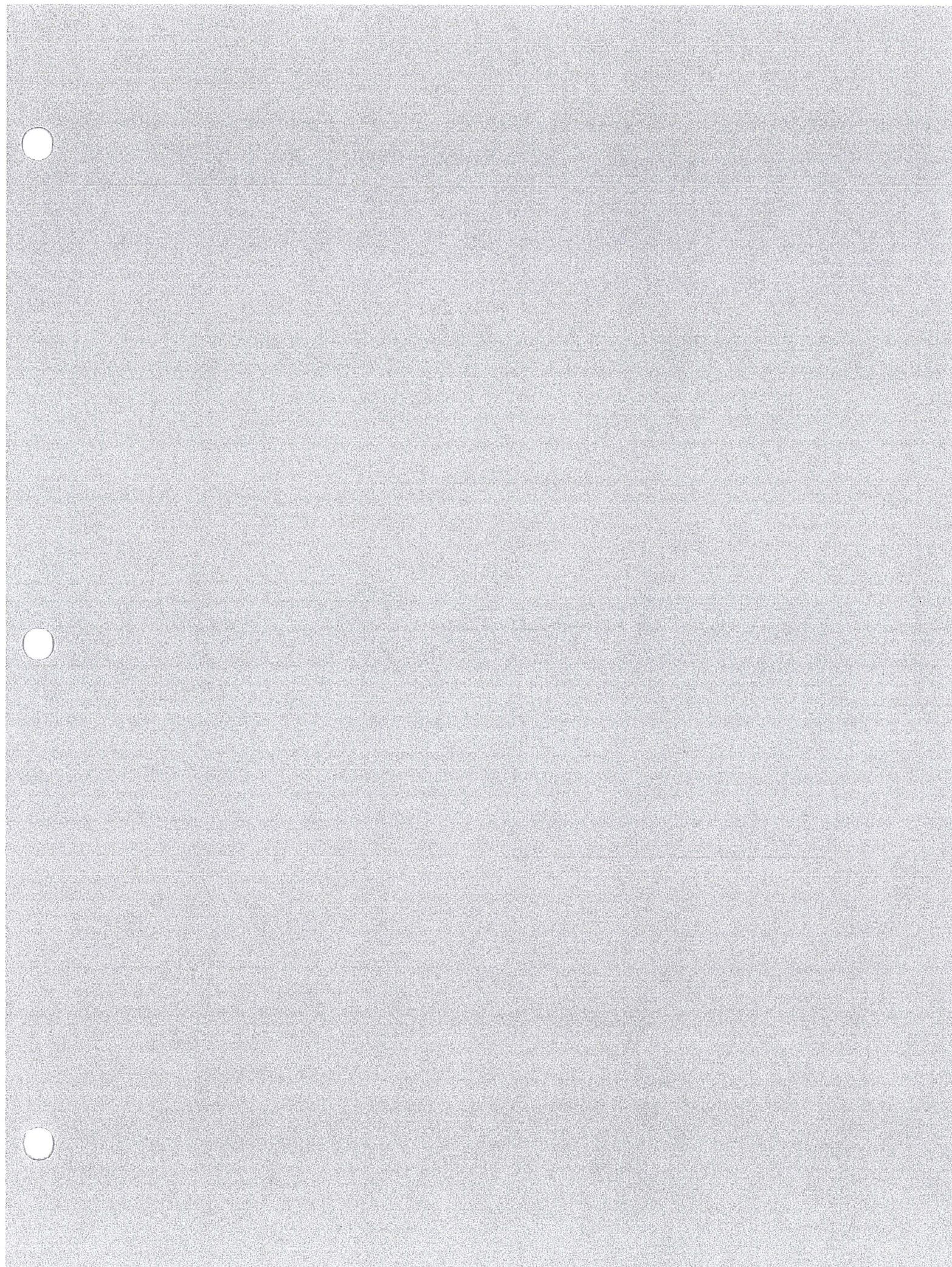
I am an LCSW in the State of Louisiana. I am very familiar with NAMI- New Orleans, having worked there as a clinical social worker from 1998-2008. While I was there we provided clinical and community support services to clients with serious psychiatric illnesses. The agency endeavored to do this work with professional quality and compassion.

If further information is needed, feel free to contact me

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry M. Mannheimer", followed by the letters "LCSW".

Henry M Mannheimer, MSW, LCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker



Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
Application for Continuing Education Approval Organization

Section A: Organizational Information

VIA LINK

Name of Organization		
<u>LaVondra Dobbs</u>		
Name of Director/President		
<u>5001 Hwy 190 Suite C-1</u>	<u>Covington</u>	<u>70433</u>
Mailing Address	City/State	Zip
<u>n/a</u>		
Physical Address (if different from above)		
<u>/ 504- 895-5550</u>	<u>/ 504-265-8689</u>	
Telephone	Fax	
<u>screspo@vialink.org</u>	<u>www.vialink.org</u>	
Email Address	Website	

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<u>Sherrard Crespo, MSW, LCSW</u>		
Name/Social Work Degree/Social Work Credential		
<u>Full time employee - Director of Outreach & Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana (PCAL)</u>		
Relationship to Organization		
<u>PO Box 1292</u>	<u>Livingston, LA</u>	<u>70754</u>
Mailing Address	City/State	Zip
<u>29786 W. Highland St.</u>	<u>Livingston, LA</u>	<u>70754</u>
Physical Address (if different from above)		
<u>/ 504-708-2937</u>	<u>/ n/a</u>	
Telephone	Fax	
<u>screspo@vialink.org</u>		
Email Address		

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- Describe time limit set for making a decision on an educational offering's suitability:

VIA LINK will require a 2 week submission timeline for review of materials to allow suitable time for in-depth review and any questions/revisions deemed necessary.

A request can be expedited/submitted late for an additional \$25 fee

As each organization is structured and staffed differently, organizations shall determine their own fees, if any, charged for these services.

- Describe fees agency will charge to process Continuing Education Applications:

VIA LINK will request a fee of \$20 per content hour to be reviewed (\$10 per half hour)

VIA LINK will maintain a fund for pro-bono review as deemed appropriate by Sherrard Crespo, LCSW and CEO LaVondra Dobbs for agencies submitting content who's budget does not allow for the fee payment.

Section D: Authority

Submission of this signed application certifies that the Organization has studied the "Criteria for Approving Continuing Education Offerings" and "Guide for Assessment of Continuing Education," and determined that the Organization is prepared to assess continuing education opportunities by these guidelines on a timely bases; and has ample storage to maintain all continuing education records for a minimum of three years, and in accordance with Louisiana law. Organization understands that if approved, the organization will be given authority to pre-approve social work continuing education for three (3) years. After three (3) years, the organization shall reapply to the Board if interested in maintaining designation as a pre-approving body. Organization agrees to comply with scheduled LABSWE Continuing Education audits and submit a list of all approved programs to the board office for current collection period by July 15 of each year. Organization agrees to notify LABSWE within thirty (30) days if any information submitted on this application changes. Organization understands that approval is granted at the discretion of the Board and may be revoked if Organization is found to be out of compliance with any aspect of established guidelines.

This designation also designates the organization as an approved provider of continuing education. This designation will be authorized for three (3) years from the date LABSWE approves the application.

DocuSigned by:
LaVonra Dobbs 10/25/2023
Signature of Director/President Date

Submit completed and signed application, along with three (3) reference letters, to:

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

For LABSWE office use only:

Application Received _____ Application Reviewed _____ Application Approved/Denied _____

Approval Expires _____

Revised 5/16



National Alliance on Mental Illness

St. Tammany

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NAMI St. Tammany
P.O. Box 2055
Mandeville, LA 70470

Nick Richard
Executive Director

Phone: 985-626-6538
Fax: 877-361-1631

October 26, 2023

Re: CEU Trainings

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to recommend Via Link as a pre-approval organization for social work CEU trainings. Via Link has a long-standing commitment to providing essential mental health services and resources in our region, and I believe their pursuit of CEU approval is a significant step towards enhancing the quality of mental health education in our community.

NAMI St. Tammany, the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, has had the privilege of collaborating with Via Link on numerous initiatives aimed at improving mental health awareness and access to care. Throughout our partnership, Via Link has consistently demonstrated a strong dedication to promoting the well-being of individuals living with mental health challenges. Their staff and programs have proven to be invaluable assets to our community, providing a wide range of resources that support individuals, families, and professionals alike.

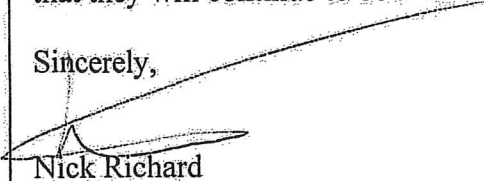
Via Link's application to become a CEU approval organization aligns perfectly with our shared mission of advancing mental health education and awareness. By offering CEU opportunities, they will play a crucial role in ensuring that social workers and mental health professionals in our region have access to relevant and high-quality continuing education. This will not only contribute to the professional development of social workers but also directly benefit those individuals who rely on their expertise.

I have every confidence in Via Link's capacity to excel in this role. Their track record of providing outstanding mental health services and educational programs has demonstrated their commitment to excellence. Their team is composed of highly skilled and dedicated professionals who have a deep understanding of the mental health field and a passion for imparting knowledge to others.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly recommend Via Link as a CEU approval organization to the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners. Their dedication to the community and the field of mental health is evident and granting them this approval will undoubtedly contribute to the betterment of our community's mental health landscape.

Thank you for considering Via Link for this important role. I have every confidence that they will continue to be a valuable asset to our community.

Sincerely,


Nick Richard
Executive Director

John Bel Edwards
GOVERNOR



Stephen R. Russo, JD
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

November 3, 2023

Sherrard Crespo, LCSW
Director of Outreach and Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana
VIA LINK
5001 Hwy 190, Suite C-1
Covington, LA 70433

Dear Ms. Crespo,

As the Director of the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health (BFH), I am pleased to provide this letter in support of VIA LINK's application to become a pre-approval organization for Social Work Continuing Education. BFH has collaborated with VIA LINK for many years on several initiatives related to suicide prevention, the Louisiana "Parent Line," and our Adverse Childhood Educator Program. Several BFH staff have attended multiple high-quality trainings and events that VIA LINK has facilitated.

VIA LINK provides training that is engaging, informative, and well organized, with strong content and skilled trainers. VIA LINK provides training on a wide range of topics related to crisis intervention, de-escalation, trauma, grief, suicide, local resources, and more. Not only does VIA LINK provide impactful trainings to professionals, they also provide these trainings to a variety of service providers - ensuring knowledge is spread across practices

BFH works to elevate the strengths and voices of individuals, families, organizations, and communities to catalyze transformational change to improve population health and equity. One way we do this is by building coordinated partnerships towards action, such as our ongoing partnership with VIA Link. Accepting VIA Link as a pre-approval organization will allow for more information, resources, and training to social workers and other professionals throughout Louisiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Amy Zapata".

Amy Zapata, MPH
Director, Bureau of Family Health
Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health

BEACON

BEHAVIORAL

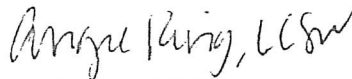
To whom it may concern,

I am writing to recommend VIA LINK as a pre-approval organization for social work CEU trainings.

I have collaborated/worked with VIA LINK for many years and have attended multiple high-quality trainings and events that VIA LINK has facilitated. VIA LINK consistently provides training that is engaging, informative, and well organized, with strong content and skilled trainers. VIA LINK provides essential training to community members and organizations on a wide range of topics related to crisis intervention, de-escalation, trauma, grief, suicide, local resources, and more. Their expertise in this area provides much needed information to social workers on topics in which practices and resources are essential to be kept up to date. Not only does VIA LINK provide impactful trainings to professionals, they also work hard to provide these trainings to a variety of service providers - ensuring knowledge is spread across practices. I believe that being a pre-approval organization will allow VIA LINK to get information and training to more social workers throughout Louisiana.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Angie King, LCSW
VP of Customer Relations

Central Intake Referral Line: 833-891-6080 | Beacon.com

ALEXANDRIA • BATON ROUGE • BOGALUSA • BUNKIE • HAMMOND • LACOMBE • LUTCHER • METAIRIE • NEW ORLEANS • OPELOUSAS • SLIDELL • WESTBANK

Page Break



Benita "Nita" Baucom, LCSW-BACS

nbaucom@nitabaucom.com

October 30, 2023

Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Attn: Regina DeWitt

Ms. DeWitt:

I am requesting approval to provide 6.5 hour Board Approved Initial BACS Workshops. I have been previously approved to provide these Workshops and am requesting dates to be approved in the upcoming year.

The specific dates are

March 1, 2024; April 20, 2024; June 7, 2024; August 16, 2024; October 18, 2024; and December 6, 2024.

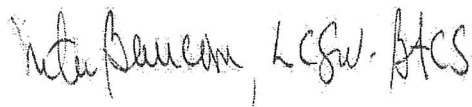
I have been a Social Worker for almost 40 years working in various roles as clinician, supervisor, and program manager. Through those years, I have provided many in-services to enhance worker expertise and knowledge base. Additionally, I have provided many BACS Refresher courses as well as Initial BACS Workshops that have been well received.

Below are my Agenda items.

If there is additional information you require, please contact me at nbaucom@nitabaucom.com or at

I appreciate you receiving this request and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Nita Baucom, LCSW-BACS
License # 3296

Benita "Nita" Baucom, LCSW-BACS

[nbaucom@ nitabaucom.com](mailto:nbaucom@nitabaucom.com)

Agenda

6.5 hr BACS Initial Workshop

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 8:15 am | Log on to video conference & Introductions |
| 8:30 am | Supervision models – From “No Model” model to Systems Approach model and everything in between. |
| 9:30 am | Theory and techniques of supervision – From supervisee learning needs, to supervision roles and competencies, to strategies for working through challenges. |
| 10:30 | Break |
| 10:45 am | Record keeping – From knowing the forms to being comfortable with completing them. |
| 12:15 pm | LUNCH |
| 12:45 pm | Ethics – From definitions, to SW Ethics history and areas of concern, to SW client responsibilities. |
| 3:15 pm | Break |
| 3:30 | Multicultural issues – From exclusion to inclusion. |
| 4:00 pm | Evaluations and Certificates of Attendance |

Page Break



Benita "Nita" Baucom, LCSW-BACS

nbaucm@ nitabaucom.com

November 22, 2023

Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners
Attention: Regina DeWitt
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

Ms. Dewitt:

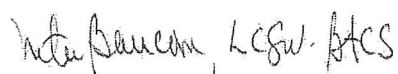
I am requesting you to add an item to the upcoming Board meeting on December 1, 2023.

For several years, I have offered Continuing Education presentations, some specifically related to Supervision, to the Social Work community. In a recent presentation, I reviewed the LABSWE website with attendees in order to show where to find such items as the Orientation Workshop registration, etc. I discovered that the website lists a specific presenter's workshops for BACS Renewal. I am requesting the Board allow all sponsors to submit and list supervision presentations.

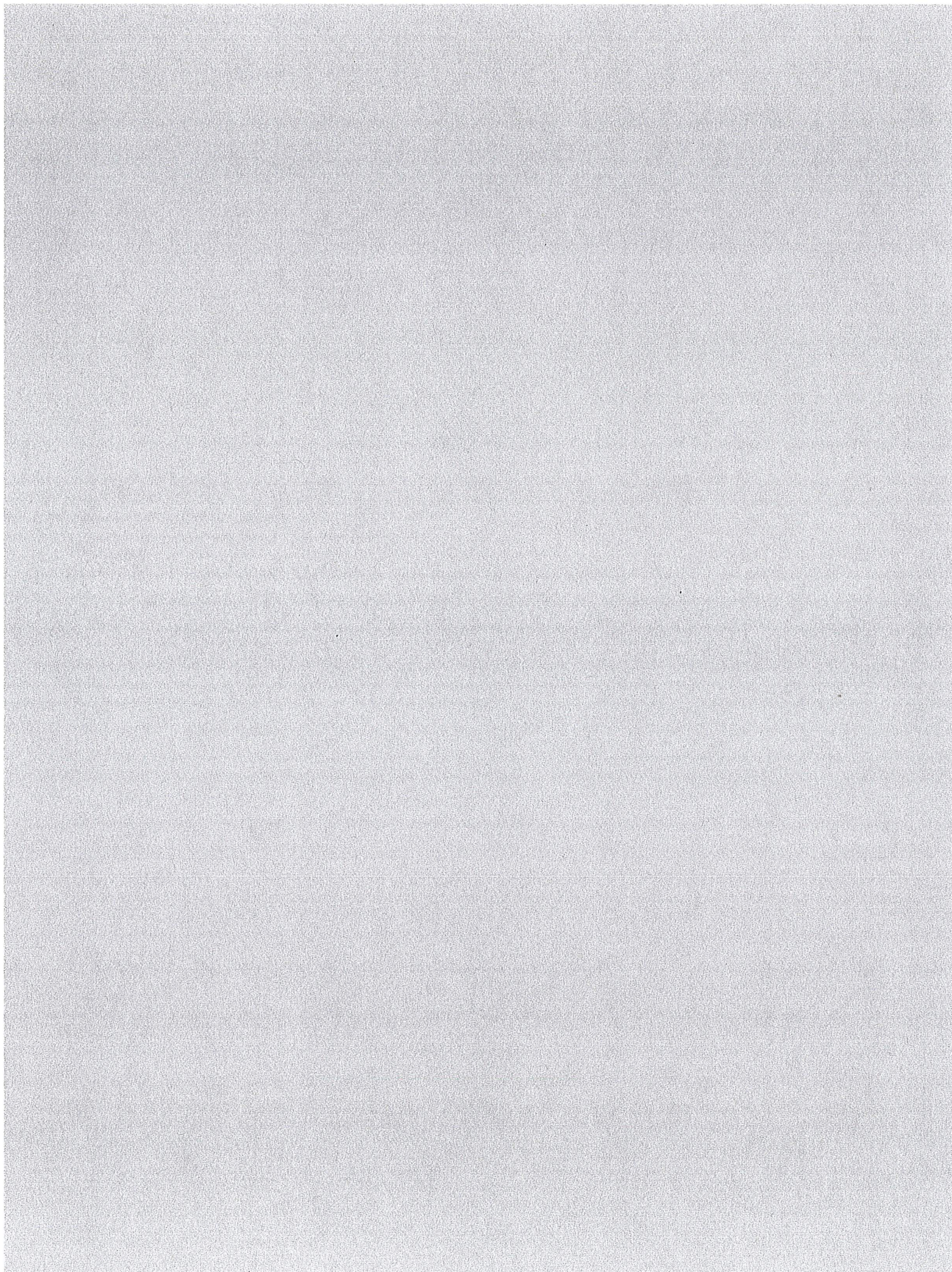
My request stems from concerns regarding the perception of favoritism as well as the perception that the only renewal option is the one listed on the LABSWE website. Supervisors need a full list of options in order to increase access to such presentations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Nita Baucom, LCSW-BACS



Social Work

From: Alice Robin <Alice.Robin@LA.GOV>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:22 PM
To: Social Work
Subject: RE: Contact Us Form Submitted

Hi, Regina,

Thanks for responding. I apologize for not making my question clear.

I want to know if in order to practice DBT if I have to have a DBT Certification in Louisiana in addition to my LCSW credential? Is adapting the DBT model based on what services a LCSW can provide in their agency still considered to be an evidenced based practice? If any of these questions are appropriate to ask during the December 1, 2023 meeting, feel free to ask.

Thanks for your thoughts and consideration regarding my questions.

Best Regards,
Alice Robin

-----Original Message-----

From: Social Work <socialwork@labswe.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 12:30 PM
To: Alice Robin <Alice.Robin@LA.GOV>
Subject: FW: Contact Us Form Submitted

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Hi Alice,

Thank you for your email. A social worker must to be credentialed by LABSWE as either a CSW, LMSW, or LCSW to provide DBT. If the CSW or LMSW is providing those services they must be under the supervision of a LCSW. I am not sure that our office can advise you on "best practice". Please let me know if you would like for this question to be added to the December 1, 2023, meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

Regina M. DeWitt
Administrative Assistant
Louisiana State Board of
Social Work Examiners
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
(225)756-3470, Option 4

Alice Robin, LCSW

Fax (225)756-3472

This message is for the named person(s) only. It may contain confidential, proprietary or legally privileged information. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any transmission error. If you receive this message in error, please immediately delete it and all copies of it from your system, destroy any hard copies of it and notify the sender. You must not, directly or indirectly, use, disclose, distribute, print, or copy any part of this message if you are not the intended recipient.

-----Original Message-----

From: LABSWE Complaints <FileComplaint@labswe.org>

Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2023 12:11 PM

To: Social Work <socialwork@labswe.org>

Subject: Contact Us Form Submitted

First Name: Alice

Last Name: Robin

Phone Number

Email Address: alice.robins@la.gov

Question:

All of the DBT trainings that I have participated in have stated that a Social Worker does not have to be certified in order to use DBT. I am also via self study, understanding the DBT skills can be adapted and still be considered evidenced based practice. Can you confirm that in Louisiana this would be considered best practice. Thanks!

Page Break



To: LABSWE

From: Gina Rossi, LCSW-BACS

Date: 11/20/2023

Subject: Virtual Supervision without Board Approval to be addressed by Rules Committee

Please accept this letter as a formal request to allow (or direct) the 2023 Rules Committee to address changing the current rule to allow virtual supervision with approval of the BACS (not requiring board approval).

It is obvious the committee members have different opinions and perspectives on this issue than the chair of the Rules Committee. The issue of considering virtual supervision to be approved by the BACS arose in several instances in the last meeting. This resulted in the chair reporting he had not been asked to review this rule and the committee passing a motion that it be brought to LABSWE to request they be allowed to review this issue.

Not having a new rule promulgated that will allow for 100% supervision was a main reason given for reverting to pre-Covid processes. The board once again will miss an important deadline if this issue is not reviewed in the Rules Committee in a timely manner.

Once again, I am attaching an updated review of a comparison of states allowing virtual supervision without requiring board approval. This updated review indicates that across the nation there are only 3 states that do not allow virtual supervision without board approval (Louisiana, Alabama, Oklahoma).

It is concerning that after the lengthy and significant discussion and the data supporting this change, the Rules Committee has still not reviewed this rule for a possible change.

Virtual supervision approved by the BACS is a realistic and viable option that can be implemented using boundaries (requiring a secure platform, ensuring that face to face simultaneous interaction is being used, requiring the BACS and supervisee are participating only when in a confidential and secure environment).

The current process of reviewing each request for virtual supervision is unnecessary and inefficient. As the board only meets monthly it also creates a gap when there are instances of an emergency. For example: LMSW or BACS acquiring Covid (or other infectious illness) or any illness where an office visit is not safe or suitable (a sick child, bad weather, traffic problems, flooding, or any other time an office meeting is not possible). In such cases not having virtual supervision as an option eliminates an important supervision session since no more than 80 working hours may pass before a supervision session is to occur.

The process does not recognize the professional decision-making capability of the BACS designation. The reasons for board approvals or rejections remain confusing and

the community is unable to understand a clear decision-making process. Rejections notices do not provide any justification for reasons of the rejection. Finally, having to submit a request and be evaluated by LABSWE is intrusive, unnecessary, and a violation of the supervisee's privacy. This is not protecting the public.

Allowing virtual supervision to be decided by the supervisee and the BACS actually protects the public.

It allows for the BACS with the best background for the supervisee to be available. Not one where the supervisee chooses a 2nd or 3rd option because of geographical proximity. Allowing virtual supervision to be decided by the BACS who knows more about a LMSW situation than the board member is more protective of public safety.

NOT allowing virtual supervision is the bigger threat to public safety.

Gina Rossi, LCSW-BACS, DCSW, MHSA

REVIEW OF 51 STATES ALLOWING VIRTUAL SUPERVISION WITH NO BOARD APPROVAL

35 states 100% with NBA and no stipulations

13 States allow some or hours with NBAN but has some stipulation ie: less than 100% of hours, need to meet in person 1 time a quarter, supervisor trained in Teletherapy etc.
For example W. Virginia allows Face to face supervision via HIPPA compliant electronic media is acceptable with the clinical supervisor

Only 3 states require Board approval: LA, OK, Alabama

STATE BY STATE BREAKDOWN

Wyoming: 100% No Board Approval Needed (NBAN)

Wisconsin: 100% NBAN

West Virginia: 100% NBAN

Washington: 100% NBAN

Virginia: 100% NBAN

The definition is no longer limited to supervision. Additionally, the requirement for visual interactive contact has been eliminated. This means that telephonic/audio that is real-time and interactive can be considered as face-to-face. This definition is directly related to face-to-face supervision and face-to-face client contact.

***Vermont:** 100% NBAN if the supervisor is registered to provide teletherapy.

***Utah** 100% NBAN so long as the supervisor plans to physically visit the location where the supervisee practices at least a quarterly basis or at a lesser frequency needs to be approved by the Division.

Texas: 100% NBAN

***Tennessee:** 75% of the 60 individual supervision hours are permitted via virtual supervision NBAN

South Dakota: 100% NBAN

South Carolina: 100% NBAN

Rhode Island: 100% NBAN

Pennsylvania: 100 % NBAN

Technological advances have enabled individuals to communicate in real-time, regardless of their geographic proximity to one-another. Therefore, the Board considers "in person" supervision to be met if a HIPAA-compliant electronic platform is used that allows for synchronous audio and video communication between the supervisor and supervisee. This would not include supervision by telephone, email, instant messaging, online chat or other non-secure electronic communications that do not include real-time (synchronous) video and audio communications. The setting in which the supervisor and supervisee are located when using electronic supervision must be professional and secure and may not be conducted from public locations such as coffee shops, libraries, or other locations where inadvertent disclosures of confidential information could occur

Oregon: 100% NBAN

****Oklahoma:** 100% of supervision hours are permitted via virtual supervision with board approval

Ohio: 100% NBAN

North Dakota: 100% NBAN

***North Carolina:** 50 of the required supervision hours are permitted via virtual supervision NBAN
clinical supervisors may seek approval for additional virtual supervision hours by providing a written request to the Board

New York: 100 % NBAN

New Mexico: 100 % NBAN

***New Jersey:** 50% of supervision hours are permitted with NBAN
.If a supervisee wants to waive the tele-supervision requirement; they may submit a Proposed Plan of Supervised Clinical Experience to the board.

New Hampshire: 100% NBAN

"until the administrative rules are updated, to include that provision in your supervision agreement application. Either as a separate statement/letter or listed within your goals statement is some way."

Nevada: 100% NBAN of the time, although we strongly recommend that an offsite supervisor go onsite at least once a quarter."

Nebraska: 100% NBAN

Telehealth laws for patients are the same for supervision

These new laws define which professions can establish a provider-patient relationship through telehealth. Mental Health Practitioners are included in this statute Direct client contact (face-to-face) supervision does include interactive visual imaging assisted communication which is secure and confidential."

Montana: 100% NBAN

"Face-to-face" means supervision of a candidate by the supervisor which is either:

- (a) in-person; or*
- (b) electronically. The transmission must:*
 - (i) be two-way;*
 - (ii) be interactive;*
 - (iii) be real-time;*
 - (iv) be simultaneous; and*
 - (v) provide for both audio and visual interaction.*

Missouri: 100% NBAN

***Mississippi:** 25% of supervision hours are permitted via virtual supervision with NBAN

Minnesota: 100 % NBAN

Michigan: 100% NBAN

Massachusetts: 100 % NBAN but as long as the initial face-to-face session is in person

Maryland: 100% NBAN

"Face-to-face" means in the physical presence of or electronic presence of the individuals involved in the supervisory relationship during either individual or group supervision. (b) "Face-to-face" includes: (i) Secure video conferencing; or (ii) Real-time communication with both parties in each other's physical presence. (c) "Face-to-face" does not include: (i) Telephone supervision; (ii) Written communication via the internet; or (iii) Technological communication that is not visual. "

***Maine:** 24 and 48 supervision hours are permitted NBAN via virtual supervision for aspiring Social Workers in Maine, depending on the supervisee's clinical concentration.

****Louisiana:** August 31, 2023 face-to-face supervision is required for ALL HOURS but virtual supervision can be used as an alternative in some circumstances if approved by the board.

IN LA: Marriage and Family Therapists: 100% of supervision hours are permitted via virtual supervision.

Professional Counselors: 100% of supervision hours are permitted via virtual supervision

***Kentucky:** 100% for Individual, 50% for Group NBAN

*Individual Virtual supervision may be utilized for supervision hours, if the supervisor and supervisee can see each other, face-to-face, via electronic means.
If choose to do Group No more than fifty (50) percent of the group supervision hours may be obtained by electronic supervision.*

Kansas: 100% NBAN

Iowa: 100% NBAN

***Indiana:** 50% NBAN

Illinois: 100% NBAN

Idaho: 100% NBAN

Supervision may include a face-to-face setting provided by a secure live electronic connection. The secure live electronic connection must comply with any applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations, including the health insurance portability and accountability act (HIPAA)."

Hawaii: 100% NBAN

***Georgia:** 100% NBAN as long as supervisor has 9 CEUs in telehealth including three (3) hours in the category of: Supervising TeleMental Health Therapy – understanding the key components necessary to supervise effective, and efficient delivery of telemental health therapy.

***Florida:** 100% NBAN after 1 in-person session

Prior to utilizing any online or interactive methods for supervision, the supervisor and the intern shall have at least one in-person face-to-face meeting. The supervisor and the intern are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of the clients during both in-person and online or interactive supervisory sessions."

DC: 100% NBAN

The requirement of "immediate supervision" is hereby modified to permit real time, synchronous communication between the supervisor and the supervisee through the use of appropriate real-time technology such as telephone or audiovisual telecommunication."

***Delaware:** 50% per month NBAN

Supervisory contact may be on a one-to-one face-to-face basis or by live video conferencing; provided, however, that supervision by live video conferencing shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total supervision in any month. Supervision by telephone or e-mail is expressly not permitted.

Connecticut: 100% NBAN

Colorado: 100% NBAN

California: 100% NBAN Supervisor

For purposes of this subdivision, "face-to-face contact" means in-person contact, contact via two-way, real-time videoconferencing, or some combination of these.

(c) The supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information.

(d) (1) Within 60 days of the commencement of supervision, a supervisor shall conduct a meeting with the supervisee during which the supervisor shall assess the appropriateness of allowing the supervisee to receive supervision via two-way, real-time videoconferencing. This assessment of appropriateness shall include, but is not limited to, the abilities of the supervisee, the preferences of both the supervisee and supervisor, and the privacy of the locations of the supervisee and supervisor while supervision is conducted."

Arkansas: 100% NBAN

Social workers who use technology to facilitate supervision shall use appropriate precautions to protect the confidentiality of those communications. Precautions to protect confidentiality depend on the type of technology being used and may include using passwords, firewalls, encryption, and antivirus software; using electronic service providers that rely on standards of security for data that are transmitted and stored; and ensuring a private setting when using their electronic devices"

***Arizona:** 100% NBAN for in-agency supervision:

"face-to-face meetings" are meetings in which a supervisor and an applicant can speak and hear simultaneously. Face-to-face meetings may occur in-person or via any electronic means of communication that allows the supervisor and applicant to speak and hear simultaneously."

If the supervisor is outside of the place of employment a request for distance supervision must be approved by the board.

Alaska: 100% NBAN

telephonic or electronic means on Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Apple FaceTime, or another audio and video platform that permits the supervisor and the applicant to engage in communication that is face-to-face. During supervision, the supervisor and applicant must have their microphone and camera activated.

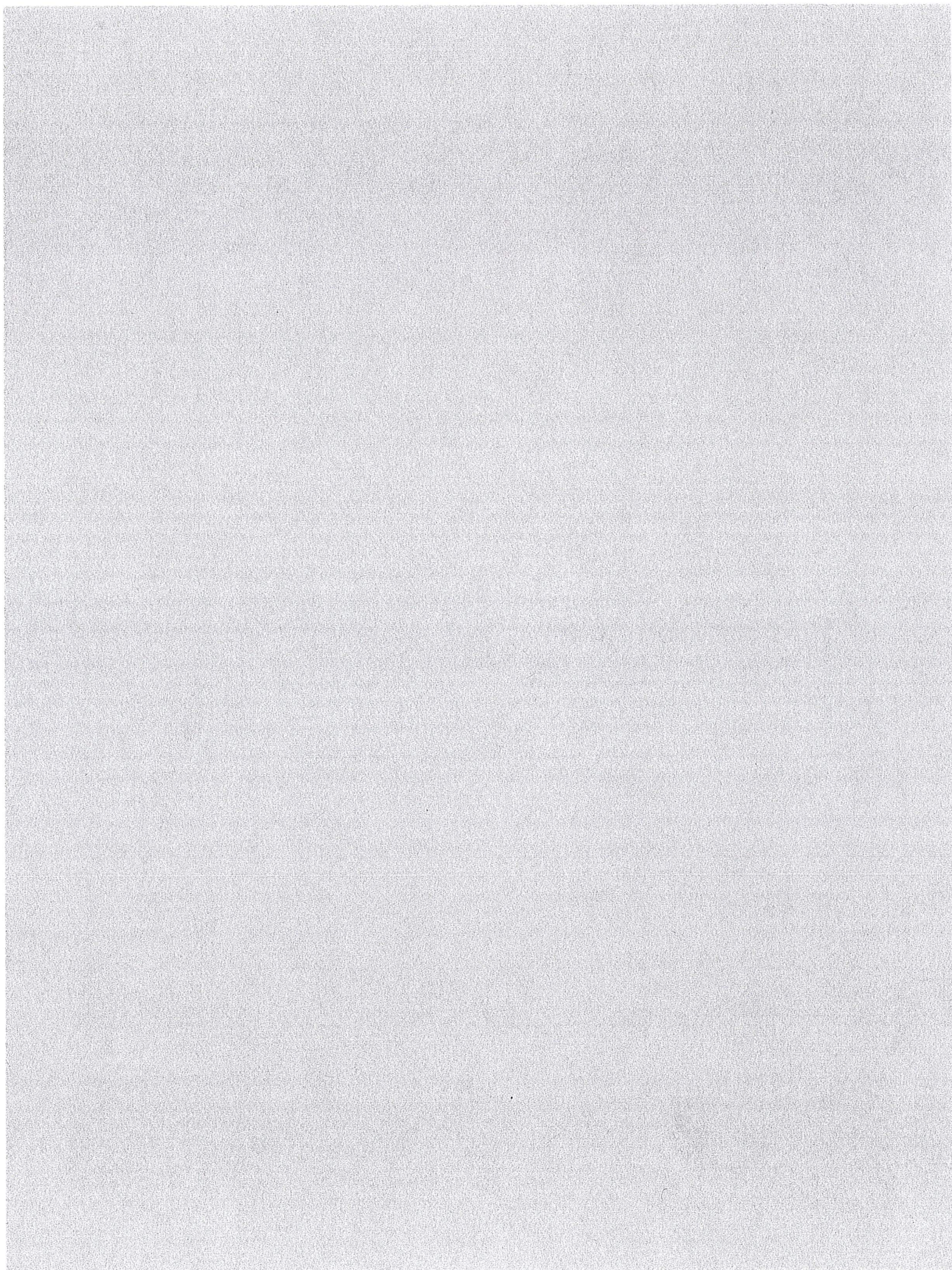
****Alabama:** 100% with board approval

"Though the board favors supervision modalities in which the supervisor and supervisee are in the same geographical place for a substantial part of the supervision time, the board also recognizes that some current and future technology, such as using reliable, technologically-secure computer cameras and microphones, can allow personal face-to-face, though remote, interaction, and can support professional growth. Supervision modalities must be clearly described in the supervision plan, explaining how the supervision strategies and methods of delivery meet the supervisee's professional growth

needs and ensure that confidentiality is protected. A supervision plan is required in a format determined by the board. The plan must be approved by the board prior to the start of supervision. "

Reference: Motivo Health

https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fmotivohealth.com%2Fvirtual-supervision-rules%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3XGsBN9V91CI3okN8NipHyNaGdZUE-dFoT1TBjilkchiAhWoy9g19nvDk&h=AT01myNWPAcTwHz4-lhnUKJMGgznuUVEImH5Ss7UKOhTgp3yIg3iBqAKms-148hRg4l2flv1Q2pKfTCB_c2adUrugZETwLZrpGOp6_akV5gu1pcK1E9qtUHu4lx6V1WyoTAjPp9gd1CBSEYgJpXqEmhn





November 20, 2023

To: LABSWE

From: Rachel Swafford, LCSW-BACS

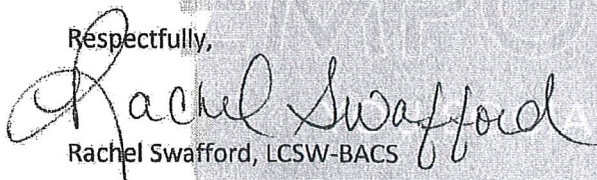
Re: Continuation of Virtual Supervision

I am submitting this letter in support of the continuation of virtual supervision and eliminating the process for approval to continue or request virtual supervision. Social Workers are governed by the board and expected to make ethical decisions and practice with humility and integrity.

The strenuous process to request virtual supervision or to continue it is burdensome and unnecessary. Allowing the BACS and supervisee to determine how they will work together is one of our ethical principles and should be regarded as such. It places undue stress and strain on already exhausted and hardworking LMSWs to find a local supervisor who they may not be compatible with. Allowing LMSW the autonomy to choose their BACS makes for better experience overall. It also provides more options.

In an increasingly unjust society, it would be unfair to burden LMSWs with yet another demand that is not necessary.

Respectfully,


Rachel Swafford, LCSW-BACS

Empowering You Social Work Services, LLC

Phone

Email: rachels@empoweringyousws.com

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

Page Break



Social Work

From: bcswwdebra@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:02 PM
To: Social Work
Subject: Request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Board Members

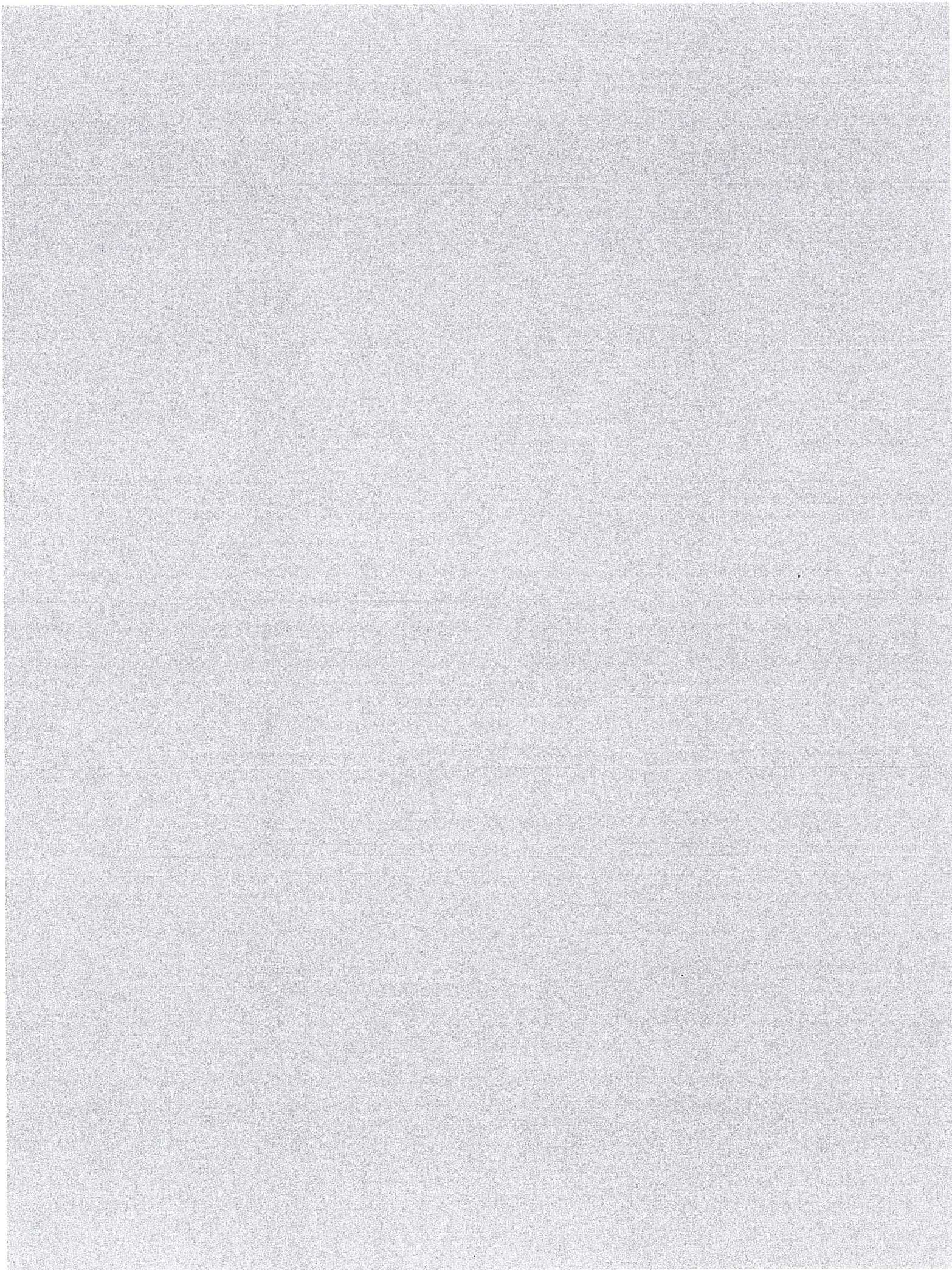
I am writing to request that the Board direct the Rules Committee to address allowing virtual supervision to be decided by the BACS and the supervisee rather than requiring Board approval. It is my appreciation that Louisiana is one of only three states eschewing virtual supervision at the discretion of the BACS and LMSW. I hope that both the Board and the Rules Committee move our state policies in line with the overwhelming majority of the country on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely

Debra C Voelker, LCSW-BACS

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS



To: Regina Dewitt <rdewitt@labswe.org>

Subject: Out of State CE's & supervision

melissa Baker
LMSW

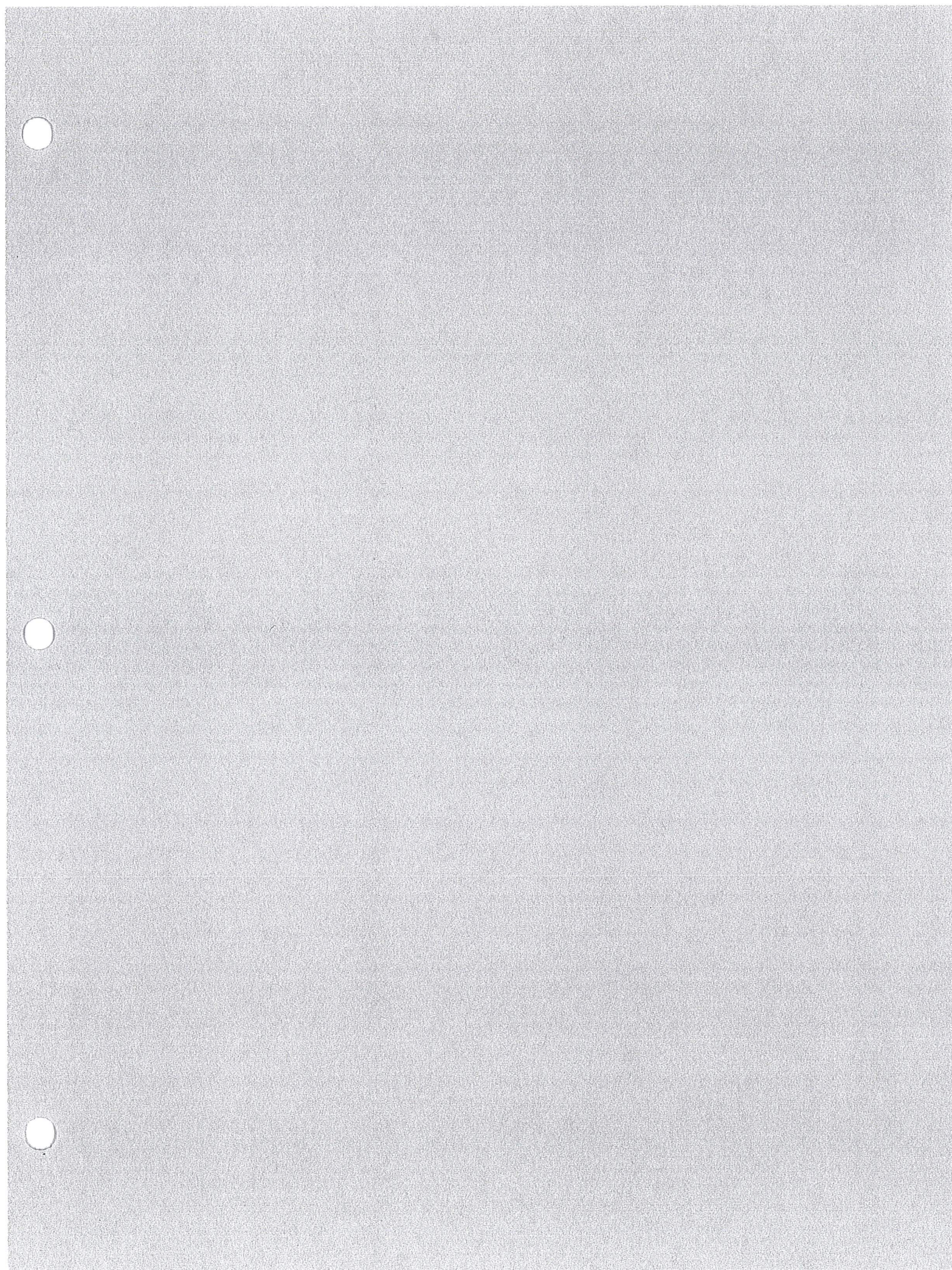
Hello Regina DeWitt,

I am a military spouse living overseas (Germany). According to the LABSWE I can do my CE's via distance learning but need to get it approved. What paperwork would I need to do?

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.

Also, the paperwork for me to do supervision outside of the United States.

Thank you,



Dear LASWBE Supervision committee,

I am requesting approval to participate in an alternative to face to face supervision, remote supervision. I am declaring an undue burden exemption. I request to be allowed to continue my current virtual supervisory relationship. I specifically chose this mode of supervision because it enables me to have a strong supervisor who is available to me beyond the standard. My current employer, The Maples Residential Treatment Center, does not offer a BACS certified supervisor, as a result I must be in supervision with an offsite supervisor.

My supervisor, Jessica Noel Andrus LCSW-BACS, works/lives an hour and half from me in Livingston Parish, 34 miles one way from my place of employment and 82.8 miles from my home in St. Tammany parish. I would be required to leave my place of employment 1 hour early or more to attend supervision, forcing me to take a half day once a week and spend a significant amount of money on gas weekly in order to attend supervision in person. Spending a total of three hours or more in the car for a one hour meeting, making my total commute time on the road in a week from 8 hours to 11 hours, significantly reducing my available hours for self-care and decompressing after the day. As self-care is written into our ethics by NASW, it seems counterintuitive to add extra burdens to our community when clients complete Tele therapy and the like with success. From the NASW Code of Ethics: "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."

See <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Highlighted-Revisions-to-the-Code-of-Ethics>

My supervisor provides a secure HIPAA approved platform, Zoom and a backup program of Simple Practice, for us to utilize for our virtual meetings. In addition she requires my video to remain on to ensure that she is getting my undivided attention throughout supervision. Further, she requires that supervision be conducted in a space that ensures confidentiality, such as my office at work or another private location where there are no other individuals present. We have a emergency plan that enables me to text/call her at any time and we have a established emergency contacts as needed, my direct supervisor, local support people, and my immediate family out of state. My supervisor has completed the necessary requirements to obtain and maintain her BACS level status and should be trusted to facilitate competent and ethical supervisory sessions.

I have previously received permission to continue with remote supervision for a previous place of employment, and am now requesting permission to continue with remote supervision as my new place of employment still does not provide on site supervision by a LCSW-BACS

Thank you for your considerations,

Madison Leigh Engels, MSW, LMSW #16984

