

Social Work

Ruth Seawell-Fernando, LMSW

From: Cardinal Fernando <rcardinalfernando@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 5:56 PM
To: Social Work
Subject: Re: FW: Contact Us Form Submitted

Thank you Regina,

Please see my formal request below, and attached orders.

R. Fernando

LASW Board:

I am writing to you to formally request a waiver for the required in person CEUS. I am currently residing in Hawaii where my husband is stationed with the military. Previously we were stationed in Korea and I was granted by the LASW Board to complete all of my hours virtually. Graciously, you all extended that to everyone during the pandemic years, which we all greatly appreciate. Unfortunately, as I have been looking for in person opportunities this year in Hawaii I have come up short. Not sure if it's due to their different state requirements or what but there have not been any or enough that would get me the required 10 hours. Nor any affordable and accessible conferences. I hope to maintain my licensure in Louisiana, as our family hopes to return once my husband retires from the military.

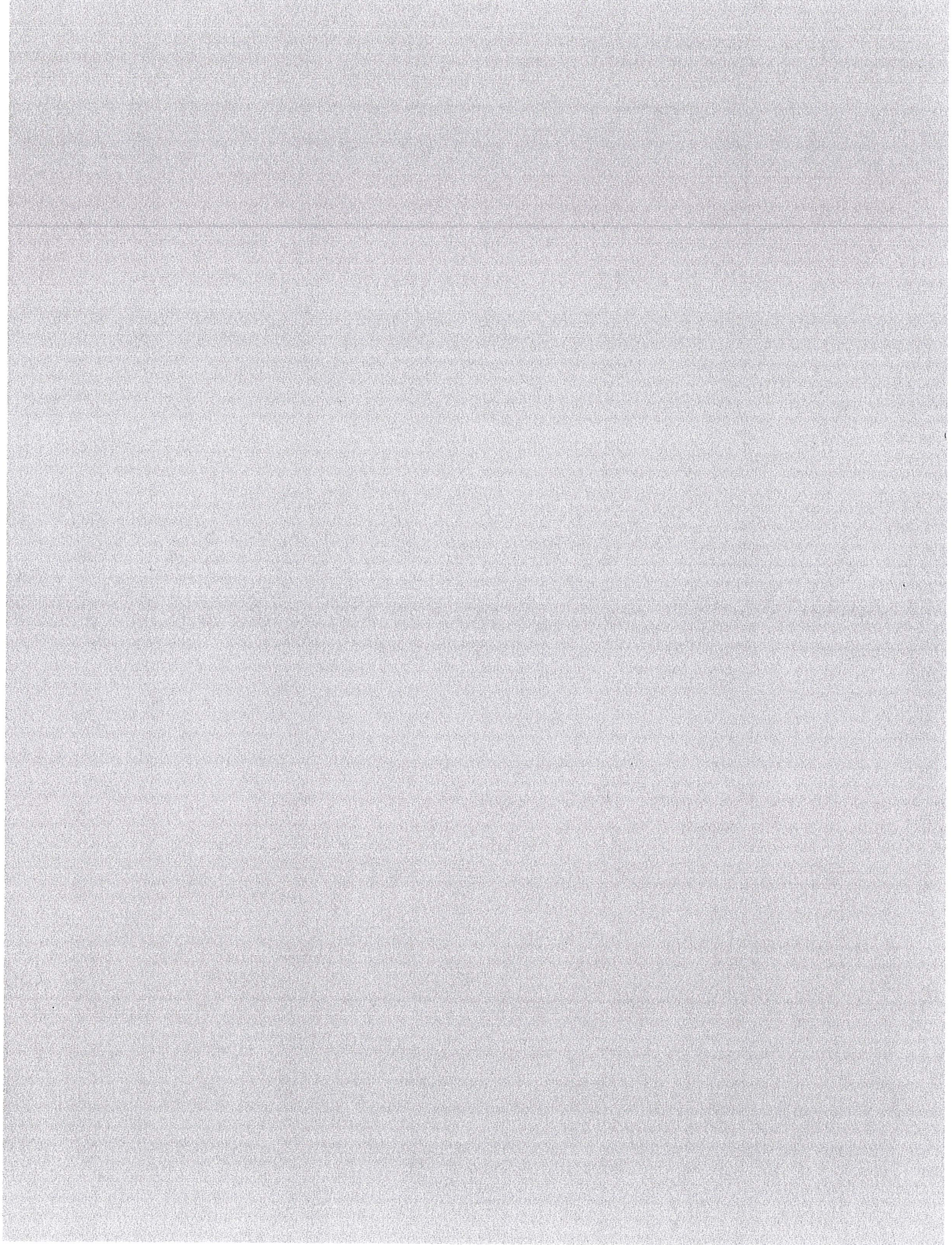
Thank You for your consideration
Ruth Fernando

On Mon, Feb 5, 2024 at 4:44 AM Social Work <socialwork@labswe.org> wrote:
Hi Ruth,

Thank you for your email. Please submit a written request to complete all of your CE's via distance learning along with a copy of military orders (to show that you are stationed in HI with your spouse). You can email it to this address. The board will meet again March 8th, please submit the request by March 1st to be added to that 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
Fax (225)756-3472



Emily DeAngelo

Donna Harris, CSW

From: Donna Cole <b...>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 1:07 PM
To: Emily DeAngelo
Cc: FLORA COOPER
Subject: Clarification of job duties as an RSW w/MSW degree

Hello,

Again, in response to your email from Jan. 25, unfortunately, I don't have a particular job description to share. I'm trying to see what job duties/tasks can be provided in a school setting, with the MSW practicing as an RSW, and NOT be in violation of anything. I'm fully aware that some of this is contingent upon the school district. I'm just asking so I know what I can do in the realms of assessments, problem solving methods, intervention and evaluation, case management, supportive counseling and advocacy. As these are what are listed SW engagements as a generalist SW (BSW, RSW, MSW).

I'm sorry if this is confusing. I just need clarity and knowledge moving forward since my CSW expires on March 26, 2024.

In addition, I read something in the NASW Standards for School SW Services making reference to the possibility of a local education agency employing a SSW whose highest degree is a BSW, and since my highest degree is an MSW, I'd like to have more clarity on what I can do and not be in violation of anything. Please call if a call is better for you to explain, 318-680-7970.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Emily DeAngelo

From: Emily DeAngelo
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 5:57 PM
To: Donna Cole
Subject: RE: RSW and supportive counseling

Good evening,

Supportive Counseling is defined in Chapter 3 the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

<https://www.labswe.org/rules-standards-and-procedures/>

Generalist social work practice examples are provided within the scope of practice of an RSW.

2706(B) <https://www.labswe.org/practice-act/>

If there is a job description that you would like LABSWE to review to determine if an RSW can fulfill the duties, please send a letter of request to socialwork@labswe.org along with a job description.

Kind regards,

Emily DeAngelo, Administrator

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

18550 Highland Road, Suite B

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

www.labswe.org

Phone 225.756.3470 option 5

Fax 225.756.3472

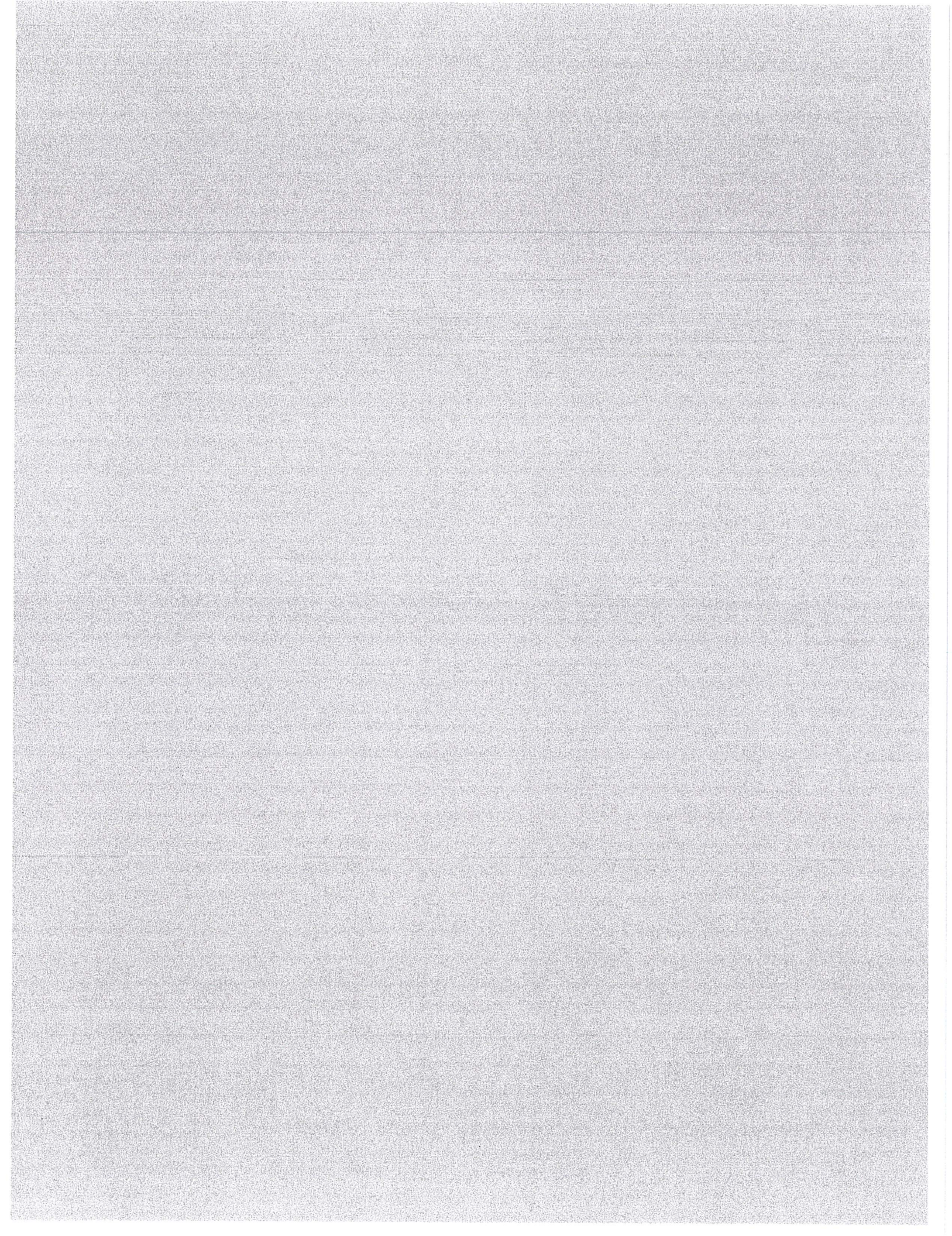
Office hours 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

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From: Donna Cole <donnacole@lsbse.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 5:20 PM
To: Emily DeAngelo <edeangelo@labswe.org>
Subject: RSW and supportive counseling

Hello,

Under the job duties for someone practicing at the RSW LEVEL, it mentions, “supportive counseling”. Can you expound on exactly what this “looks” like and/or what this practice is? Also can you describe what LABSWE deems as “general social work practice”? Thank you!



January 25, 2024

REC'D JAN 31 2024

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

I am writing to request that the hours for my supervision start on the day that I initiated my contract, January 27, 2023. When I first began the process, I reached out to the board office to be sure I was following the right information. My first outreach was by phone and email. I reached out originally to determine what hours would count. I was informed that previous work would not but once I initiated the contract with my supervisor then that would start my clock hours. I invited my supervisor on January 27, 2023, the first time and after some back-and-forth emails with Certemy he was able to accept my invitation the second time which was sent on 1/30/2023. On February 16, 2023, I reached out to the board again to clarify that all steps were complete and whether a plan was required somewhere on Certemy. At that time, the response was the contract constituted the plan. With this information my supervisor and I moved forward with our meetings.

At this time, I still had concerns regarding how the clock hours would be tracked but when I looked at what was on Certemy for my credentials page the two items seemed to be tracking and when I clicked on the contract it did not show a place to invite my employer. I am not sure what the glitch was, but I reached out again in August of 2023 via email to find out how the hours tracked. At that time, I got no response from the board.

* The first week of January 2024 I started getting emails that my contract and supervision had dates that were about to expire and had unmet requirements. I immediately reached out via email and on January 5, 2024, I called the board at approximately 7:45 am. The lady that I spoke to told me that those dates were set by Certemy but had not significance because the contract/supervision took a minimum of two years.

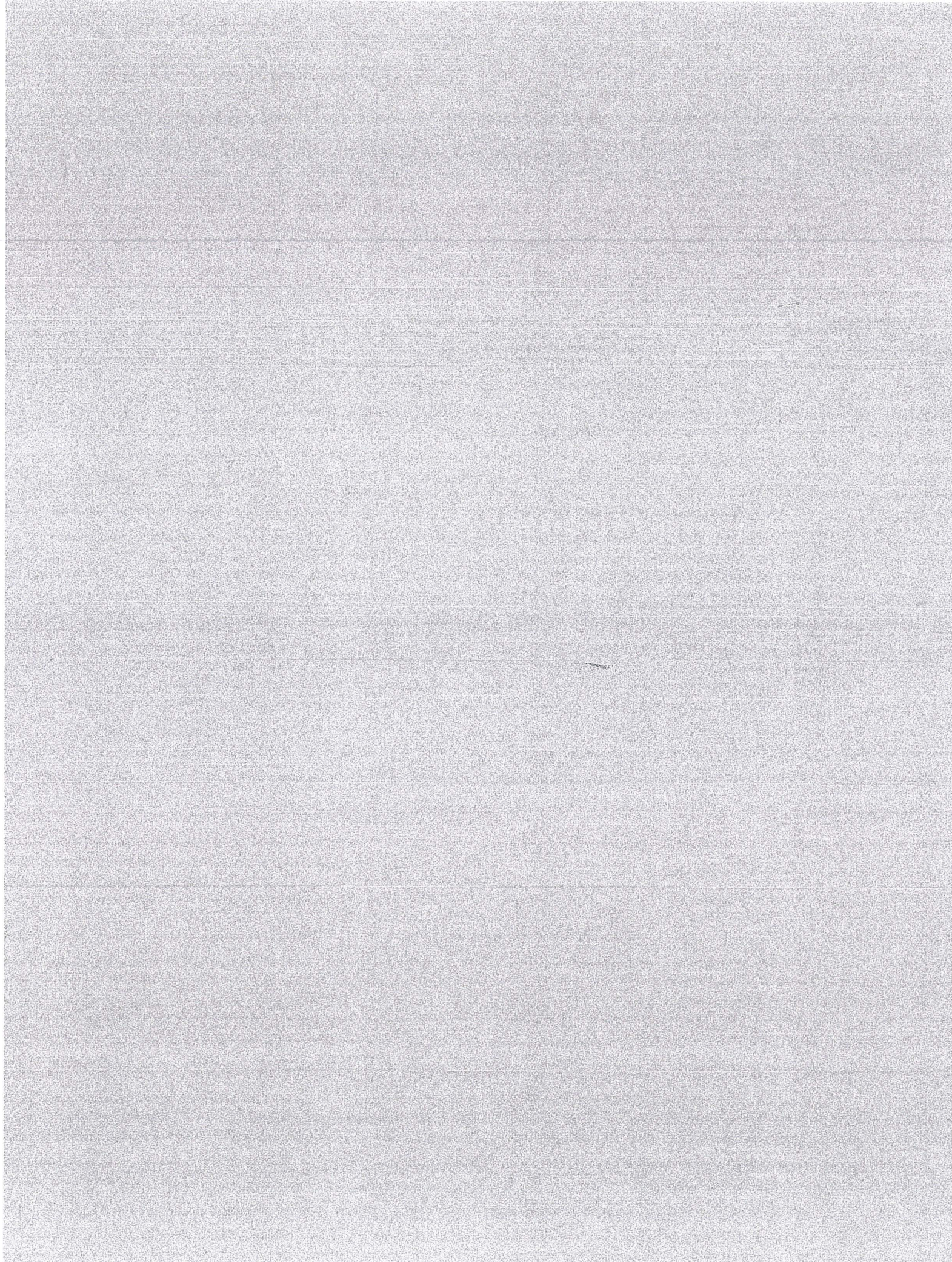
On January 22, 2024, I received an email from Ms. Banks stating that there was a missed step in my contract. My job verification was not completed. At this time when I checked Certemy there was the opportunity to invite our personnel person to complete her portion. I immediately reached out to her, and she contacted me the very next day on January 23, 2024, and completed her portion.

* * The Certemy process has been overly complicated as there are two separate entries regarding my supervision. Every time I clicked on the employment section of my supervision it had statements that the hours were not verified until after my supervisory 96 hours were completed.

Please allow my clock hours with the Calcasieu Parish School Board where I have worked since August 1, 2022, to count starting on my contract date of 1/27/23. I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and hope that I can continue working toward my goal of being an LCSW some time in the next year

Sincerely,

Ramona Johnston, LMSW



Jacqueline 'Jacki' Savoy, BSW, MSW, LMSW
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Cell: (225)718-0711
Jacki_Savoy@yahoo.com or Jacqueline.Savoy.DCFS@LA.GOV



January 25, 2024

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

Dear LABSWE Supervision Committee,

I have encountered significant challenges and inconsistencies with Certemy, our designated platform, which has caused delays and necessary approvals prior to the 90-day completion deadline. As you can see, from the screen shot of my Certemy account below, I began the LCSW Application process in April 2023. There was some confusion and I resent it to my BACS Supervisor, Carmen Spooner, on 5/5/2023.

2/21/24
emailed
asking to
complete
Emp. Verif
Form

	Carmen Spooner 04/24/2023 02:16 PM	Cancelled > Req: 96 Sub: 0 Com: 0
	Carmen Spooner 05/05/2023 05:06 PM	Accepted > Req: 3 Sub: 19 Com: 0

On 9/18/2023, my BACS supervisor sent an email (attached) expressing concerns about the lack of clarity and conciseness in the steps provided on Certemy. She noticed that other social workers were also facing difficulties, leading her to request a review of the steps on my part to ensure accurate completion. I promptly checked Certemy and reached out to the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners (LABSWE) via email (attached) to inquire if my application was complete, as I saw no other steps.

The subsequent email exchanges (attached) with LABSWE revealed a crucial step that was not visible on my Certemy platform at the time I completed my application. Despite my best efforts in reviewing the platform, I was unable to locate this particular step until it suddenly appeared after my correspondence with LABSWE. This inconsistency and lack of clarity has hindered my progress towards obtaining my LCSW licensee hours. I began supervision on 5/5/2023 and since the application was not signed by my agency supervisor until 10/9/2023, I have lost out on 10 hours of supervision.

Primary Supervisor



Carmen Spooner

c.elizabeth.spooner.lcsw@gmail.com

Accepted

10/05/2023 12:09 PM

Secondary Supervisor



Agnes Baygents

agnes.baygents.dcf@la.gov

Accepted

10/09/2023 07:58 AM

I understand the importance of streamlining the licensing process and ensuring efficiency through Certemy. However, in my case, the lack of clear instructions and the absence of the final approval step resulted in confusion and unnecessary delays. I have made every effort to comply with the requirements and promptly sought guidance from the appropriate authorities once the issue came to light, which can be demonstrated in my prompt response to my BACS email and to LABSWE.

I am not the only one who has encountered these issues, as evidenced by the numerous requests for approval of hours from various social workers to the Board. It appears that there may be systemic issues within the Certemy platform that need to be addressed in order to ensure a smooth and transparent licensing process for all applicants.

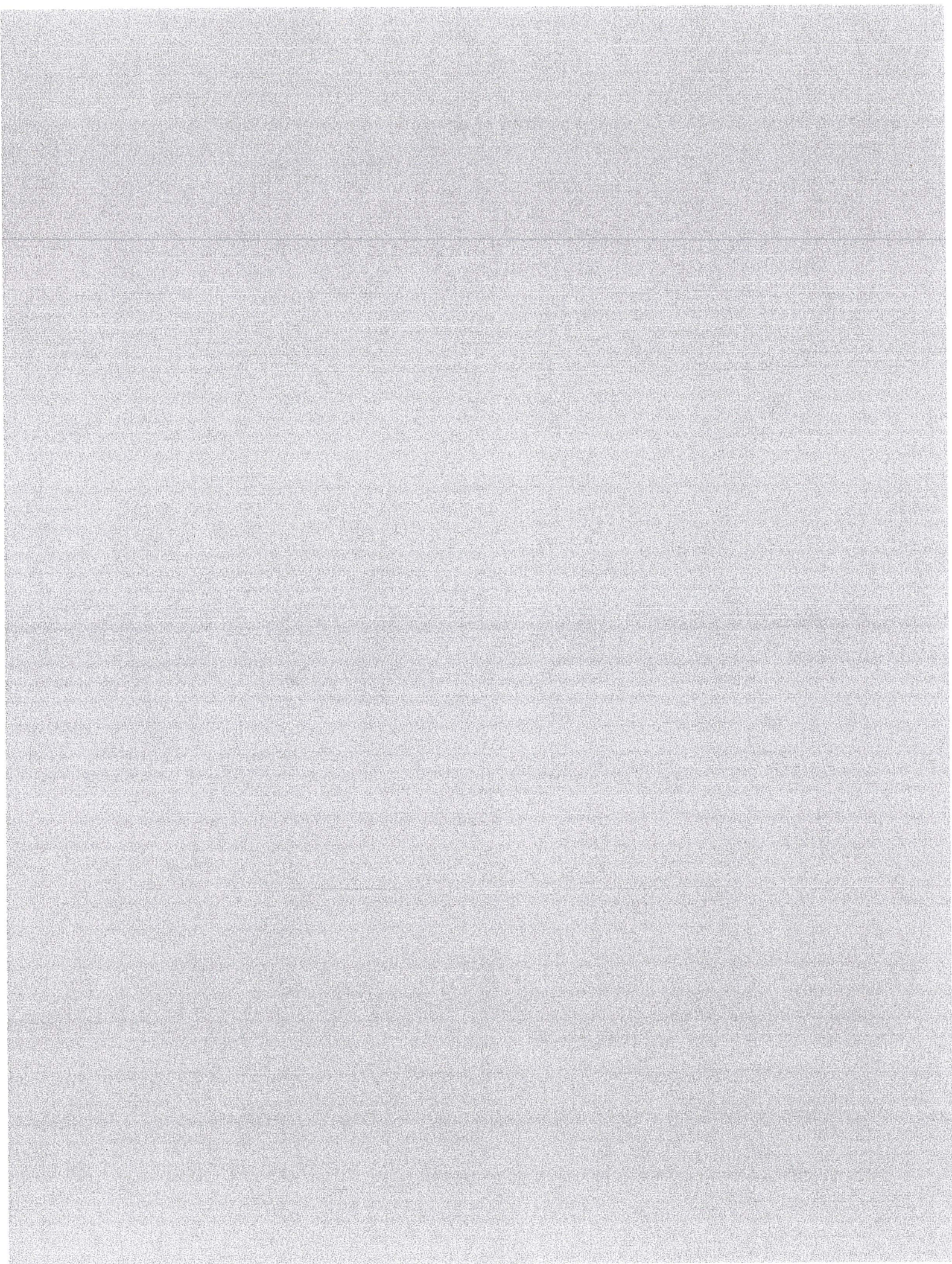
In light of these circumstances, I kindly request your urgent intervention to review my submitted documentation and grant the necessary approval for the supervision hours I have obtained since 5/5/2023, to be accepted. I would be more than willing to provide any additional information or documents that may be required for a thorough evaluation of my clinical experience.

The money, time, and education we put in to this process is invaluable and I respectfully request my hours be approved.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline 'Jacki' Savoy, BSW, MSW, LMSW

cc. Carmen Spooner, LCSW-BACS Supervisor



Dear Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners,

My name is Erica Berkowitz, Louisiana License number 16978. I spoke with Sara Banks on 2/7/2024 and was informed that my supervision hours would not be counted earlier than 60 days before 8/17/2023. I began supervision with my supervisor, Mylischea Smith-Lewis on 3/24/2022. This means that about 65 supervision hours from 03/24/2022-06/17/2023 cannot be counted by the LABSWE office.

This is a written request to consider my supervision hours from 03/24/2022-06/17/2023. My BACS supervisor and I had technical difficulties getting the *Acknowledgement, Structure and Focus of Supervision, Job Description and Attestation Form* of the supervision contract filled out. I had signed the form on 3/4/2022 and invited my BACS supervisor and Agency supervisor to fill out the form in March of 2022. Certemy only shows me inviting my two supervisors in May of 2023, with Bantu Gross accepting the invitation on 8/17/2023. My Certemy account currently shows that I had not invited my supervisors to fill out the form until May 2023, however I have communications between LABSWE and Certemy showing that I had been attempting to invite both of my supervisors to fill out the form since March of 2022, with technical difficulties, and my Certemy should reflect those attempts, but it does not.

On Friday March 11th 2022, I contacted the Louisiana Social Work board stating that my secondary supervisor Bantu Gross was not receiving the invitation sent through Certemy to fill out the *Acknowledgement, Structure and Focus of Supervision, Job Description and Attestation Form* of the contract. I stated that there was nothing listed under his status, and the only option was to cancel the invitation with no option to resend the invitation.

On Monday, March 14th 2022, I followed up to Friday's email stating that Bantu Gross was not receiving the invitation to sign the contract. I stated that I had cancelled his invitation and re-invited him to sign the form, but he was still not receiving the form via Certemy. He had received and signed the *Employment Verification* form.

On Tuesday, March 15th 2022 I emailed the Certemy technical help desk to see if there was something going on from the technical side. I stated that my agency supervisor was not getting the invitation for the *Acknowledgement, Structure and Focus of Supervision, Job Description and Attestation Form*.

On Thursday March 17th I spoke with Kelly Sicard over the phone who was concerned that Bantu Gross was not receiving the invitation to sign the form and said that she would look into what was going on.

On Friday March 18th Erica Manganelli responded that my agency supervisor could only sign the form after my primary supervisor signed it.

On Tuesday March 23rd Kelly Sicard emailed myself and Bantu Gross letting Bantu know that he should have access to fill out the *Acknowledgement, Structure and Focus of Supervision, Job*

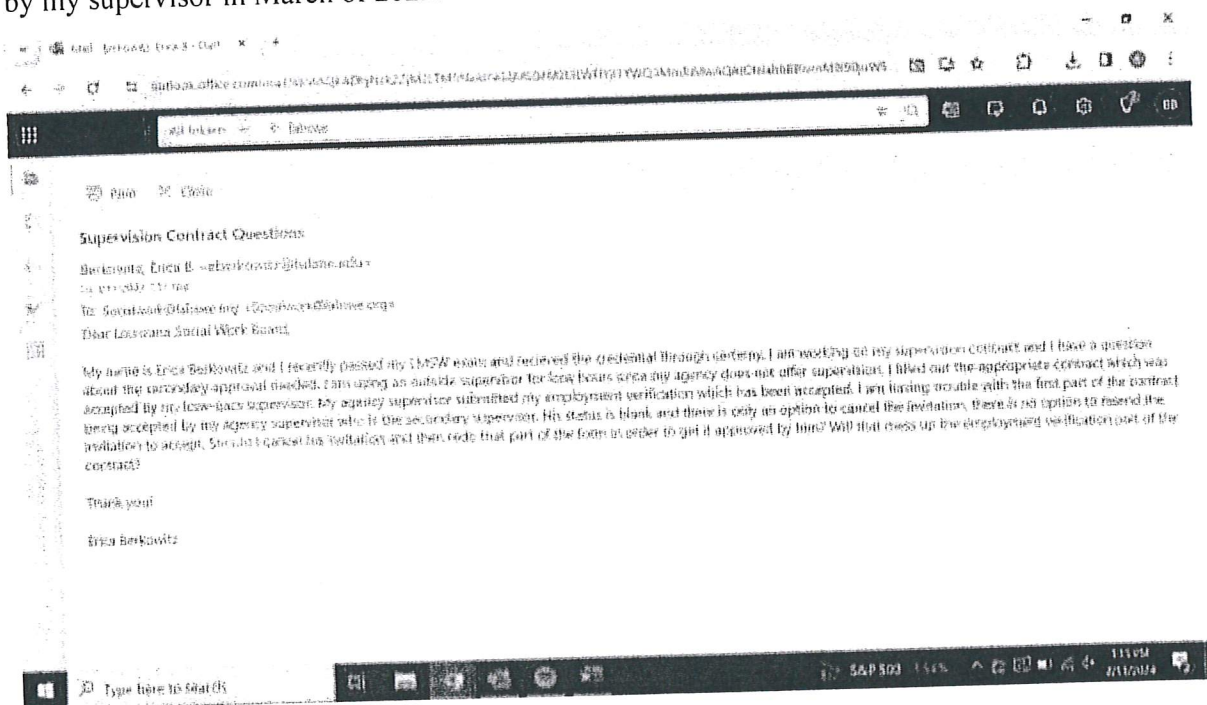
Description and Attestation Form, that the form would be on his Certemy page for him to sign. He still did not have access to that form.

On Wednesday March 24th 2022 I had my first supervision session and spoke with Mylischa Smith-Lewis about making sure she could fill out the *Acknowledgement, Structure and Focus of Supervision, Job Description and Attestation Form* so that Bantu could also fill it out as the secondary supervisor. She had not gotten the invitation for the form either and stated that she would talk to the board.

Mylischa was in contact with LABSWE after our first supervision session to discuss the issues with neither herself or my secondary supervisor receiving the invitation to the *Acknowledgement, Structure and Focus of Supervision, Job Description and Attestation Form*. She had received verbal confirmation that we were okay to start recording supervision hours because of the technical difficulties with the form.

In May 2023 we were able to figure out what the issue was with the invitations. Mylischa Smith-Lewis has two email accounts associated with her Certemy credentials. I had been using mslewis708@gmail.com as the primary email which was not getting the notifications from Certemy. I cancelled the original invitation sent to that email. We used the second listed email which is mylischa78@aol.com. This email was able to receive the invitations successfully. We were able to send the invitation to the correct email account and get the supervision contract signed in May 2023 with my secondary supervisor signing the contract in August 2023.

The following screenshots are attached as evidence of my attempts to get the *Acknowledgement, Structure and Focus of Supervision, Job Description and Attestation Form* signed and submitted by my supervisor in March of 2022:



Outlook

Delete Archive Reply Reply all Forward Zoom Read/Unread Categorize Flag/Unflag Print

Re: Supervision Contract Questions



Berkowitz, Erica B

To: Social Work <socialwork@lbbse.org>

Mon 3/14/2011 4:05 PM

Dear LBBSE Social Work Board,

I have a follow up question to my original email. I met with my agency supervisor and was able to see his ceremony datebooked. It does not look like he received the original invitation for the supervision contract, which is odd because the employment verification went through just fine. I cancelled his invitation and resent the invitation to him to try again. He still has not gotten that invitation email to accept the supervision contract. Is there something else that I need to do to make sure he gets the invitation to accept the supervision contract? I want to make sure I have everything in before the next board meeting in order to get everything approved.

Thank you so much for your help.

Erica Berkowitz

From: Social Work <socialwork@lbbse.org>

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2012 7:31 AM

To: Berkowitz, Erica B <berkowitz@lbbse.org>

Subject: Answering reply: Supervision Contract Questions

External Content: Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Thank you for your email. Please allow 72 hours for a response.
Sincerely,

LA State Board of Social Work Examiners

Type here to search

Re: Supervision contract technical help - Berkowitz, Erica B Outlook - Google Chrome

Outlook

Delete Archive Reply Reply all Forward Zoom Read/Unread Categorize Flag/Unflag Print

Re: Supervision contract technical help

Boss,

Erica Margamed

(866) 907-4083

support@certemy.com

www.certemy.com

On Tue, Mar 13, 2012 at 4:41 PM, Erica B Berkowitz <berkowitz@lbbse.org> wrote:
Dear Conting technical help desk

My name is Erica Berkowitz and I am currently an LMSW working on my supervision contract to submit to the board. I added my secondary supervision to the second contract but he is not getting the notice or invitation to accept the acknowledgement of letter form. He was able to accept and complete the employment verification with no problems. I cancelled and resent his invitation for the supervision contract acknowledgement statement but he is not receiving the invitation and I want to make sure that he is able to accept that before the due date for the next board meeting. Let me know if there is any way to fix this.

Thank you

Erica Berkowitz

Reply Forward

Type here to search

Re: Supervision contract technical help - Berkowitz, Erica B. Outlook - Google Chrome

about:blank

Delete Archive Report Reply Reply all Forward Zoom Read / Unread Categorize Flag / Unflag Print

Re: Supervision contract technical help

From: Erica Manganello <emanganello@certemy.com>

Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 7:23 AM

To: Berkowitz, Erica B. <berkowitz@labswi.com>

Subject: Re: Supervision contract technical help

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Good Afternoon Erica

Thank you for contacting Certemy!

Are you referring to the Employment Verification for Banta Gross?

Best,

Erica Manganello

(866) 907-4088

support@certemy.com

www.certemy.com

Type here to search

Re: Supervision contract technical help - Berkowitz, Erica B. Outlook - Google Chrome

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Delete Archive Report Reply Reply all Forward Zoom Read / Unread Categorize Flag / Unflag Print

Re: Supervision contract technical help

I see what you are saying. Banta Gross will receive the email invite only after your primary supervisor completes the form.

Best,

Erica Manganello

(866) 907-4088

support@certemy.com

www.certemy.com

On Fri Mar 18, 2022 at 3:58 PM, Erica B. Berkowitz <berkowitz@labswi.com> wrote:

Hi Erica

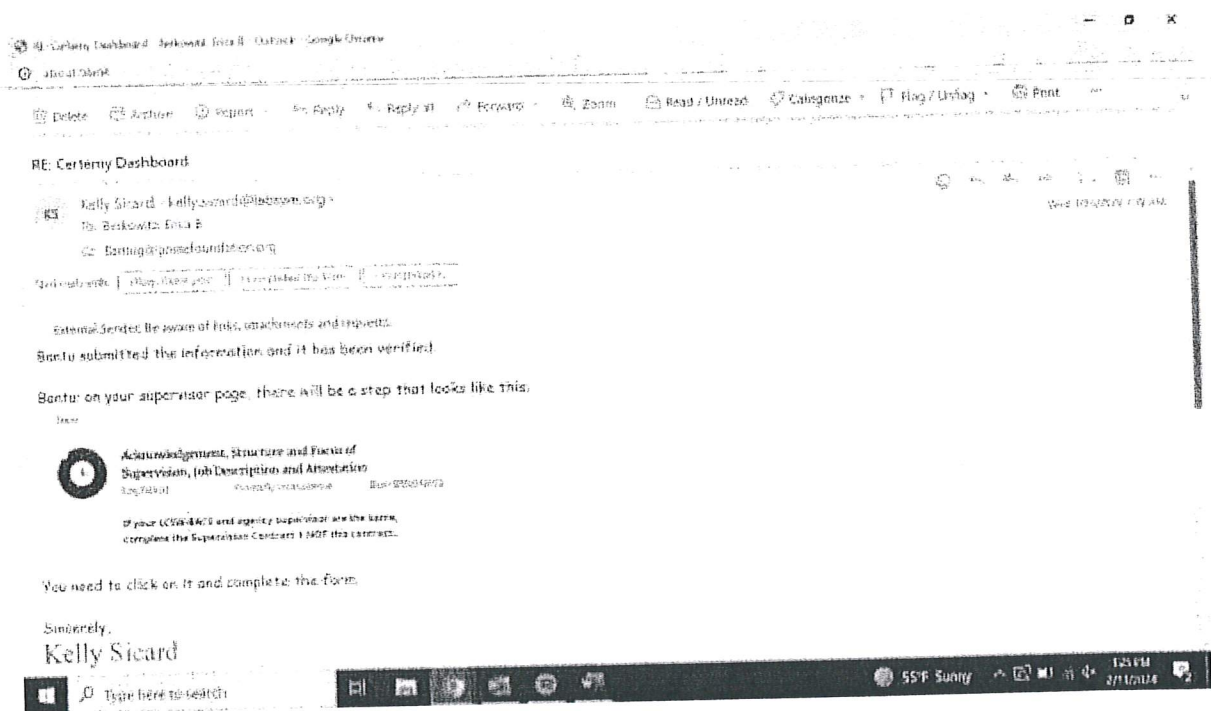
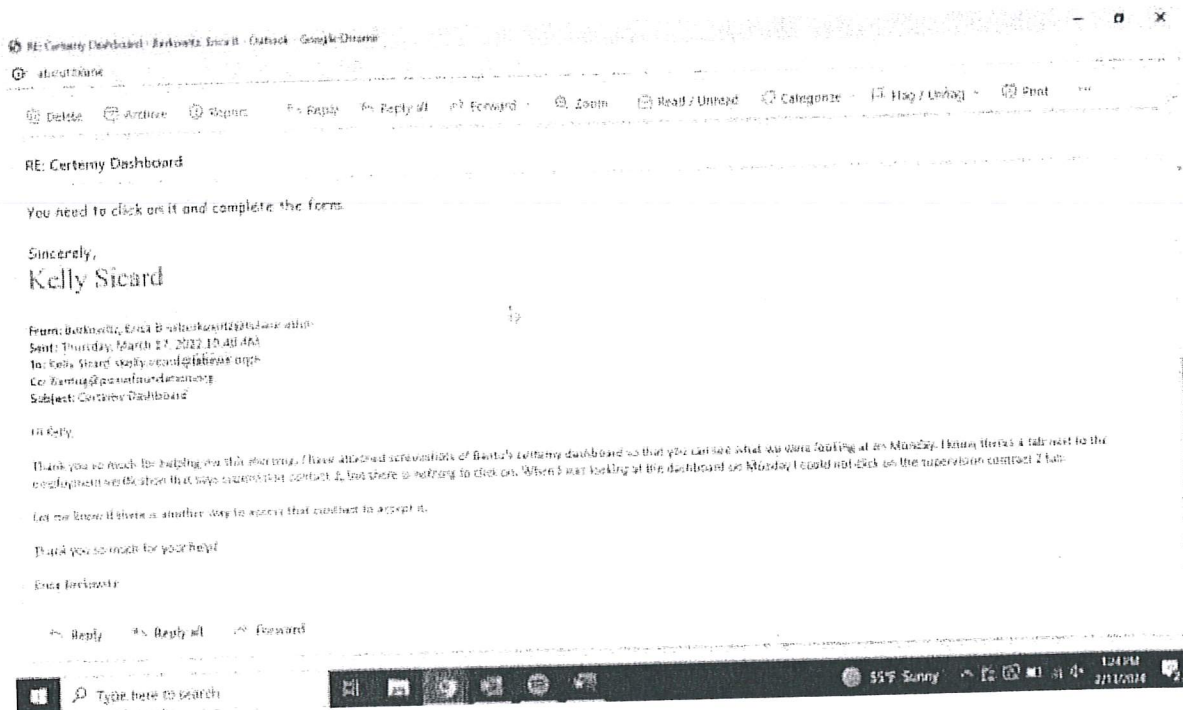
for the supervision contract 2 for users who are pursuing supervision outside of their agency. The employment verification went through with Banta Gross just fine. However, he is not able to accept his invitation for the secondary approval of the acknowledgement form. He never received the email to accept the form, which I have sent twice. I even looked at his certemy dashboard and he has a tab for the supervision contract two, but there is nothing to click on (screenshot attached). I tried to click on the supervision contract tab while on his page and it did not work. I spoke with Kelly Howard from LABSWI over the phone yesterday and she also thought it was strange that he could not access the supervision contract form and that he was not receiving the emails for that form.

Thank you!

Erica Berkowitz

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55°F Sunny 11:10 PM 3/18/2024



Thank you so much for taking the time to read through this letter. I hope that the 65 hours of supervision that I completed between March 2022 and June 2023 can be counted towards my licensure hours. With the inclusion of those hours, I will be at 96 hours on March 6th 2024. I

have been studying diligently for my LCSW exam that I was planning to take this spring so that I can take the next steps in my career. It is my hope that the technical difficulties and the verbal confirmation we received in March 2022 will allow my hours since March 24th 2022 to be counted towards my licensure. If there are any questions or concerns after reading this letter, please contact me via email eberko12@yahoo.com or via cell-phone 7033718801.

Thank you for your understanding,

Erica Berkowitz

Erica Berkowitz, LMSW

February 22, 2024

Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners:

I am writing to express my support for Erica Berkowitz, LMSW (License # 16978) and request that all supervision hours documented in Certemy be approved as completed hours. I began providing clinical supervision to Erica on March 24, 2022. Throughout my supervision of her social work practice, I have observed her professionalism and valuable contributions to her organization and team. She has demonstrated a strong attention to details, willingness to learn, and a proactive approach to challenges. She has maintained a positive attitude and is an asset to the social work profession.

Understanding that LABSWE did not receive her supervision contract until August 2023, far after the first 60 days of beginning supervision, I ask that Erica's efforts to problem-solve and work through technical difficulties with the Certemy platform be received as a learning experience for her.

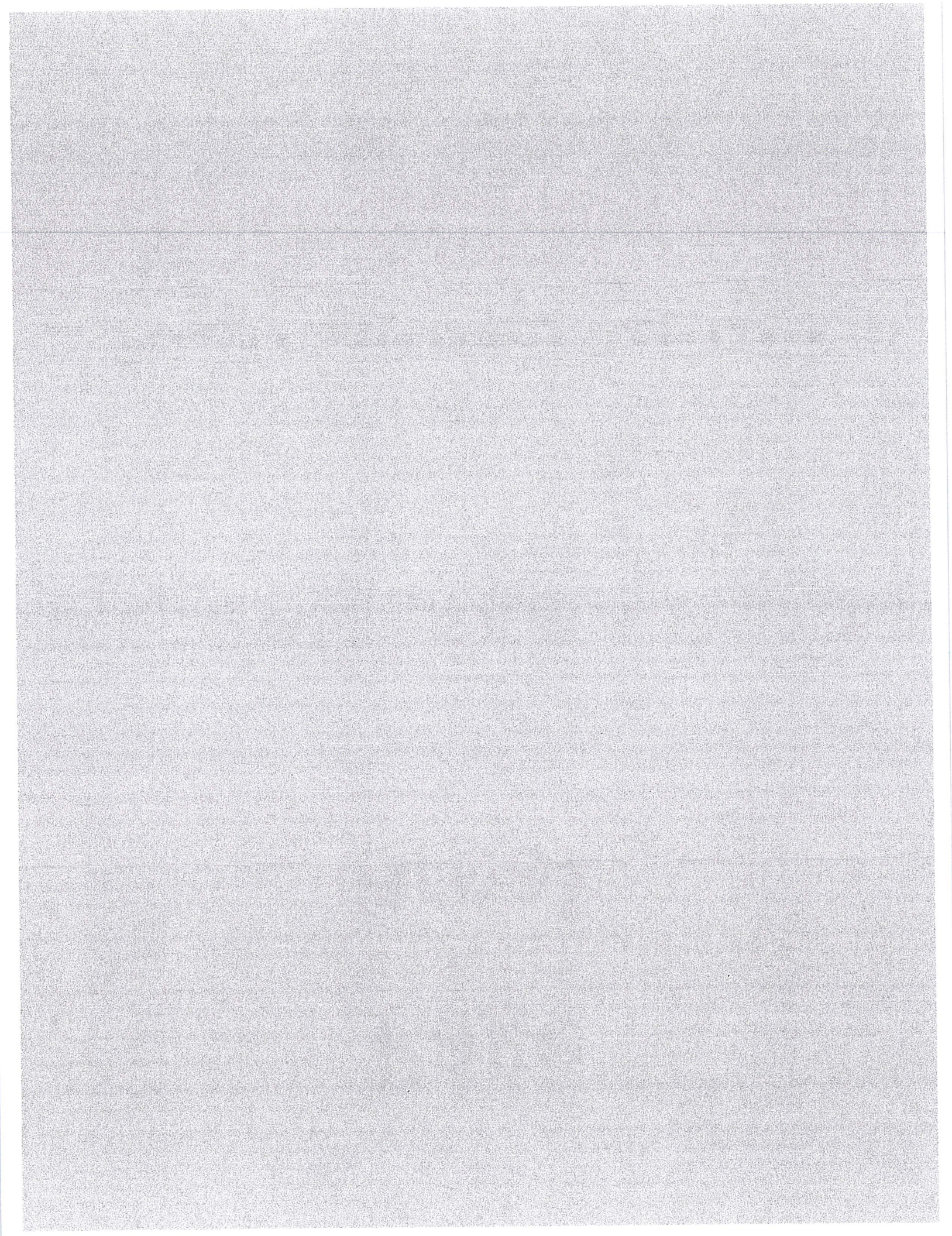
Additionally, I ask that the board acknowledges this as a misunderstanding of the correct email address in use. I have 2 email addresses that were involved here. Mylisha78@aol.com is the email account connected to my Certemy account and all other LABSWE communication. Mslewis708@gmail.com is another email account that I use for communication with Erica, planning, scheduling, and sharing resources related to supervision. I never received the original invitation to sign the supervision contract in Certemy in March 2022 because mslewis708@gmail.com is not connected to my Certemy account. In May 2023, near the 1 year of supervision mark, I conducted a review of Erica's record of supervision. It was then that I discovered the supervision contract was missing and I never received an invitation to sign it. I immediately contacted Erica to discuss my observation, we discovered the issue occurred due to using the incorrect email address, and she took corrective action the same day, sending the supervision contract invitation to mylisha78@aol.com. In March 2022, I spoke with a representative at the LABSWE office to get assistance with navigating Certemy within my clinical supervisor's profile, and was informed that I could continue with providing supervision. I never received a prompt, warning, or red flag in my Certemy supervisor's profile that any documentation was missing or past due. Again, I discovered this on my own after doing a "soft audit" of Erica's record of supervision near the 1-year mark.

When reviewing her case at the next board meeting on March 8, 2024, I request that her exemplary professional record be taken into consideration, and understanding that this was an issue of technical difficulty resulting from a "mix up" of email addresses. You will find in Certemy that all of her supervision hours have been documented on the same day of delivery and completed in accordance to the guidelines of LABSWE. I kindly request that all of her supervision hours, beginning March 24, 2022, be approved by LABSWE. Erica is near the end of her clinical supervision journey, approaching 96 completed hours. She has been studying to prepare for the LCSW exam, which she plans to take in the spring.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me. I am happy to assist.

Respectfully,

Mylischa Smith-Lewis, DSW, LCSW-BACS
License # 7502



Gabrielle Hahnebohm

REC'D FEB 27 2024

Louisiana State Board of
Social Work Examiners
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
(225)756-3470, Option 4
Fax (225)756-3472
VIA EMAIL TO socialwork@labswe.org AND FAX TO 225-756-3472

February 26, 2024

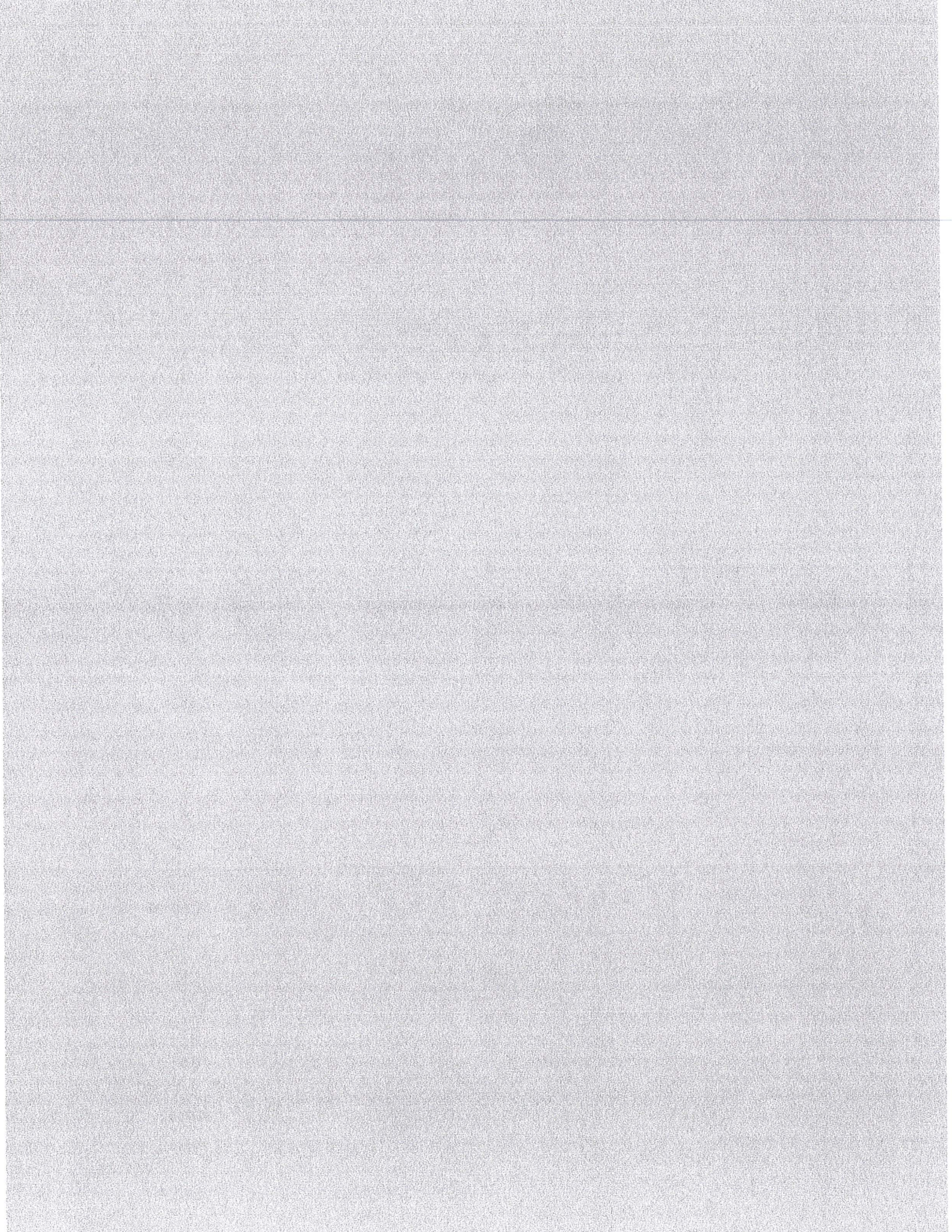
Re: Supervision

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to ask the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners to consider approving my current number of LCSW supervision hours with my BACS supervisor. Currently my hours stand at 67.99 hours completed with my BACS supervisor, Phil Castiglione, LCSW-BACS. I acknowledge that our supervision contract was not formally submitted on Certemy as is procedure, and I also acknowledge that my lack of awareness to submit it is not the fault of the board. I take responsibility for this; however, I would like to ask the board to consider approving my hours as my supervisor's notation of our sessions reflects the requirements outlined for supervision and that we did complete a paper learning plan at the start of my supervision, which was followed throughout. My supervision contract has now been submitted and approved, but I would like to be allowed approval of my hours due to the content being completed through the aforementioned methods even though the online contract had not been submitted.

I appreciate this consideration and your time.

Gabrielle Hahnebohm, LMSW



DCH

D E J I O N
C
H U G H E S

"BEING THE CHANGE, I WISH TO SEE"

February 2, 2024

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

Re: Dejon Hughes Supervision Contract #15978

Attention Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners:

I am writing this letter after receiving notice from LABSWE Analyst on February 01, 2024, that there was not a "supervision contract" on file via Certemy. On October 04, 2022, I passed my LMSW licensure exam and after obtaining my LMSW credentials immediately began BACS supervision. Upon beginning supervision, I began the LCSW application in which I invited my LCSW-BACS to approve and document our supervision hours. As of January 29, 2024, we have completed over 3/4 (78.75) of my supervision hours and as I prepared to submit my "early test" verification, was informed February 1, 2024, that the LCSW application/invite was not the appropriate documentation in which should have been submitted. I am asking the LABSWE board to please consider approving all my documented supervision hours. Furthermore, I am open to commenting during the March board meeting and providing further information! Please find attached the supporting documents.

With warm regards,



Dejon Hughes, MSW, LMSW

February 1, 2024

Attention: Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners

Re: Dejon Hughes, LA license #15978 Supervision Contract

Dear LABSWE,

As the LCSW-BACS for LMSW Dejon Hughes, I am writing this letter after receiving notice via email from the LABSWE Analyst on February 01, 2024 that there was not a "Supervision Contract" on file via Certemy.

On October 04, 2022, Dejon passed his LMSW licensure exam and after obtaining his LMSW credentials we immediately began BACS supervision on October 17, 2022. Please note that before our official start of BACS, Dejon was already participating in twice-monthly clinical supervision with me at the BRCAC, where I had been providing this service for the clinical staff since March 2022.

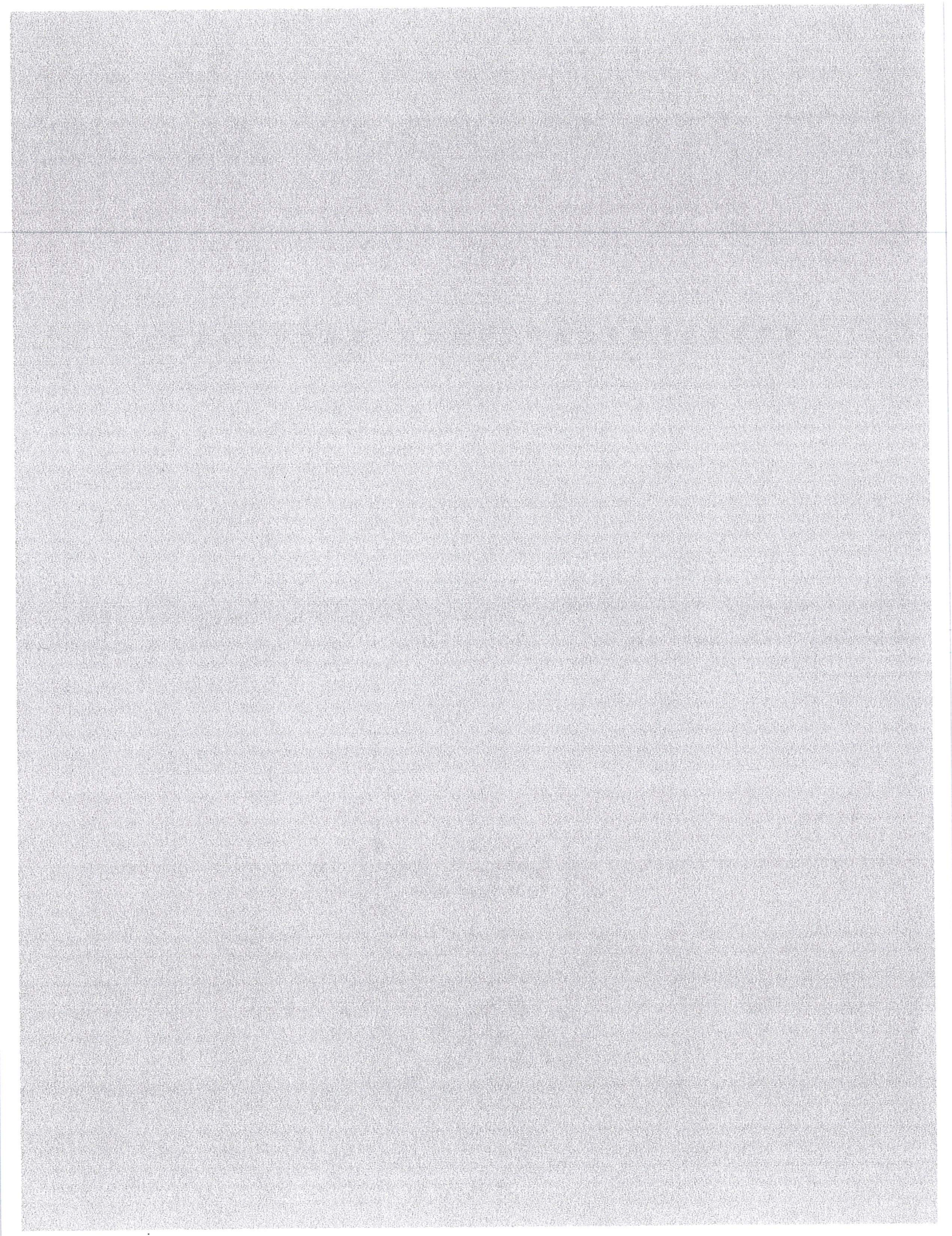
Upon beginning BACS supervision, Dejon began the LCSW application and invited me to approve and document our supervision hours. As of January 29, 2024, we have completed 76.75 of his supervision hours, and all of these hours have been consistently documented and submitted in a timely matter.

As Dejon prepared to submit his "early test" verification, he was notified on February 1, 2024, that the "Supervision Contract" was not showing on his record. This was an unusual oversight that neither of us recognized until receiving the email from the analyst. I think perhaps because we had been engaged in consistent onsite clinical supervision for so many months before starting the official BACS hours, we missed this step. We signed the contract today, as soon as we were informed it was missing. I am asking the LABSWE board to please approve all of his documented supervision hours to date. Dejon has proven to be a highly professional, valued, and respected social worker at the BRCAC. Dejon is open to commenting during the March board meeting and providing further information. My work schedule would make it challenging for me to attend as well, but will do so on his behalf if the Board requests it.

With warm regards,



Allyson Pardue, MSW, LCSW-BACS
Louisiana LCSW-BACS #8997



February 19, 2024

LABSWE

Attention: Sara Banks

18550 Highland Road, Suite B

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

RE: SUPERVISION

This letter is in response to an email received by Ms. Sara Banks, Licensing Analyst 1, regarding my submission of supervision. Ms. Banks indicated that per Certemy, my employer supervisor, Mrs. Borello-Monie, did not complete the "Employer Change" section correctly and/or fully. Apparently, Mrs. Borello-Monie, only accepted the "invite" but did not complete the rest of the information needed. Although it was an oversight, when brought to my attention, Mrs. Borello-Monie, my BACS supervisor, Rachel Swafford and I worked together to rectify the situation swiftly and correctly. It was an honest mistake that we were not aware of. I was under the impression all my information was submitted correctly and within the appropriate timeframe. The change in employer aspect of the supervision form was new to all three of us so, there was a learning curve on how to accurately complete it.

If possible, I would like the board to consider continuing to let all my supervision hours count so that I may move forward with testing. I've worked diligently for the past 2 years and would hate that a simple computer error would erase all my hard work. All my other Certemy supervision submissions were done correctly, fully completed, and timely. I hope the board will take this and all factors into consideration when making a determination.

Thank you advance,

Shondia Jackson, LMSW



February 19, 2024

LABSWE


Attention: Sara Banks
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Re: Shondia Jackson, LMSW, 12729

I am submitting this correspondence in support of Shondia Jackson. I am asking the social work board to count all of Shondia's submitted hours towards her clinical licensure. Although the sixty-day requirement was not met as it relates to changing employment, Shondia was never without a supervisor or without supervision as documented in Certemy.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me via email rachels@empoweringyousws.com or via phone 318-834-5454.

Respectfully submitted,


Rachel Swafford, LCSW-BACS

Empowering You Social Work Services, LLC

Email: _____

Phone: _____

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

February 16, 2024

LABSWE
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Re: Ms. Shondia Jackson, LMSW (#12729)

This correspondence is in reference to confirmation of an employment date for the above referenced LMSW.

Ms. Shondia Jackson began employment with Peoples Health/United Health Group on 7/11/2022 as a full-time social worker.

She works 40 hours per week.

When she was hired, she was supervised by a RN manager, Lashica Hilliard.

She has had a change in her EMPLOYMENT SUPERVISOR, not her employer, as of 12/18/2022 where she was placed under my employment supervision.

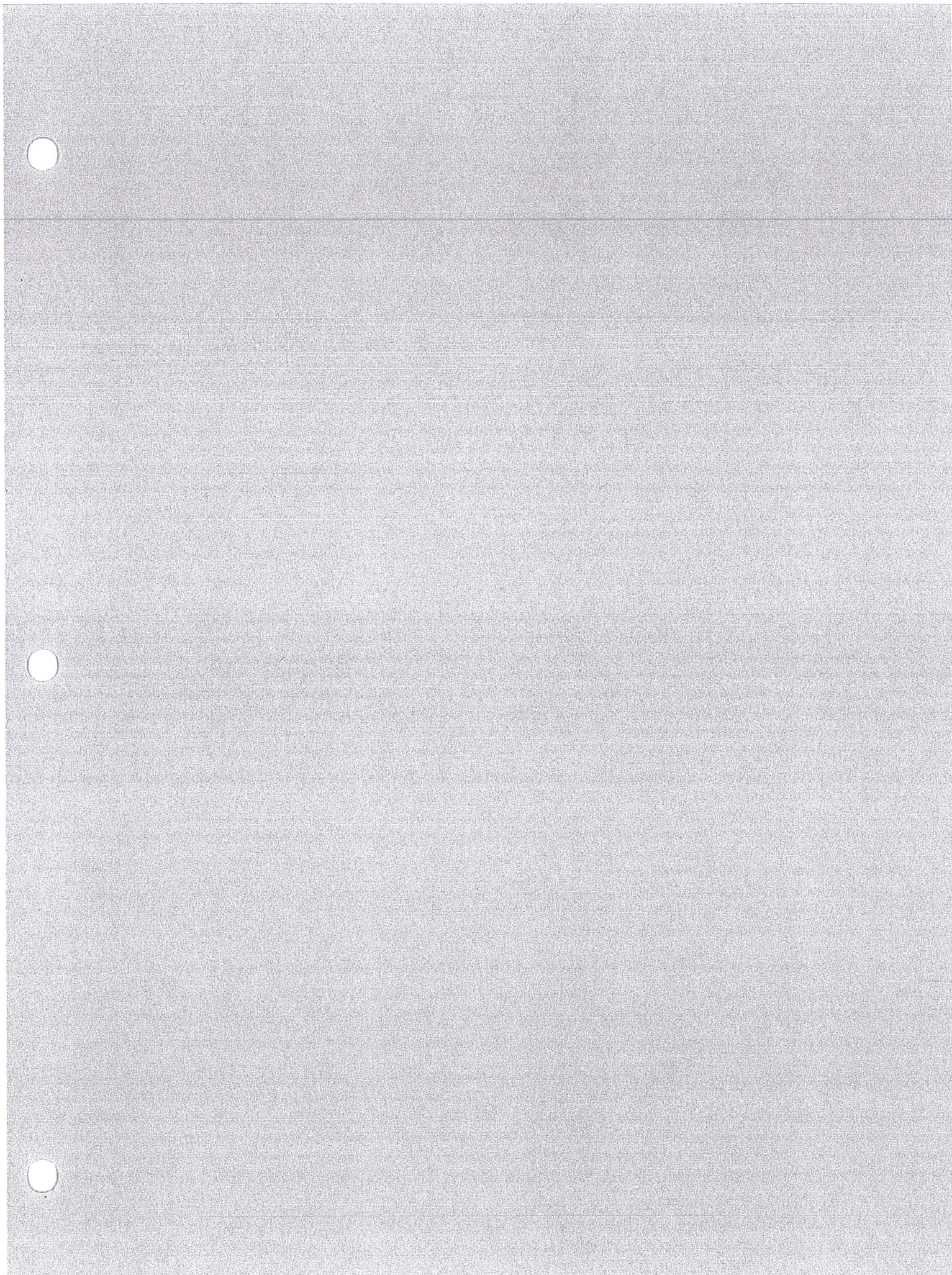
The employee asked me to complete an employment verification form for her LCSW Supervision on 1/10/2023 which was completed in certemy and submitted.

The employee is indicating today that her total hours worked in order to be eligible to sit for the LCSW exam were obtained prior to her employment with Peoples Health/United Health Group therefore this confirmation is simply of her employment beginning date with our organization and acknowledgement that she was under outside LCSW supervision during the time at which she began her employment with us.

Respectfully,

Patricia Borrello-Monie

Patricia Borrello-Monie, LCSW, BACS, MBA, ACM-SW, ACSW
Social Work Manager
United Health Group
(504) 849-4500
kokomonie@bellsouth.net



January 25, 2024

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

I am writing to request that the hours for my supervision start on the day that I initiated my contract, January 27, 2023. When I first began the process, I reached out to the board office to be sure I was following the right information. My first outreach was by phone and email. I reached out originally to determine what hours would count. I was informed that previous work would not but once I initiated the contract with my supervisor then that would start my clock hours. I invited my supervisor on January 27, 2023, the first time and after some back-and-forth emails with Certemy he was able to accept my invitation the second time which was sent on 1/30/2023. On February 16, 2023, I reached out to the board again to clarify that all steps were complete and whether a plan was required somewhere on Certemy. At that time, the response was the contract constituted the plan. With this information my supervisor and I moved forward with our meetings.

At this time, I still had concerns regarding how the clock hours would be tracked but when I looked at what was on Certemy for my credentials page the two items seemed to be tracking and when I clicked on the contract it did not show a place to invite my employer. I am not sure what the glitch was, but I reached out again in August of 2023 via email to find out how the hours tracked. At that time, I got no response from the board.

* The first week of January 2024 I started getting emails that my contract and supervision had dates that were about to expire and had unmet requirements. I immediately reached out via email and on January 5, 2024, I called the board at approximately 7:45 am. The lady that I spoke to told me that those dates were set by Certemy but had no significance because the contract/supervision took a minimum of two years.

On January 22, 2024, I received an email from Ms. Banks stating that there was a missed step in my contract. My job verification was not completed. At this time when I checked Certemy there was the opportunity to invite our personnel person to complete her portion. I immediately reached out to her, and she contacted me the very next day on January 23, 2024, and completed her portion.

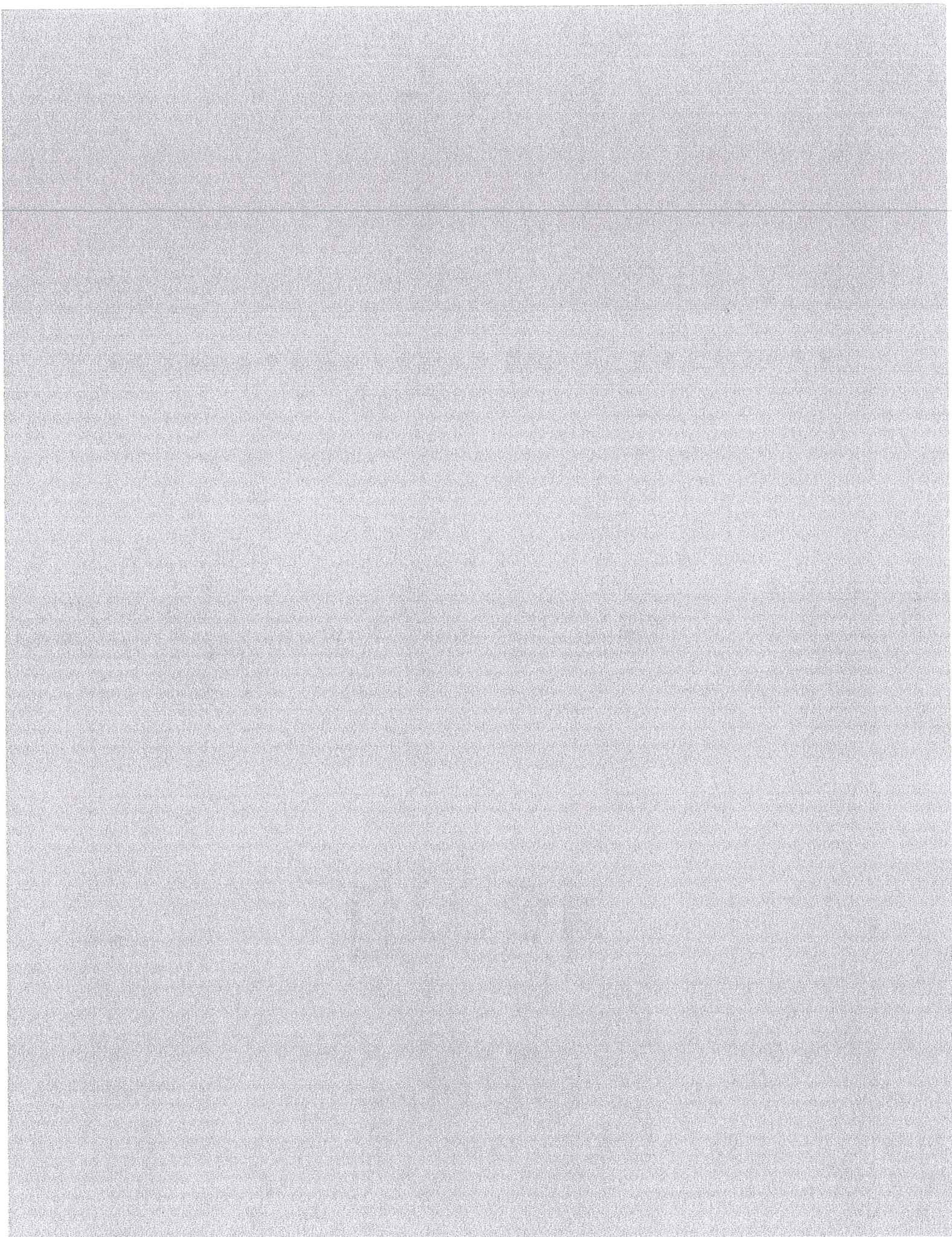
The Certemy process has been overly complicated as there are two separate entries regarding my supervision. Every time I clicked on the employment section of my supervision it had statements that the hours were not verified until after my supervisory 96 hours were completed.

Please allow my clock hours with the Calcasieu Parish School Board where I have worked since August 1, 2022, to count starting on my contract date of 1/27/23. I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and hope that I can continue working toward my goal of being an LCSW some time in the next year

Sincerely,

Ramona Johnston, LMSW

april 2024



February 29, 2024

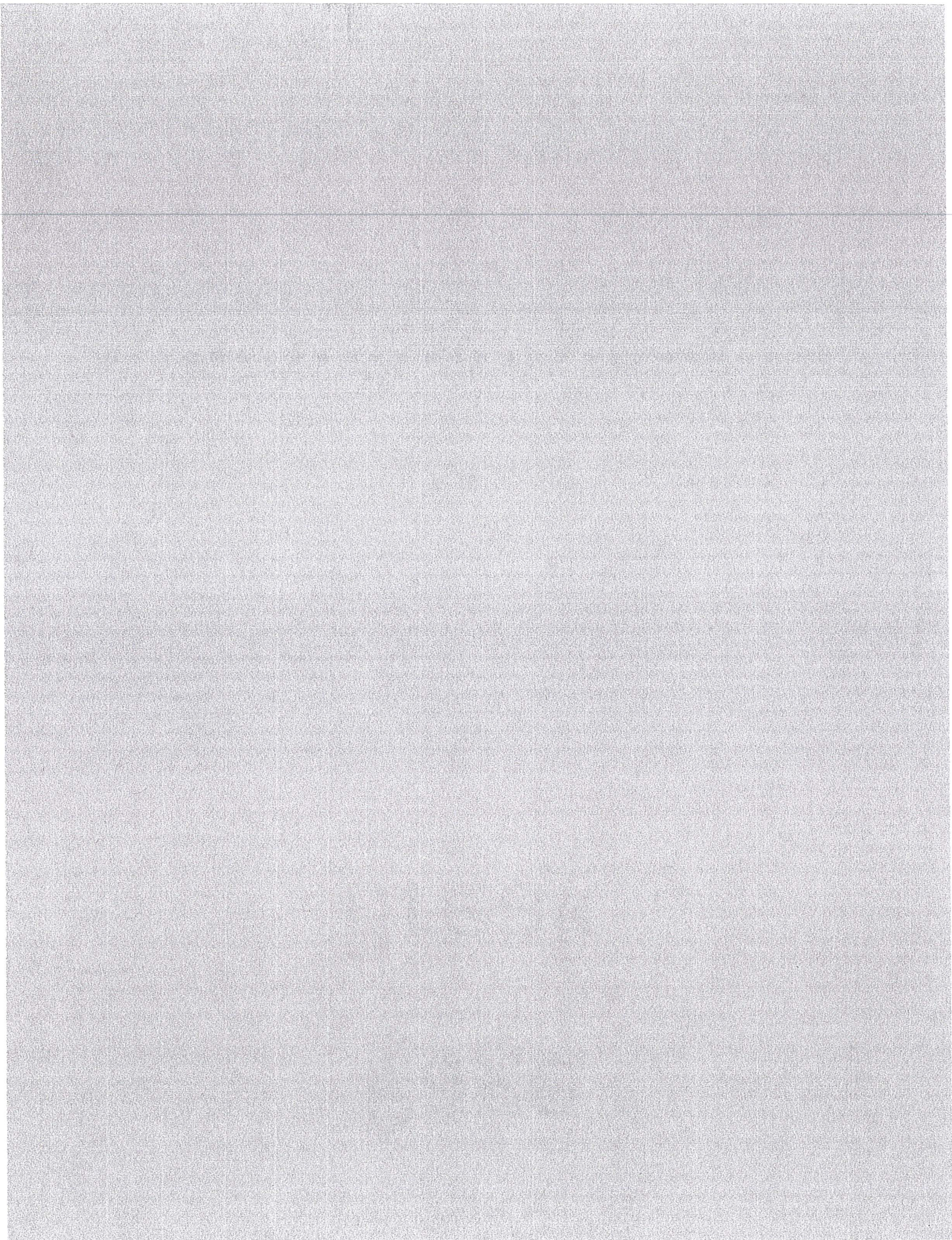
To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to the board to request that any documented supervisory hours from October 13, 2023- November 9, 2023 be included with my total supervision time completed. Initially, I did not know which contract to submit, contract 1 or 2. After calling and getting clarification, I was able to submit contract 2. When I submitted my contract to my supervisor's email, the acceptance email was connected to the name Gabrielle Fischler. My supervisor's name is Michael Benjamin-Robinson. I called to see why a different name was showing up. I had to wait for Certemy to contact me. We cleared that issue up by sending the contract to a second email that was connected to Michael Benjamin-Robinson. After my supervisor finally was able to accept the contract, I had to get my employing supervisor to complete her part of the contract. The link would not work for her. I had to resend the link to her a few times before it worked. Once completed, I had to get HR to verify my work hours. HR refused to verify my work hours electronically due to safety concerns with using the Certemy platform and having to make an account. I work for a school system, and they are very cautious due to internet hacking. I requested a paper copy of the verification paperwork but was told that it is no longer allowed. Everything has to be electronic. My employing supervisor had to get permission to make an exception and verify my employment due to HR's refusal. All of these pieces took much longer than the 60 days allocated after the first supervisory session. I am asking that you please take into consideration all of the extra time needed to get all of the pieces of the contract submitted and approved. Thank you for your time.

With regards,

Jamie Mason

LMSW License #12307



Lauren Michel • 103 Chemet Road, Youngsville, LA, 70592 • 318.305.8077 • lmichel001@gmail.com

February 7, 2024

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

Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners,

I am writing in reference to my LCSW supervision contracts.

I am requesting approval for supervision hours completed with Heather Prejean, LCSW-BACS (license number 7244) from the dates of 07/25/2022 through 01/05/2023 which should have been logged under an update to an initial supervision contract (contract type 2) and supervision hours completed from the dates of 01/08/2023 to 02/01/2024 which should have also been logged under an update to an initial supervision contract (contract type 1). I ended employment with St. Joseph Hospice and contacted the board for direction on how to update my supervision contract on certemy and was told I could not update my contract until St. Joseph Hospice completed employment verification and entered my hours worked within certemy. I have not been able to have St. Joseph Hospice complete the online process. Therefore, I provided Ms. Sara Banks with the paper forms to obtain credit for the hours worked. I was notified at that time (01/29/2024) that the process for documenting supervision had been completed incorrectly. Ms. Banks informed me I needed to have completed a contract update at the time of employment change, and the information provided to me by Kelly Sicard was incorrect. Ms. Sicard was the individual that initially told me I could not update the contract until hours were logged. (Please see the attached email for documentation of my correspondence with Ms. Sicard.) I am requesting my supervision hours to be credited as I was misdirected by a board employee when attempting to complete a contract update within the board's mandated 60-day timeframe. My supervisor and I even spoke with Ms. Sicard by phone to confirm I understood her written correspondence of being unable to update the contract until hours were logged.

Please see the attached timeline for quick reference. If the board has any questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I greatly appreciate the consideration of my request.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Michel, LMSW, ACHP-SW

License Number 14090

Lauren Michel

From: Lauren Michel <lmichel001@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 12:10 PM
To: Lauren Michel
Subject: Fwd: FW: Supervision

From: Kelly Sicard <kelly.sicard@labswe.org>
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 at 2:59 PM
Subject: FW: Supervision
To: Lauren Michel <lmichel001@gmail.com>

Lauren,

You cannot complete the updates until your previous employer verifies hours. St. Joseph MUST verify the information before a new contract can be added.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lauren Michel <lmichel001@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 7, 2022 3:28 PM
To: Social Work <socialwork@labswe.org>
Subject: Supervision

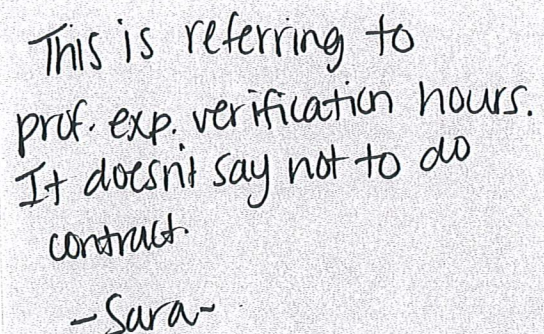
Hi,

I ended employment with a hospice company and will begin with a new company shortly. My supervisor and I are requesting direction on updating the supervision contract. What are the next steps I need to take? Do I need a new contract?

I appreciate your time! Thank you.

Lauren Michel, LMSW

Sent from my iPhone



This is referring to
prof. exp. verification hours.
It doesn't say not to do
contract.
-Sara-

Lauren Michel • 103 Chemet Road, Youngsville, LA, 70592 • 318.305.8077 • lmicel001@gmail.com

February 7, 2024

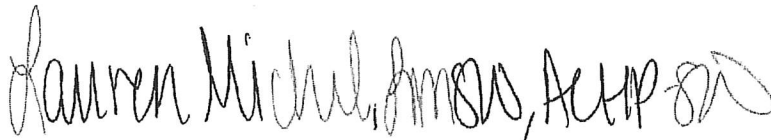
Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners
18550 Highland Road, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA, 70809

Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners,

Please review the following timeline for reference.

1. April 28, 2022: Initial LCSW supervision contract submitted with St. Joseph Hospice listed as the supervisee's employer.
2. July 7, 2022: Email to Kelly Sicard about LCSW supervision contract update due to upcoming employment change.
3. July 11, 2022: Phone call to Kelly Sicard with Heather Prejean (LCSW supervisor) to confirm a contract update could not be completed until St. Joseph Hospice completed verification of hours in certemy.
4. July 25, 2022: Start of employment with Traditions Health Hospice (contract type 2 update needed).
5. August 1, 2022: First request to St. Joseph Hospice to complete hours verification on certemy.
6. November 11, 2022: Second request to St. Joseph Hospice to complete hours verification on certemy.
7. January 9, 2023: Start of employment with Hospice of Acadiana (contract type 1 update needed).
8. January 29, 2024: Ms. Banks provides education on the correct process and needed updates.
9. January 29, 2024: Initiation of corrections began.

Respectfully,



Lauren Michel, LMSW, ACHP-SW

License Number 14090



February 23, 2024

Re: Supervision Contract
Supervisee, Lauren Michel #14090
Supervisor, Heather Prejean #7244

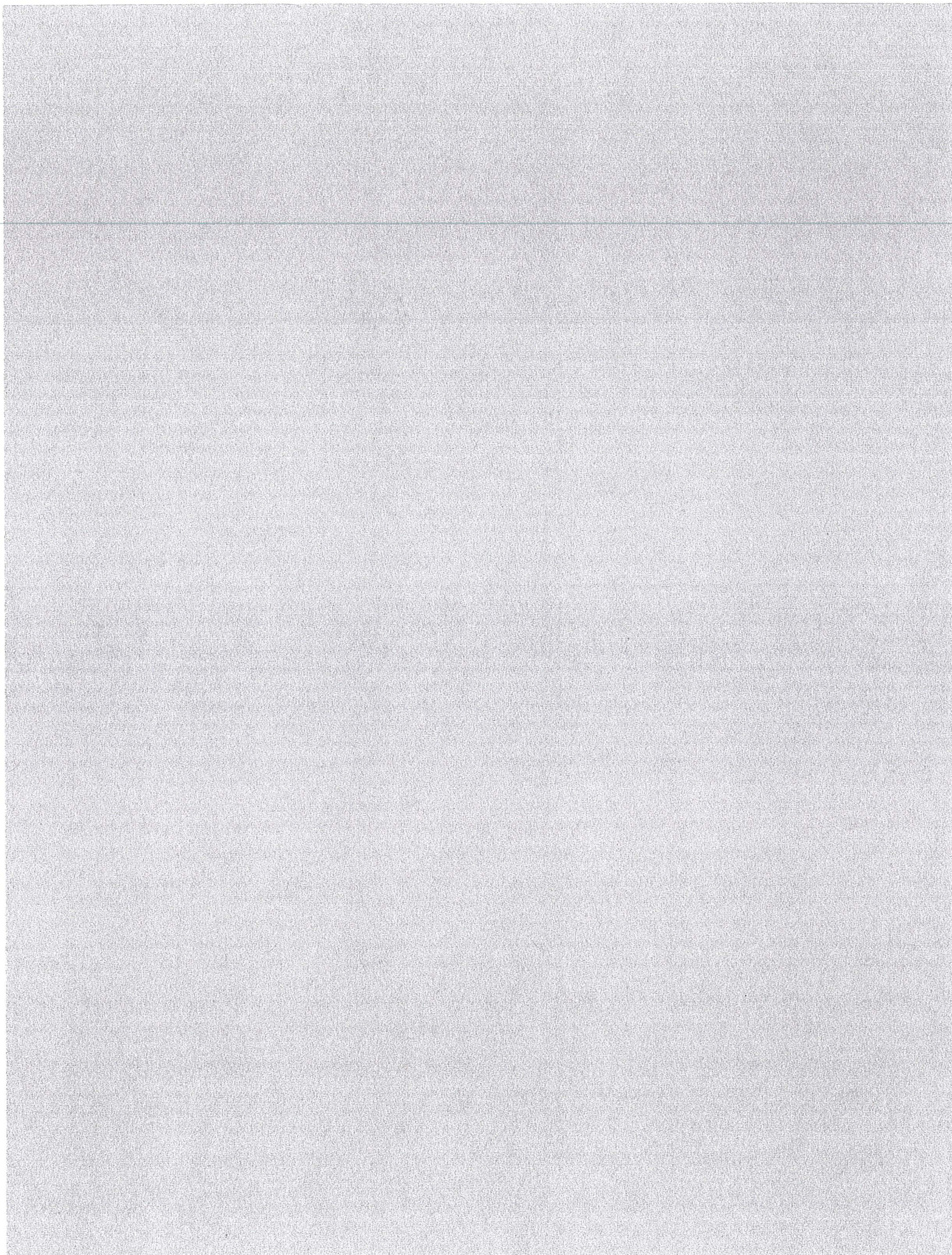
Dear LABSWE,

I am writing to review and confirm that Ms. Michel, a current supervisee of mine, had a change of employment during our supervision. She contacted the board, by email, on July 7th, 2022 regarding her change of employment while in supervision, and asked for guidance on what she needed to complete upon this change. Ms. Sicard provided an answer, stating Ms. Michel did not have to update the contract until her original employer confirmed her work hours in Certemy. As follow up to the email, during a supervision session on July 11th, 2022, the supervisee and myself, called the LABSWE office and spoke to Ms. Sicard, to again confirm that the recommendation she sent via email was the same. Her answer remained the same, that no change for the supervision contract was necessary until her previous employer confirmed her work hours in Certemy. Ms. Michel is providing a copy of the initial email correspondence with Ms. Sicard. I am requesting that Ms. Michel's supervision hours remain credited to her despite not updating the supervision contract.

Sincerely,



Heather Prejean, LCSW-BACS



To whom it may concern,

My name is Kellie Pebbles and I am writing in regard to my supervision hours from the dates of 5/16/22-7/24/23. I am respectfully requesting that these supervision hours be considered at the next board meeting to count towards my LCSW application. I have had a significant amount of difficulty navigating Certemy, which is the reason some issues have come up regarding getting my hours submitted properly. Certemy has been extremely difficult to navigate and is not user friendly.

Since I began supervision, I have grown professionally in many ways with the help of my supervisors. I started working at Beacon Behavioral Hospital in April of 2021, and quickly learned this was not the area of social work meant for me. I stayed with this job until I was no longer able to due to it significantly affecting my mental health. I began working at the Methodist Children's Home in May of 2022, and this job has given me the sense of fulfillment I had been looking for. Through this job I have gained better time management skills and been able to combat burnout.

-Kellie Pebbles, LMSW

wants both
letters included

To whom it may concern,

In the initial letter I wrote to the board, I failed to mention that I am also requesting that the hours I was employed at Beacon Behavioral Hospital also be considered towards my LCSW application. At that time, I was of the understanding that because I had uploaded the paper documentation to my digital wallet, those hours had already been considered and approved. I was employed with Beacon Behavioral Hospital from April of 2021 through February of 2022. I sincerely feel that social workers would benefit greatly from a training on how to navigate Certemy's website, specifically as it relates to applying for the LCSW exam. Both my BACS and I have found Certemy to be very difficult to navigate. The transition from using paper documentation to then being required to transfer those hours to Certemy has also been challenging. I can be reached at 318-787-8037 if any other information is needed from me.

-Kellie Pebbles, LMSW

REC'D FEB 05 2024

11/24/23

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been Kellie Pebbles BACS supervisor throughout the two year process. I ask the hours for supervision be considered for acceptance. She has grown immensely in her personal and professional growth as a Social Worker. She has gained skills she has utilized with her clients.

While Certemy has been challenging, we have navigated a program through a transition period between paper and electronic. In addition, when she changed jobs we were learning how to navigate the change through Certemy.

I am honored to have been her BACS supervisor.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rachel Rhodes, LCSW-BACS