

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
March 21, 2025**

Hyacinth McKee, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:34a.m. on Friday, March 21, 2025. The meeting was conducted at the Board office and streamed via video conference, and all interested parties were provided with the information to join the meeting.

Bora Sunseri conducted a roll call. Board members present during the roll call included Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS, Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS, Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS, Trinity George, RSW, and Melissa Haley, LMSW. Sheri Morris, Legal Counsel, and Emily DeAngelo, Administrator, were also present at the meeting.

Newly appointed consumer member Jamar Ennis, Esq., was unable to attend.

Dr. Hyacinth McKee thanked Evan Bergeron, Esq., for his seven years of service as the Consumer Member of the board.

Public Comments

Public comment made by Gina Rossi regarding Evan Bergeron's service and Ryan Averitt's supervision.

Agenda

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to adopt the agenda with the following amendments: remove item 4(B) rehearing in the matter of Jessica Shelton and defer item 4(F) 2025-47 to the April meeting.

Minutes

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the meeting held February 7, 2025.

Rehearing- Ryan Averitt, LMSW

A rehearing was conducted at the request of Ryan Averitt to appeal the board's decision to deny his supervision completed with Mark Neinaber, LCSW-BACS, for the period of June 1, 2022 through September 24, 2024. The hearing was held before the board members that were present at the meeting. Ryan Averitt participated via zoom.

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Melissa Haley and carried by majority vote to uphold the original motion to deny supervision completed with Mark Neinaber, LCSW-BACS, for the period of June 1, 2022 through September 24, 2024. Bora Sunseri and Trinity George objected to the motion.

Public comments were made by the following: Lisa Goings, Yolanda Adams, Noelle Deltufo, Tiawana Thomas Jordan, Mechelle Smith, Jodi Mallett, Lisa LaRochelle, Kellie Henry, Eva Pesta, Rachel Lang, Jan Whitaker-Gatewood, Monique Mitchell, Suzanne Hamilton, Sarah Vollandine, Brian Larce, Amanda Fuselier, and Shelly Weaver.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to file a complaint against Mark Neinaber, LCSW-BACS.

Public comments were made by Yolanda Adams and Lisa Goings.

Executive Session

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 10:28 a.m.

to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person, provided that such person is notified in writing at least twenty-four hours before the meeting, and/or to discuss prospective litigation.

Votes for going into Executive Session: Bora Sunseri, yes; Jamie Barney, yes; Hyacinth McKee, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; and Trinity George, yes.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 1:01 p.m.

Votes for coming out of Executive Session: Melissa Haley, yes; Jamie Barney, yes; Bora Sunseri, yes; Hyacinth McKee, yes; and Trinity George, yes.

Presentation of Consent Agreement and Orders

In the matter of Marlon Washington, LMSW, File #2024-12

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agreement and Order for Marlon Washington.

In the matter of Alicia Norris, LCSW, File# 2024-53

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agreement and Order for Alicia Norris.

In the matter of Ciera Harrell, RSW, File#2023-121 and 2025-71

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to approve the Voluntary Surrender Agreement for Ciera Harrell.

Impaired Professional Program

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to accept the monthly report submitted by Kathie Pohlman, IPP Manager.

Disciplinary Monitoring

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to release three individuals from their Consent Agreement and Order for successfully completing all terms.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to go into Executive Session at 1:21 p.m.

to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person, provided that such person is notified in writing at least twenty-four hours before the meeting, and/or to discuss prospective litigation.

Votes for going into Executive Session: Bora Sunseri, yes; Jamie Barney, yes; Hyacinth McKee, yes; Melissa Haley, yes; and Trinity George, yes.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to come out of Executive Session at 2:33 p.m.

Votes for coming out of Executive Session: Melissa Haley, yes; Jamie Barney, yes; Bora Sunseri, yes; Hyacinth McKee, yes; and Trinity George, yes.

Compliance Hearings

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Karely Poche to appeal the board's decision to deny her supervision completed with Rebecca Brown, LCSW-BACS, for the period of December 9, 2022 through May 20, 2024. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Jamie Barney, and Trinity George. Karely Poche participated via zoom.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to approve 54 hours of supervision completed from December 9, 2022 through May 20, 2024 with Rebecca Brown, LCSW-BACS.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Piper Dixon to appeal the board's decision to deny her request for approval to continue remote supervision with Jackie Kellett, LCSW-BACS due to hardship. The hearing panel included Hyacinth McKee, Jamie Barney and Trinity George. Piper Dixon and Jackie Kellett participated via zoom.

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision with Jackie Kellett, LCSW-BACS, under the current contract. Melissa Haley was recused from the discussion and vote.

A compliance hearing was conducted at the request of Rynika Polk to appeal the board's decision to deny her supervision completed with Tynese Breaux, LCSW-BACS, for the period of August 29, 2023 through July 25, 2024. The hearing panel included Melissa Haley, Jamie Barney, and Trinity George. Rynika Polk and Tynese Breaux participated via zoom.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to approve the 33 hours of supervision completed from August 29, 2023 through July 25, 2024 with Tynese Breaux, LCSW-BACS.

Complaints

- i. **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2020-62 with a letter of education. The motion was unanimously carried.
- ii. **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney and seconded by Trinity George to defer Complaint #2021-80 because respondent is not currently licensed. The motion was unanimously carried.
- iii. **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint #2022-20. The motion was unanimously carried.
- iv. **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney and seconded Bora Sunseri to refer Complaint #2023-129 to the complaint counsel. The motion was unanimously carried.
- v. **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Melissa Haley to defer Complaint #2025-10. The motion was unanimously carried.
- vi. **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Jamie Barney to refer the respondent in the matter of Complaint# 2025-21 to the IPP for an evaluation. The motion was unanimously carried.
- vii. Complaint# 2025-47 was deferred by motion when considering the agenda.
- viii. **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint# 2025-68. The motion was unanimously carried.
- ix. **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri and seconded by Trinity George to dismiss Complaint# 2025-85. The motion was unanimously carried.

- x. **Motion** was made by Trinity George and seconded by Jamie Barney to dismiss Complaint# 2025-97. The motion was unanimously carried.

Applications

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW Endorsement application for Holly Ritchey and offer a compliance hearing. She is also offered certification as a Certified Social Worker and approval to sit for the ASWB Masters exam.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW Endorsement application for Markeisha Stewart and offer a compliance hearing. She is also offered certification as a Certified Social Worker and approval to sit for the ASWB Masters exam.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to deny the LMSW Endorsement application for Renee Sturn and offer a compliance hearing. She is also offered certification as a Certified Social Worker and approval to sit for the ASWB Masters exam.

Motion was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to deny the RSW application for Dashun Island and offer a compliance hearing.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following applications for Registered Social Work.

Christmas, Shakendra
Dejean, Kennedy
Edgerson, Dalashia
Harris, Chazmyn
James-Jones, Erica
Kuhn, James
Marcel, Iyana
Mattire, Bridget Trufant
Mouton, Brooke
Pinkston, Robin
Ragan, Vanessa
Taylor, Isis
Turnage, Brittney

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following applications for reinstatement for Registered Social Work.

Hamilton-Williams, Shurvella
Johnson, Tiffany

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following applications for Licensed Master's Social Work, issue Certified Social Work credential and approval to take the ASWB Masters exam.

Alexander, Elvilin
Alvarado, Kassandra
Black, Joseph (early test approval)
Bonnette, Rebel (early test approval)
Brailsford, Steven (early test approval)

Branch, Claire (early test approval)
Browning, Whitney
Butler, Bransley (early test approval)
Clay, Felica (early test approval)
Colbert, Nadiya (early test approval)
Deroche, Lisa
Guillaumin, Ashlyn (early test approval)
Hampton, Ife
Harris-Semiene, Tanna
Ibeh, Carlina
Johnson, Lillie
Jones, Alexandra
Kahanek, Kristen
Kean, Leigh
Kilpatrick, Kathryn
Lair, Eric (early test approval)
Lewis, Tiffany
Martin, Sierra (early test approval)
Mata, Angela
McCall, Shamatt (early test approval)
Mearidy, Tra-Destiny
Paulding, Matthew
Ronsonet, Rory (early test approval)
Ross, Christohnya
Roussel, Lacey
Siravo, Elizabeth (early test approval)
Vaughn, Toni
Washington, Shaletta
White, Rachel
Whitley, Andrea

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following Reinstatement applications for Licensed Master's Social Work.

Asai, Kanako
Julian, Antimedora

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following Endorsement applications for Licensed Master's Social Work.

Arreguin, Linda
Bresee, Sarah
Coons, Nicole
Finnegan, Conor
Guzman, Isabel
Haddox, Andrea
Havens-Morris, Clarissa
Richiez, Rosemary
Watson, Melanie

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following applicants to sit for the ASWB Clinical Exam.

Alexander, Kylie (early test approval)

Atwood, Stephanie
Barrow, Angelique (early test approval)
Boeding, Caitlyn (early test approval)
Bonvillain, Alaina
Breau, Mary-Kate Merchant
Burr, Hosanna
Caminita, Audrey (early test approval)
Critelli-Odonnell, Anthony
Eakin, Alexandra
Edwards, Kendra
Ellis, LaShanda (early test approval)
Field, Pamela (early test approval)
Goldman, Rachel
Howell, Christina
Huber, Andrea (early test approval)
Lancon, Sydney
Lewis, Shevonte (early test approval)
Martello, Emma (early test approval)
Mathews, Kristen
McLurkin, Caitlin
Mendoza, Ashley
Phillips, Veronica
Pulda, Molly
Riley, Kelanda
Schneider, Jillian (early test approval)
Schultz, Victoria (early test approval)
Smart, Geoi
Spears, Tanquetra
Vanek, Rachel
Warren, Kaye
Westerman, Alexis
Wilkins, Alyssa
Williams, Sheba (early test approval)

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following Reinstatement applicants for issuance of the LCSW.

Balhoff, Amanda
Freyder, Mary

Motion was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve the following Endorsement applicants for issuance of the LCSW.

Balaban, Ilícia
Bierbaum, Cheryl
Bourque, Coty
Desantis, Tracey
Edwards, Angel
Einri, Katherine
Green, Sha-Rhonda
Haughey, Karen Lilley
Kulwik, Kevin
Lasher, Michael

Martin, Carey
Sucik, Jessica
Tate, Lori
Ward, Kathryn

Board/Staff Matters

- A. Report on office workflow and staffing is attached to minutes.
- B. Consideration of and responses to public comments received on proposed rules- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to make substantive changes to §125(C), §301 definition of social work educator, §509(D)(1), §1305(A)(3) and (11), and §1313(A) and (B).
- C. Web Accessibility Compliance- Board members were provided with a copy of PPM Number 74 which are requirements to ensure that people with disabilities can access online government services.

Financial

Financial statements for the period ending January 31, 2025 – Board members reviewed the Statement of Assets, Liabilities & Equity, Statement of Revenues & Expenses, and Statement of Revenues & Expenses Budgetary Comparison for the period ending January 31, 2025

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to accept the financial statement as provided information.

Motion was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried to move \$200,000 from the investment account to the checking account in increments.

Motion was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to rescind its approval of funding board members and staff to attend the ASWB Spring Education meeting.

Correspondence

- A. Communities in Schools of the Gulf South- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Communities in Schools of the Gulf South to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- B. Forever Care Resources, LLC- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Forever Care Resources, LLC to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- C. Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- D. NO/AIDS Task Force- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by NO/AIDS Task Force to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- E. North Oaks Health System- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by North Oaks Health System to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- F. Our Lady of the Lake- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to approve Our Lady of the Lake to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
Public comment made by Amanda Anderson.

- G. Prismatic Counseling, LLC- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve Prismatic Counseling, LLC to be a continuing education pre-approval organization.
- H. Southeastern Louisiana University School of Social Work- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by SLU School of Social Work to be a pre-approval organization.
- I. Your Saturday CEU's- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley and unanimously carried, to approve the application submitted by Your Saturday CEU's upon receipt of two letters of recommendation with contact information on the letterhead to be a pre-approval organization.
- J. Sion Jenkins, LCSW-BACS- the board advised Mr. Jenkins that the emeritus status is not a BACS and that the scope is in the proposed rules.
- K. RKM Primary Care- board members reviewed a request for a continuing education swing month. The board did not refer this request to the rules committee.
- L. LSU School of Social Work- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to approve the 6.5-hour BACS supervision workshop scheduled to be presented on May 12, 2025.
- M. Leah Mendoza, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to deny the request for remote supervision and offer a compliance hearing.
- N. Bailey Stevenson, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision with Charles Lee, LCSW-BACS.
- O. Derrasia Williams- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve the request for remote supervision with Crystal Haddix, LCSW-BACS.
- P. Taina Comery, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to approve the request to continue remote supervision with Lauren Thompson, LCSW-BACS.
- Q. Amanda Anderson, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve supervision completed between September 27, 2022 and May 30, 2024.
Public comment made by Amanda Anderson.
- R. Joseph Buzzetta, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve supervision hours obtained from November 2023 through December 2024. Trinity George was recused from the discussion and vote.
- S. Kimberly Clofer, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to deny the supervision request and offer a compliance hearing.
- T. Whitney Delmore, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Melissa Haley and unanimously carried, to approve supervision completed from October 17, 2023 through January 13, 2024.
- U. Mona Flores, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Trinity George, seconded by Melissa Haley, and unanimously carried, to approve supervision completed from November 1, 2021 through April 29, 2022.

- V. Bridgett Hagstrom, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George, and unanimously carried, to approve supervision completed from June 7, 2024 through December 13, 2024.
- W. Blair Menard, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to approve supervision completed from March 24, 2024 through February 20, 2025.
- X. Emilee Meyer, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Jamie Barney, seconded by Bora Sunseri and unanimously carried, to approve supervision completed from March 18, 2024 through December 18, 2024.
- Y. Abby Mitchell, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to approve supervision completed from February 20, 2024 through December 17, 2024.
- Z. Abigail Mullen, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Melissa Haley, seconded by Trinity George and unanimously carried, to approve supervision completed from September 5, 2024 through December 18, 2024.
- AA. Allison Whitt, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to approve supervision completed from April 3, 2024 through December 11, 2024.
- BB. Kellie Henry, LMSW- **Motion** was made by Bora Sunseri, seconded by Jamie Barney and unanimously carried, to deny the request for credit for supervised work experience and offer her a compliance hearing.

Motion made by Bora Sunseri to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 p.m.


Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson


Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS
Secretary-Treasurer

Workflow Report Presented on March 21, 2025

Since February 7, 2025 Meeting

Requests for early testing – Masters	18
Requests for early testing – Clinical	13
Early testers issued LMSW	3
Early testers issued LCSW	6
LMSWs issued (not early testers)	17
LCSWs issued (not early testers)	15
BACS issued	6
Retake applications approved	95
Supervision Contracts approved	75
Other supervision approvals	20
License verifications	61
In-person CE waiver requests – out of state	9
In-person CE waiver requests – medical	6
Open Book Exam Invites	22
Open Book Exam Passed	17
Open Book Exam Failed	0

Received 27 complaints between 02/04/25 and 03/17/25

Written response	14
Investigation	0
Under consideration	5
Not accepted – not a social worker	4
Not accepted – no violation	4