



Our Mission

The legislature declares that, in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state against unauthorized, unqualified and improper practice of social work, it is necessary that a proper regulatory authority be established and adequately provided for.

WINTER 2024

News | Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

18550 Highland Road, Suite B | Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Phone: (225) 756.3470 | Email: socialwork@labswe.org | www.labswe.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
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Slidell

Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS
Vice Chairperson
Prairieville

Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS
Secretary/Treasurer
Baton Rouge

Evan Bergeron, Esq.
Consumer Member
New Orleans

Trinity George, RSW
Board Member
Pineville

Melissa Smith Haley, LMSW
Board Member
New Orleans

Candice Sorapuru,
LCSW-BACS
Board Member
LaPlace

From The Chair

Dr. Hyacinth McKee LCSW-BACS

Greetings and Happy New Year,

As we enter the new year of two thousand twenty- four, our board wishes to start this year with gratitude. As a board we recognize that all the work that is done for the public is not done in silos. Our board cannot do the work for the public without a strong administrator and a dedicated staff. It was not too long ago that we experienced a global pandemic. This pandemic affected the entire world personally and professionally. Our board members, board staff, consultants and contractors all endured significant challenges in their personal lives. Despite it all, the board continued to do its work, ensuring that matters of public protection continued throughout the trying times before them. The full board meets regularly every five to six weeks. Additionally, the board has several committees that meet at least once each month to address topics that are important

to the public. It is important to note that the work of the full board and its committees could not be accomplished without the behind-the-scenes work of the staff that work tirelessly to ensure that the board is prepared for every meeting and every encounter. Our staff is a small but mighty, little but fierce group of hard-working people. With this said, the purpose of this entire Winter 2024 newsletter is to share with the public the roles of our staff, consultants, and contractors. In doing so, we will highlight some of the great work of our staff with the full intent of sharing our appreciation of what they do for the state of Louisiana.

“Everyone wants to be appreciated, so if you appreciate someone, don’t keep it a secret”. ---Mary Kay Ash

***To our board staff....
We appreciate You!***

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Board Vacancy | In-Person Continuing Ed Required | LMSW Supervision | Did You Know?

STAFF Highlights

ADMINISTRATOR: **Emily DeAngelo**

Emily coordinates, directs, and oversees all aspects of the board's business. She is also part of the team that considers complaints.

Service: 26 years

Photo: Emily served as the official election ballot teller at the Association of Social Work Boards Annual Delegate Assembly in November 2023 held in Memphis, Tennessee.

Photo: Emily along with Dr. Hyacinth McKee, board chair presented to the Retired Social Workers on December 8, 2023, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The presentation titled "Demystifying LABSWE" included the roles and responsibilities of the LABSWE as well as the twenty-three proposed rules for promulgation for FY 24.

Did you know?

Emily served as a student worker for the LABSWE when it shared office space and staff with two other professional licensing boards while attending Southeastern Louisiana University.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: **Regina DeWitt**

Regina compiles all documents requiring board consideration at its meetings and handles correspondence following meetings. She responds to all emails sent to socialwork@labswe.org and is the go-to person for staff.

Service at LABSWE: 23 years

Did you know?

Regina is a social worker and serves as our office ADA Coordinator. She also serves as the designated staff person for our Exam Committee.



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS



LICENSING ANALYST: **Sara Banks**

Sara processes applications for registration, certification, and licensure. This includes ensuring that requirements for the credential are complete, to include but not limited to education, supervision, and professional experience.

Service: 1 year and 3 months

Did you know?

Sara serves as the designated staff for the Supervision Committee.



LICENSING ANALYST: **Blake Williamson**

Blake processes applications for Board Approved Clinical Supervisor and retake applications. He also issues licenses to individuals with passing scores on the Masters and Clinical exam.

Service: 5 months

Did you know?

Blake joins our staff with experience working in another Louisiana state agency. He is knowledgeable of state processes and policies.



ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR: **Sharon Duronslet**

Sharon handles the transmission of communication coming to and from the office. She secures hotel reservations for board members and supplies needed for board meetings and the office.

Service at LABSWE: 7 months

Did you know?

Sharon is the gentle voice that you hear when you call the office.

Consultants and Contractors

Robert Furman, CPA, Managing Partner, Griffin & Furman, LLC – Accountant

Lisa Lipsey, LCSW-BACS – Complaint Consultant

Kathie Pohlman, LCSW-BACS – Impaired Professional Program Manager

Gina Signorelli, Esq., LCSW-BACS – Supervision Consultant

Kirk Menard, PI, Advanced Investigative Technologies, LLC – Investigator

Matthew Thomasee, PI, Integrated Security and Investigative Specialists, LLC – Investigator

Sheri Morris, Daigle, Fisse & Kessenich – Legal Counsel

James Raines, Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson – Prosecuting Attorney

Would You Like To *Serve?*

LABSWE is looking for interested licensees to serve as members of the Interstate Compact/Teletherapy Committee. The charge of the committee is to provide recommendations for consideration to the full board regarding the Interstate Compact and teletherapy for the state of Louisiana licensed social workers. Board member Candice Sorapuru, LCSW-BACS, will chair this committee.

In accordance with Louisiana's Open Meetings Law, all meetings are conducted in person and made available for the public to attend virtually. Meetings will be held at the LABSWE Office, 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. Meetings will be scheduled by the committee chair and are typically 2-3 hours. It is anticipated that all committee members will be required to spend time outside of meetings to review, research and write drafts of recommendations to the full board for consideration.

Mileage for travel will be reimbursed. Hotel accommodation will be provided subject to the time scheduled for the meetings and the distance one must travel to participate. Please email your vitae/resume and letter of interest to serve to socialwork@labswe.org with the **SUBJECT LINE: INTERSTATE COMPACT/TELETHERAPY** by close of business on **January 31st**.

2024 Board Meetings

- **January 5**
- **January 6:** Board Leadership Training
No board business or action will take place.
- **March 8**
- **April 12**
- **April 13** – Strategic Planning
- **May 17**
- **June 21**
- **August 2**
- **August 3** - Strategic Planning
- **September 13**
- **October 25**
- **December 6**
- **December 7** - Strategic Planning

DID YOU KNOW?

LABSWE has a Facebook page.
Follow us at facebook.com/labswe.



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS



BOARD

VACANCY

A Licensed Clinical Social Work position on the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners expires February 1, 2024.

La. R.S. 37:2704 mandates the following qualifications for board members:

- Citizen of the United States
- Resident of the State of Louisiana
- Hold a current and valid social work credential
- Must have three (3) years of social work experience

If you are interested in serving on the Board, you should submit a letter stating your interest, along with a current resume to Will Francis, Executive Director of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers by email at wfrancis.naswla@socialworkers.org.

The submission deadline for the position expires at the close of business on January 31st.

FAQs about serving on the Board:

What is the time commitment for serving?

An appointment to the Board is made by the governor for three consecutive years. Meetings are held approximately every 5 weeks on a Friday at the board office in Baton Rouge. Meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. and carry-over to Saturday, if necessary. Other examples of board activities include presenting at the NASW-LA Annual Conference and serving on committees.

Are board members paid?

Board members are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred on board business. For example, mileage driven to and from a meeting is reimbursed. We also reserve a hotel room for board members that are required to travel a significant distance to meetings. We provide breakfast and lunch at the meeting. If you need to stay overnight, dinner can be reimbursed up to the amount allowed by the state's travel guidelines.

If you have any questions concerning the board's activities or the time commitment required of board members, please email the board's Administrator, Emily DeAngelo at edeangelo@labswe.org.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES



Exam Committee

January 19, February 16, March 15
9:30 am – 11:30 am

Interstate Compact/Teletherapy Committee

February 16
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Supervision Committee

February 23
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Continuing Education Committee

TBD

Policy & Procedure Committee

TBD

Rules Committee

TBD

Tech Committee

TBD

All meetings are held at the Board Office. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person or via zoom. Registration is required.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS



IN-PERSON CONTINUING EDUCATION

10 HOURS REQUIRED

The board has started the process to promulgate a rule that allows synchronous, interactive workshops to count as in-person continuing education, **but until that rule is final this type of learning is considered distance learning.** The current rules limit social workers to 10 hours of continuing education via distance learning per collection period. Our office will send out notices as we go through the promulgation process.

The following Continuing Education Approval Organizations advised that they are providing in-person continuing education.

Alzheimer's Services of the Capitol Area

1 planned for 2024 – April 17, 2024

programs@alzbr.org

Crayton Counseling and Consulting, LLC

suzettegutter@yahoo.com

Freedom Therapy Center, LLC

freedomtherapycenter@gmail.com

Mother's Helpers

<https://drummerenterprise.com/mothers-helpers>

National Association of Social Workers-LA Chapter

<https://naswla.org/>

New Orleans Public Schools

tamoore@nolapublicschools.com

Nita Baucom, LCSW-BACS

nbaucom@nitabaucom.com

Northwest Louisiana Association of Black Social Workers

awilsonsocialwork.net

O'Brien House

emilygeorge@obrienhouse.org

OPS Family Care

OPS Family Care raisingthebartogether@gmail.com

Attention LMSW In BACS Supervision

ATTENTION LMSW IN BACS SUPERVISION

The first step to starting supervision with a LCSW-BACS for the purpose of obtaining a LCSW is to electronically file a Supervision Contract and Employment Verification (part of the Supervision Contract workflow). These are required within 60 days of beginning supervision. A new Supervision Contract is required within 60 days when the LMSW changes employment, changes LCSW-BACS supervisor, or if the agency supervisor changes. Failure to do so will result in supervision credit being issued from the date that is 60 days from the date received. The link to the Supervision Contracts is on the Supervision page of the board website.