

IN THE MATTER OF  
DEANIE SEYMOUR

Applicant

\* BEFORE THE MARYLAND STATE  
\* BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
\* COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS  
\* Case Number: 2024-160

\* \* \* \* \*

**FINAL ORDER**

On or about February 16, 2024, the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) notified **DEANIE SEYMOUR** (the “Applicant”), of the Board’s intent to deny their application to practice as an alcohol and drug trainee under the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the “Act”), codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 17-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. and 2023 Supp.).

The Notice also informed the Applicant that, unless they requested a hearing in writing within thirty (30) days of service of the Notice, the Board would sign the Final Order, which was enclosed. More than thirty (30) days have elapsed, and the Applicant failed to timely request a hearing.

Specifically, the Board based its intent to deny on the following:

**Health Occ. § 17-509. Denial, probation, suspension or revocation of trainee status, license, or certificate.**

Subject to the hearing provisions of § 17-511 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny trainee status, a license, or a certificate to any applicant, place any trainee, licensee, or certificate holder on probation, reprimand any trainee, licensee, or certificate holder, or suspend, rescind, or revoke the status of any trainee, a license of any

licensee, or a certificate of any certificate holder if the applicant, trainee, licensee, or certificate holder:

- (9) Knowingly violates any provision of this title;
- (10) Is convicted of or pleads guilty or *nolo contendere* to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside;
- (13) Violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Board[.]

The Board also based its intent to deny on the following regulations:

**COMAR 10.58.07.03 Application Process for Certification, Licensure, and Trainee Status.**

A. In order to obtain a certificate or license or to be eligible for trainee status, an applicant shall:

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- (5) Be of good moral character[.]

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact:

**I. Application**

1. The Board received the Applicant’s Alcohol and Drug Trainee Application (the “Application”) dated July 5, 2023.

2. In her Application, the Applicant answered “yes” to question 2, which asked: “Have you pled guilty, *nolo contendere*, [*sic*] or been convicted of, received probation before judgment, or had a conviction set aside for any criminal act (excluding traffic violations)?”

3. The Application instructed the Applicant to “attach a separate page with a *complete* explanation of *each* occurrence (include date, time, location, disposition, etc.) and a *certified* copy of the disciplinary/court document from the issuing agency, if applicable.” (emphasis added)

4. The Applicant included several written explanations<sup>1</sup> with her Application. In her written explanations the Applicant stated, in part, the following:

- a. She suffers from “long-term substance abuse and mental health.”
- b. “My venture into addiction began at the age of 12.”
- c. Her criminal charges “are all based around my active addiction.”
- d. “I have been sober since May 18 <sup>2018</sup> [*sic*] . . . .”
- e. She was released from state prison on June 18, 2021, and “[a]t this time I am on state parole.”

5. Based on the Applicant’s acknowledgment on the Application that she had a criminal history and her written statements, the Board began an investigation.

## **II. Board’s Investigation**

6. On July 27, 2012, in the Circuit Court for Cecil County, Maryland (Case Number 07-K-11-001191) the Applicant pled guilty to, and was found guilty of, Con-Theft: Less \$1,000 Value, a crime involving moral turpitude.

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<sup>1</sup> As part of her written explanations the Applicant also stated she was convicted of Theft less than \$500 in 2009 and 2011, however, copies of the court records were not provided.

7. On November 1, 2013, in the Circuit Court for Cecil County, Maryland (Case Number 07-K-11-001988) the Applicant pled guilty to, and was found guilty of, Theft: Less \$1,000 Value, a crime involving moral turpitude. On January 24, 2014, the Applicant was sentenced to one (1) year of incarceration.

8. On August 14, 2017, in the Circuit Court for Cecil County, Maryland (Case Number C-07-CR-17-000139) the Applicant pled guilty to, and was found guilty of, two counts of Cred Card: Steal Another's, a crime involving moral turpitude. The Applicant was sentenced to a suspended sentence of incarceration. The Applicant was further sentenced to three (3) years of supervised probation. As a special condition of probation, the Applicant was ordered to successfully complete an alcohol and drug evaluation, testing, treatment, and education as directed by her supervising agent, and to totally abstain from alcohol, illegal substances, and abusive use of any prescription drug. On December 10, 2021, the Applicant was found in violation of her probation and the probation was closed unsatisfactorily.<sup>2</sup>

9. On August 24, 2017, in the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County, Pennsylvania (Case Numbers 457-17 and 504-17) the Applicant pled guilty to, and was found guilty of, 1) Retail Theft (a crime involving moral turpitude and 2) Conspiracy-

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<sup>2</sup> On June 25, 2018, the Applicant was charged with violation of probation due to violating the following conditions: obey all laws (related to Pennsylvania criminal Case Number 1985-18); notify supervising agent at once if charged with a criminal offense; and submit to, successfully complete, and pay required costs for alcohol and drug evaluation, testing, treatment, and education as directed by agent – the Applicant had “not provided verification of treatment.”

PWID<sup>3</sup> (a felony and a crime involving moral turpitude). For the Retail Theft conviction, the Applicant was sentenced to ninety-nine (99) to one hundred and ninety-eight (198) days of imprisonment.<sup>4</sup> For the Conspiracy-PWID conviction, the Applicant was sentenced to five (5) years of probation, consecutive to the retail theft conviction.

10. On November 13, 2017, in the Circuit Court for Cecil County, Maryland (Case Number C-07-CR-16-000039) the Applicant pled guilty to, and was found guilty of, Theft: Less \$1,000 Value, a crime involving moral turpitude. The Applicant was sentenced to six (6) months of incarceration with all suspended. The Applicant was further sentenced to twelve (12) months of supervised probation and \$236.13 in restitution. As a special condition of probation, the Applicant was ordered to successfully complete an alcohol and drug evaluation, testing, treatment, and education as directed by her supervising agent, and to totally abstain from alcohol, illegal substances, and abusive use of any prescription drug. On December 10, 2021, the Applicant was found in violation of her probation and the probation was closed unsatisfactorily.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Conspiracy – Manufacture, Delivery, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver.

<sup>4</sup> The Applicant was granted credit for time served and paroled on August 24, 2017.

<sup>5</sup> On June 25, 2018, the Applicant was charged with violation of probation due to violating the following conditions: obey all laws (related to Pennsylvania criminal Case Number 1985-18); notify supervising agent at once if charged with a criminal offense; pay all fines, costs, restitution, and fees as ordered – the Applicant had only paid \$185 of her restitution; and submit to, successfully complete, and pay required costs for alcohol and drug evaluation, testing, treatment, and education as directed by agent – the Applicant had “not provided verification of treatment.”

11. On July 20, 2018, in the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County, Pennsylvania (Case Number 1985-18) the Applicant<sup>6</sup> pled guilty to, and was found guilty of, 1) Contraband<sup>7</sup> (a felony and crime involving moral turpitude and 2) Weapons of Implements of Escape<sup>8</sup> (a crime involving moral turpitude). For the contraband conviction the Applicant was sentenced to twenty-four (24) to forty-eight (48) months of imprisonment. For the Weapons of Implements of Escape conviction, the Applicant was sentenced to twenty (20) months to forty-eight (48) months of imprisonment, to run consecutive to the contraband sentence.

12. On January 9, 2019, in the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County, Pennsylvania (Case Number 3390-18) the Applicant pled guilty to, and was found guilty of, Possession with Intent to Deliver – methamphetamine, a felony and a crime involving moral turpitude. The Applicant was sentenced to one to two years of imprisonment to run concurrent with Case Number 1985-18.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law:

The Applicant has a lengthy criminal history which contains several convictions for theft, possession with intent to distribute, violating probation, bringing CDS into prison,

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<sup>6</sup> According to the Guilty Plea Colloquy, the Applicant is also “known by the following other names: Layla Smith.”

<sup>7</sup> According to the Guilty Plea Colloquy the elements of this crime are “bring into any prison any controlled substance included in Schedule I-V w/out a written permit.”

<sup>8</sup> According to the Guilty Plea Colloquy the elements of this crime are “unlawfully introduce a weapon, tool or other thing which may be used for escape to an inmate w/in a detention facility.”

and bringing weapons of escape into a detention facility. She has admitted to a lengthy history of substance abuse and mental health issues, with her addiction beginning at the age of 12-years-old. The Applicant was last released from jail in June 2021 and is still on parole through the criminal courts. The Applicant's conduct constitutes, in whole or in part: being convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside in violation of Health Occ. § 17-509(10); knowingly violating any provision of this title in violation of Health Occ. § 17-509(9); and violating any rule or regulation adopted by the Board in violation of Health Occ. § 17-509(13). The Applicant's conduct further evidences a lack of good moral character in violation of COMAR 10.58.07.03 and is a basis on which to deny her Application.

### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2024, by a majority of the Board considering this case:

**ORDERED** that the Applicant's Application to practice as an alcohol and drug trainee in the State of Maryland is **DENIED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this is a Final Order and as such is a **PUBLIC RECORD** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101-4-601 (2014).

### **NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 17-512(a), the Applicant has the right to take a direct judicial appeal. Any appeal shall be filed within thirty (30) days from the date of this Final Order and shall be made as provided for judicial review of a final decision in

the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act, Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-222; and Title 7, Chapter 200 of the Maryland Rules of Procedure.

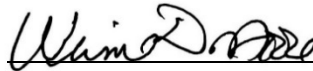
If the Applicant files an appeal, the Board is a party and should be served with the court's process at the following address:

Shelly-Ann Barnes, Compliance Manager/Investigator Supervisor  
Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299  
Shelly-ann.barnes@maryland.gov

At that point, the Administrative Prosecutor is no longer a party to this case and need not be served or copied.

06/21/2024

Date



Winnie D. Moore, LCPC

Board Chair

Maryland State Board of Professional  
Counselors and Therapists