

IN THE MATTER OF * **BEFORE THE MARYLAND STATE**
JAKOB ENGEL, LCPC * **BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL**
Respondent * **COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS**
License Number: LC8448 * **Case Number: 2023-133**

* * * * *

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

The Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the license of **JAKOB ENGEL, LCPC** (the “Respondent”), License Number LC8448, to practice as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (“LCPC”) in the State of Maryland. The Board takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t § 10-226(c) (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2022 Supp.), concluding that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action. In addition, the Board takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) 10.58.04.10, concluding that there is substantial likelihood that the Respondent poses a risk of harm to the public health, safety, or welfare.

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

The Board bases its action on the following findings:¹

I. BACKGROUND

1. At all times relevant, the Respondent was authorized to practice clinical professional counseling in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed to

¹ The statements regarding the Board’s investigative findings are intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis of the summary suspension. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent, a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in connection with this matter.

practice as an LCPC in the State of Maryland on February 2, 2018, under License Number LC8448. The Respondent's license is scheduled to expire on January 31, 2024.

II. COMPLAINT

2. The Board received a complaint dated April 27, 2023, filed by a member of a Mobile Crisis Unit (the "Complainant")² alleging that on April 26, 2023, the Mobile Crisis Unit (the "Crisis Unit") responded to Respondent's residence following a call from the Police Department due to Respondent's "erratic behaviors and paranoid presentation." The Complainant stated that Respondent initially called 911 to report an intruder in Respondent's residence; however, when police officers arrived and searched the residence, they found no intruder or signs of forced entry. The Complainant further stated that Respondent disclosed: (i) ongoing use of illicit substances including cocaine, acid, mushrooms, and "all the other stuff"; (ii) using cocaine sometime on April 25, 2023; (iii) providing professional services to clients on April 25, 2023; and (iv) that he was missing a session with a client while speaking with the Crisis Unit.

3. After receiving the complaint, the Board initiated an investigation of the Respondent under Case Number 2023-133.

III. BOARD INVESTIGATION

4. As part of its investigation, the Board obtained records from Respondent's Employer (the "Employer") and records from the Crisis Unit.

5. According to documentation provided by the Respondent's supervisor, Respondent worked for the Employer as a Mental Health Therapist providing individual therapy and family therapy. Respondent provided services primarily to children and adolescents, but also to adults.

² For confidentiality and privacy purposes, the names of individuals and facilities involved in this case are not disclosed in this document. The Respondent may obtain the names of all individuals and facilities referenced in this document by contacting the administrative prosecutor.

Respondent averaged 20 sessions per week, which included in-home sessions, virtual sessions, and sessions at an elementary school.

6. According to a clinical note dated April 27, 2023 from the Crisis Unit, on April 26, 2023, Respondent made a 911 call to report that an unidentified individual was breaking into his residence and hacking his cell phone. Police officers responded but found no sign of forced entry into Respondent's residence. Respondent told the police officers that he believed the unidentified individual was inside his residence. The police officers conducted a search of Respondent's residence but found no one. Respondent provided video footage which appeared to show a shadow or figure caused by a cat that lives in the Respondent's residence. The police officers requested the Crisis Team due to Respondent's "erratic behaviors and paranoid presentation."

7. The clinical note further stated that the Crisis Team met with Respondent at approximately 10:40 a.m. on April 26, 2023. The Crisis Team performed a brief crisis assessment as Respondent "was firmly fixated on the security camera footage and disinterested in speaking with the mobile crisis team." Respondent "disclosed ongoing use of illicit substances including cocaine, acid, mushrooms, and 'all the other stuff.'" Respondent further admitted to using cocaine sometime on April 25, 2023. Respondent denied "daily [illicit substance] use but endorsed using various substances recreationally and 'as needed.'" Respondent advised that he saw clients on April 25, 2023 and "was missing a session with a client while speaking with police and mobile crisis team."

8. According to an Incident Report created by the Employer, Respondent called the Employer on April 26, 2023 and asked to cancel his appointment for the day due to a request by the Crisis Unit. The Employer later spoke with Respondent, who reported suspicious activity at Respondent's residence for the past three days, prompting Respondent to purchase a security

system with cameras. Respondent reported that, while taking a shower, he received an alert that there was motion in Respondent's living room. Respondent advised that he looked at the video on his phone and saw an intruder, which prompted him to call the police. Respondent requested the day off. Respondent denied using any substances. Respondent admitted using cocaine "5 years ago in London" and trying recreational drugs in the past. The Employer informed Respondent that it was requiring Respondent to take a leave of absence and suspend counseling services until further notice. On April 27, 2023, the Employer called Respondent and reiterated to him that he was not to contact patients. During that call, Respondent advised he was travelling to Texas to stay with his family and would not return to Maryland until there was a resolution of the situation.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing facts, the Board concludes that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively require emergency action in this case, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226 (c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2022 Supp.).

In addition, the Board concludes as a matter of law that there is a substantial likelihood that the Respondent poses a risk of harm to the public health, safety, or welfare, and that the public health, safety, and welfare require the immediate suspension of the Respondent's license pursuant to COMAR 10.58.04.10.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing, it is by a majority of the Board considering this case:

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2), the Respondent's license to practice as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in the State of Maryland, License Number LC8448, is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and be it further

ORDERED that the Respondent has the opportunity to appear before the Board for a post-deprivation show cause hearing. A request for a post-deprivation show cause hearing must be in writing and be made **WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS** of service of this Order. The written request should be made to:

Mary N. Drotleff, Acting Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists
4201 Patterson Avenue, Suite 316
Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299
nicki.drotleff@maryland.gov
Fax: 410-358-1610

With copies to:

Aaron L. Kelly, Assistant Attorney General
Maryland Office of the Attorney General
Health Occupations Prosecution & Litigation Division
300 West Preston Street, Suite 201
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
aaron.kelly@maryland.gov

and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent fails to request a post-deprivation show cause hearing in writing in a timely manner, or if the Respondent requests a post-deprivation show cause hearing but fails to appear when scheduled, the Respondent's license will remain **SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that on presentation of this Order, the Respondent **SHALL SURRENDER** to the Board, the following items:

- (1) the Respondent's original Maryland Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor License LC8448; and
- (2) the Respondent's wallet card and wall license; and it is further

ORDERED that this is an Order of the Board and, as such, is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2022).

06/13/2023

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Winnie D. Moore", written over a horizontal line.

Winnie D. Moore, LCPC
Board Chair
Maryland State Board of Professional
Counselors and Therapists