

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND
 KATRYN N. VEGA * BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
 ADT APPLICANT * COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
 * CASE NO: ~~2023-125~~ 2023-146
 * * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

On or about April 23, 2024, the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the "Board") notified **Katryn N. Vega** (the "Applicant"), of the Board's intent to deny her Alcohol and Drug Trainee Application under the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the "Act"), codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations ("Health. Occ.") §§17-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2023 Supp.). The Board bases its action on the following provision of the Act:

Health Occ. §17-509. Denial, probation, suspension or revocation of training 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:

.....

- (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[.]

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds that:

- 1. On or about January 10, 2023, the Board received an Alcohol and Drug Trainee Application (the "Application") from the Applicant.

AUG 09 2024

2. On her Application, the Applicant answered “Yes” to question number 2 under the

Information Regarding Background section:

Have you pled guilty, *nolo contendere*, or been convicted of, received probation before judgment, or had a conviction set aside for any criminal act (excluding traffic violations)?

3. An investigation conducted by Board staff revealed the following regarding the Applicant’s Criminal History:¹

Fairfax County, Virginia

- A. In or around May 2017, the Applicant was charged with felony possession of a controlled drug, and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- B. On or about February 6, 2018, the Applicant was found guilty in the Circuit Court of Fairfax County of felony possession of a controlled drug. The Applicant received a two-year suspended sentence and was placed on probation for a period of two years with conditions.

Loudoun County, Virginia

- C. On or about January 21, 2016, the Applicant was charged with various felony and misdemeanor drug related offenses, including possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- D. On or about June 27, 2016, the Applicant pleaded guilty to felony possession a controlled substance. The Applicant received a deferred sentence.² The Applicant was placed on probation for two years with conditions.
- E. On or about April 9, 2018, the deferred finding was rescinded, and a guilty finding was entered against the Applicant after a Circuit Court judge found that the Applicant violated the conditions of her probation.

¹ Some information regarding the Applicant’s criminal history is no longer available due to the length of time of the events.

² A deferred sentence is a postponement of criminal proceedings that allows a defendant to avoid a criminal conviction on their record.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Applicant's conduct described as above constitutes a violation of the Act and a basis on which to deny the Applicant's Application to practice as an Alcohol and Drug Trainee. Specifically, the Applicant was convicted of multiple crimes including felony possession of a controlled substance (heroin), possession of drug paraphernalia, and theft. As set forth above, the Applicant's conduct constitutes a violation of Health Occ. § 17-509(10).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 16th day of August 2024, by a majority of the Board considering this case, hereby:

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

ORDERED that the Applicant's notice of approval to practice as an alcohol and drug trainee in the State of Maryland is placed on **PROBATION for a minimum of two (2) years** beginning on the effective date of this Consent Order; subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (1) The Applicant's status as an alcohol and drug trainee will be listed in the Board's electronic records and website as being on "Probation";
- (2) The Applicant shall submit quarterly drug screening results to the Board.
- (3) The Applicant shall undergo intensive therapy at a minimum of one session per week. The Applicant shall provide the therapist with a copy of the Consent Order and provide documentation of the therapist's receipt of the Consent Order to the Board.
- (4) The Applicant shall ensure that the Applicant's therapist provides quarterly written reports to the Board in a timely manner.

- (5) The Applicant shall attend weekly narcotics anonymous meetings. The Applicant shall provide the Board with documentation of her attendance.
- (6) The Applicant shall obtain a Board-approved supervisor. The Applicant shall provide a copy of the Consent Order to the Board-approved supervisor and provide documentation of the supervisor's receipt of the Consent Order to the Board.
- (7) The Applicant shall meet with the Board-approved supervisor a minimum of one session per month and for a minimum of one hour per session.
- (8) The Applicant shall ensure that the Board-approved supervisor submits timely quarterly written reports to the Board detailing the supervision provided and an evaluation of the Applicant's practice.
- (9) A negative report from the Board-approved supervisor or any failure to comply with the supervisor's recommendations shall be deemed a violation of probation or of this Consent Order.
- (10) If the Board-approved supervisor discontinues supervising the Applicant's practice for any reason during the probationary period, the Applicant shall notify the Board within five (5) days of the change. The Applicant is responsible for securing a new Board-approved supervisor and providing the new supervisor's contact information to the Board. The Applicant shall provide the new supervisor with a copy of the Consent Order. The Applicant shall provide documentation of the new supervisor's receipt of the Consent Order to the Board.
- (11) The Applicant shall immediately provide her employer with a copy of the Consent Order and provide the Board the contact information for her employer. The Applicant shall provide documentation of the employer's receipt of the Consent Order to the Board.
- (12) If the Applicant's employment is terminated for any reason during the probationary period, the Applicant shall notify the Board within five (5) days of the termination. Upon obtaining new employment, the Applicant shall provide the Board with the new employer's contact information and provide documentation of the new employer's receipt of the Consent Order.
- (13) The Applicant shall successfully complete a Board approved ethics course for substance abuse counselors. The ethics course shall be completed within 180 days of the date that this Consent Order is signed by the Board.
- (14) The Applicant shall cooperate with the Board, its agents or/and employees, in the monitoring, supervision, and/or investigation of the Applicant's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.

- (15) If the Board determines that the terms or conditions of the consent Order have not been successfully completed, the Board may modify the terms and conditions of the Applicant's probation, upon notice to the Applicant.
- (16) At any time during the probationary period, the Board may, in its discretion, order the Applicant to submit to an examination by a healthcare provider designated by the Board. If so ordered, the Board shall pay for the cost of the examination. The Applicant shall sign all necessary consent forms required to authorize disclosure of the healthcare provider's written report to the Board. Furthermore, the Applicant consents to the use and disclosure of the healthcare provider's report, as well as any other medical, mental health, or substance use disorder treatment records, in any subsequent Board proceeding, including, but not limited to, any final, public order issued by the Board;
- (17) If the Applicant allegedly fails to comply with the terms or conditions of this Consent Order, the Applicant shall be given notice and an opportunity for a hearing. If, in its sole discretion, the Board determines there is a genuine dispute as to a material fact, the hearing shall be an evidentiary hearing before the Board. If there is no genuine dispute as to a material fact, the Applicant shall be given a show cause hearing before the Board.
- (18) If, after the appropriate hearing, the Board determines that the Applicant has failed to comply with any term or condition of the Consent Order, the Board may reprimand the Applicant, continue the probationary status with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend or revoke the Applicant's certificate to practice as an alcohol and drug trainee in Maryland. The Board may, in addition to one or more of the sanctions set forth above, impose a civil monetary fine upon the Applicant; and it is further


ORDERED that the Applicant shall be responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of her probation and this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that there shall be no early termination of the probation imposed by this Consent Order. After **TWO (2) YEARS** from the effective date of this Consent Order has passed, the Board will consider a petition for termination of the Applicant's probationary status, provided that the Applicant has been compliant with all of the probationary terms of this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that the effective date of this Consent Order is the date that it is signed by the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that this Consent Order is a Final Order and as such is a public record pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2019 Repl. Vol. & 2023 Supp.).

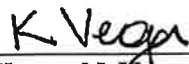
08/16/2024
Date


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

CONSENT

I, Katryn N. Vega acknowledge that I was represented by an attorney before entering into this Consent Order. By this Consent Order and for the purpose of resolving the issues raised by the Board, I agree and accept to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions. I waive any rights I may have to contest the Findings of Fact and the Conclusions of Law. I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by the law. I acknowledge the legal authority and jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I affirm that I am waiving my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing. I sign this Consent Order, voluntarily and without reservation, after having an opportunity to consult with counsel, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order.

8/7/24
Date


Katryn N. Vega
ADT Applicant

NOTARY

State: Maryland

City/County: Montgomery

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 7th day of August, 2024 before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared, **KATRYN N. VEGA, ADT APPLICANT** and declared an affirmed under the penalties of perjury that signing the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal.



Notary Public

My Commission expires:

10/22/2026

