

IN THE MATTER OF
JESSICA CORDERO, LMSW
RESPONDENT

License Number: 16363

*** BEFORE THE MARYLAND**
*** STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL**
*** WORK EXAMINERS**

*** Case Number: 2019-2590**

Received
SEP 27 2019
Board of Social
Work Examiners

* * * * *

PRE-CHARGE CONSENT ORDER

In May 2019, the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the “Board”) initiated an investigation of Jessica Cordero, LCSW-C (Licensed Master Social Worker), License Number 16363 (hereinafter referred to as the “Respondent”). Based on its investigation, the Board voted to offer a Pre-Charge Consent Order to the Respondent, in lieu of issuing Charges for violations of the Maryland Social Workers Act (the “Act”), codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. (“Health Occ.”) §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2017 Supp.), and the regulations adopted by the Board, at Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) §§ 10.42.01 *et seq.*

Specifically, the Respondent appears to have violated the following provisions of the Act and COMAR:

Health Occ. § 19-311. Denials, reprimands, suspensions, and revocations – Grounds.

(4) Commits any act of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of social work; and

(6) Violates any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by this Board.

Health Occ. § 19-301. Definitions

(p) Practice social work. –

- (1) "Practice social work" means to apply the theories, knowledge, procedures, methods, or ethics derived from receiving a baccalaureate or master's degree from a program in social work that is accredited by or a candidate for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education, or an equivalent organization approved by the Council on Social Work Education, to restore or enhance social functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, or communities through:

COMAR 10.42.03. Code of Ethics

.03 Responsibilities to Clients.

A. The licensee shall:

...

(3) Notify the client promptly and seek the transfer, referral or continuation of service in relation to the client's need or preference if the licensee anticipates the termination or interruption of service;

(4) Prepare and disseminate to an identified colleague or record custodian a written plan for the transfer of clients and files in the event of the licensee's incapacitation, death, or termination of services; and

(5) Maintain documentation in the client's record which:

(a) is legible;

(b) Accurately reflects the services provided, including treatment plans, treatment goals, and contact notes;

...

B. The licensee may not:

(1) Participate or condone dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;

...

.06 Standards of Practice.

A. Professional Competence. The licensee shall:

(7) Document and maintain appropriate records of professional service, supervision, and research work;

...

B. A licensee may not:

(1) Undertake or continue a professional relationship with a client when the competence or objectivity of the licensee is or could reasonably be expected to be impaired due to:

(a) Mental, emotional, physiological, pharmacological, substance abuse, or personal problems;

...

As a result of that offer, the Applicant and the Board agreed to the following Consent Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds the following facts.

Background

1. On or about September 2, 2010, the Respondent was initially licensed to practice social work in the State of Maryland under license number 16363.
2. At all times relevant, the Respondent provided social work services in Maryland at the Coordinating Center in Millersville, MD.

Complaint

3. On or about December 17, 2018, the Board received a complaint, alleging that the Respondent failed to see patients, failed to maintain adequate treatment records, falsified reports, and professional misconduct.
4. Based on the allegations in the complaint, the Board initiated an investigation.
5. The Board's investigator conducted an in-person interviews with the complainant, witnesses, and the Respondent under oath.
6. During the interview with the Board's investigator, the Respondent acknowledged and admitted to the allegations in the complaint.
7. The Respondent cited her own health issues and her inability to make things work as the reason for her behavior.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing the Board finds as a matter of law that the Respondent's conduct, as described above, constitutes an act of gross misconduct in the practice of social work in Maryland, in violation of §19-311 (4) and (6) and §19-301 (p) of the Act and the regulatory requirements governing the responsibilities of a supervisor as codified in COMAR 10.42.03 & 10.42.06.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby by a majority of the Board members considering this case:

ORDERED that the Respondent's license to practice social work is hereby **Suspended for a period of SIX (6) months, with all SIX (6) months STAYED**; and it is further

ORDERED that following the period of suspension, the Respondent's license to practice social work shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a **minimum of TWO (2) YEARS**, and continuing until the Respondent has successfully completed the following probationary conditions:

- i. During the probationary period, the Respondent shall be supervised by a Board-approved supervisor ("Probation Supervisor"), to whom the Board may release any portion of the investigative file as is deemed necessary. The Respondent shall ensure that the Probation Supervisor provide the Board with written quarterly reports on the Respondent's progress during the supervisory period.

- ii. The Respondent shall comply with the Maryland Social Workers Act and all laws, statutes and regulations pertaining thereof.

ORDERED that the Respondent shall not serve or continue to serve as: a Board Authorized Sponsor, presenter and/or trainer of social work continuing education learning activities, a Board Approved Supervisor, an Ethics Tutor, or conduct evaluations ordered by the Board for a period of 5 years from the date of this Order;


ORDERED that at the conclusion of the two (2) year probationary period, the Respondent may petition the Board for a termination of her probation. The Board may terminate the Respondent's probation depending on whether she has fulfilled all of the terms and conditions of the Consent Order, and whether there are any pending complaints against her; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent violates any of the terms and conditions of this Pre-Charge Consent Order, the Board, in its discretion, after notice and an opportunity for an evidentiary hearing if there is a genuine dispute as to the underlying facts, or an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board otherwise, may impose any sanction that the Board may have imposed in this case, including additional probationary terms and conditions, a reprimand, suspension, revocation and/or a monetary penalty;

ORDERED that the Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and

ORDERED that this Pre-Charge Consent Order is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2017 Supp.) and is reportable to any entity to which the Board is obligated to report.

10/11/2019
Date


Sherryl Silberman, LCSW-C
Chair
Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners


CONSENT

I, Jessica Cordero, LMSW, acknowledge that I have had been made aware of my right to consult with counsel before signing this document. By this Consent, I accept a Stayed Suspension and Probation in lieu of a formal evidentiary hearing on violations of the Act and COMAR contained in this Pre-Charge Consent Order.

I acknowledge the validity of this Pre-Charge 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 as provided by law. I waive any rights I may have had to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Pre-Charge Consent Order. I also affirm that I waive my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.

I sign this Pre-Charge Consent Order after having had an opportunity to consult with counsel, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order. I voluntarily sign this Pre-Charge Consent Order and I understand its meaning and effect.

09/18/19
Date



Jessica Cordero, LMSW
Respondent

NOTARY

STATE OF MARYLAND

CITY/COUNTY OF:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 18th day of September 2019,
before me, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Jessica
Cordero, LMSW, and gave oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was
her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS, my hand and Notary Seal.



Notary Public

Thommy

My commission expires: 09/24/2022