

IN THE MATTER OF

\*

BEFORE THE MARYLAND

CHANEL L. DEALONZO, LMSW

\*

STATE BOARD OF

RESPONDENT

\*

SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

LICENSE NUMBER: 17677

\*

CASE NUMBER: 2017-2390

\* \* \* \* \*

**FINAL ORDER**

On or about November 8, 2019 the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the “Board”) issued charges concerning Chanel L. DeAlonzo, LMSW, License Number: 17677, (the “Respondent”), under the Maryland Social Workers Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. (“Heath. Occ.”) §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. & 2019 Supp.). Specifically, the Board charged the Respondent with violating the following:

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

Subject to the hearing provisions of § 19–312 of this subtitle, the Board may deny a license to any applicant, fine a licensee, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if the applicant or licensee:

- (4) Commits any act of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of social work;
- (5) Engages in a course of conduct that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards 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 the Board;

**Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR” ), Title 10, Subtitle 42, Chapter 06 Continuing Education Requirements**

**.03 Continuing Education Requirements.**

A. The Board shall renew a license for an additional 2-year period if the social worker:

(1) Completes 40 (30 for Licensed Bachelor Social Workers) continuing education units within the renewal period, of which a minimum of:

(a) 20 (15 for Licensed Bachelor Social Workers) continuing education units shall be obtained from approved programs which are Category I;

(b) 3 of the required Category I or Category II continuing education units shall have a content area focusing on ethics and professional conduct, including boundary issues, or pertaining to the standards of practice and laws governing the profession of social work in Maryland; and

(c) For registered and Board-approved supervisors, 3 of the required Category I or Category II continuing education units shall have a content area focusing on supervision as stipulated in COMAR 10.42.08.04A(2)(c);

(2) Submits an application as set forth in COMAR 10.42.01 attesting to completion of the required continuing education units in approved programs; and

(3) Completes the required continuing education units within a 2-year period as set forth in §B of this regulation.

B. Time Frame.

(1) Renewed licenses are valid for a 2-year period from November 1 through and including October 31, during which time continuing education units may be earned.

(2) Continuing education units obtained in one renewal period may not be carried over to the next renewal period.

**.06 Reporting, Documenting, and Auditing Compliance with Continuing Education Requirements.**

C. On request by the Board, a social worker shall provide full documentation of the continuing education units completed in accordance with the requirements of §D of this regulation.

D. Documentation. A social worker shall provide to the Board:

(1) A social worker shall provide to the Board:

(a) An official transcript for continuing education units earned in a course taken for credit;

(b) A certificate of completion for approved programs;

(c) If a certificate of completion is not available, the following documentation, which may earn Category II continuing education units:

(i) Date, location, and proof of attendance of the program presented;

(ii) Names and credentials of the presenters;

(iii) Agenda, learning objectives, and topics presented; and

(iv) An outline of the presentation;

(d) A reprint of the social worker's completed publication;

(e) If a certificate of completion is not available for an audiovisual instructional program or a home study course, proof of completion of the program or course, such as a post-test passing score or other satisfactory proof as determined by the Board;

(f) Proof of presentations made; and

(g) Topics, dates, times, and names of participants in structured peer-case conferences and journal club activities.

On or about November 8, 2019, the Board issued a notice of charges to the Respondent by regular and certified mail return receipt. On March 17, 2020 the Board issued a notice of hearing to the Respondent by regular mail, certified mail return receipt,

and electronic mail for a virtual hearing to be held on May 8, 2020 at 1:30 pm. The Board held a virtual hearing on May 8, 2020 to decide whether the Respondent violated the pertinent provisions of the Social Worker Practice Act. A quorum of the Board was present. The State was represented by Sherrai Hamm, Assistant Attorney General. The Respondent was present and was not represented by counsel.

The Board accepted the State's evidence which included testimony from one witness, Kara Tyson, LCSW, Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners Director of Compliance and Investigation. The Respondent testified on her own behalf. The following exhibits were admitted into evidence, without objection:

- Exhibit 1                Notice of Hearing, dated March 17, 2020
- Exhibit 2                UPS tracking, dated March 20, 2020
- Exhibit 3                Respondent current licensing information, dated May 5, 2020
- Exhibit 4                Notice of Charges, dated November 8, 2019
- Exhibit 5                Investigative Information Report with Attachment 1-6, dated March 21, 2019
  - Attachment 1: Continuing Education Unit Investigations, dated August 28, 2017
  - Attachment 2: Notices from Association of Social Work Boards dated: January 4, 2017; February 7, 2017; and May 5, 2017
  - Attachment 3: Continuing Education Report 2016 Post-Renewal Audit
  - Attachment 4: Email Correspondence from Continuing Education Unit Supervisor
  - Attachment 5: Correspondence from Respondent

Attachment 6: Pre-Charge Consent Order Notice

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board finds the following:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice social work in the State of Maryland.
2. The Respondent is a resident of California and a military spouse.
3. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice social work in Maryland on or about January 10, 2017. The Respondent's license expired on October 31, 2018.
4. The Respondent was included in a post-renewal continuing education audit conducted by the Board on licenses requiring renewal by October 31, 2016.
5. As a condition of licensure, licensed social workers are required to obtain forty (40) credit hours of Continuing Education Units ("CEUs") every two (2) years in programs and categories approved by the Board, as set forth in Health Occupations §19-309(d)(3)(ii) and COMAR 10.42.06.03. The CEUs may all be in Category I, but may not consist of more than twenty (20) CEUs in Category II. A minimum of three (3) CEUs of the required forty (40) CEUs shall focus on ethics and professional conduct, including boundary issues.

6. All licensees are required to sign a statement on the renewal application attesting to having completed the requirements in accordance with the Act and COMAR.
7. On or about January 4, 2017, the Respondent was mailed a letter from the Association of Social Work Boards (“ASWB”) on behalf of the Board stating that she was randomly chosen as a part of the 2014-2016 post renewal audit.
8. The January 4, 2017 letter requested that the Respondent supply copies of training certificates that support the continuing education units that were listed on her 2014-2016 renewal application, in accordance with COMAR 10.42.06C and D by February 4, 2017.
9. The Respondent failed to respond to the January 4, 2017 letter requesting documentation of the continuing education units listed on her 2014-2016 renewal application.
10. On or about May 5, 2017, the Board sent the Respondent a letter titled “Final Notice: 2016 Post Renewal Continuing Education Audit” requesting the documentation set forth in January 4, 2017 letter. The Board requested that the Respondent submit the documentation within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the letter.
11. The Respondent failed to respond to the May 5, 2017 request for documentation.

12. On or about June 12, 2017, the Board notified the Respondent by e-mail that she was being contacted because of her failure to respond to the earlier attempts to contact her concerning her continuing education audit. The Board requested that the Respondent contact the Board within five (5) days of the date of the e-mail.
13. The Respondent did not contact the Board in response to the Board's email.
14. The Respondent was unable to provide documentation that she completed the continuing education units that she listed on her 2014-2016 renewal application.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the State met its burden by a preponderance of the evidence that the Respondent has committed violations of the Maryland Social Workers Act. The Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent violated Health Occ. § 19-311 (4), (5) and (6) as well as COMAR 10.42.06.03; COMAR 10.42.06.06C and D.

### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 13 day of November, 2020, by a majority of the quorum of the Board considering this case hereby:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent's license to practice social work in the State of Maryland shall be **REVOKED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that prior to Reinstatement, the Respondent shall provide the Board with the actual certificates of completion of all CEUs for the 2014 – 2016 renewal cycle and 2016 – 2018 renewal cycle; and it is further

**ORDERED** that all certificates presented to the Board shall be presented in chronological order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent's license to practice shall not be reinstated until all CEUs are verified by the Board; and it is further

**ORDERED** that for purposes of public disclosure, Final Order is considered a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Provisions, §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014) and is reportable to any entity to whom the Board is obligated to report.<sup>1</sup>

November 13, 2020



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerard Farrell  
Board Chair  
Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners

<sup>1</sup> This includes the Board's public website and the National Practitioner Data Bank.