

Received
OCT 31 2017
Board of Social
Work Examiners

PAULA DIXON, LBSW * BEFORE THE
Respondent * MARYLAND STATE BOARD
License Number: 15385 * OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
* Board Case Number: 16-2283

* * * * *

PRE – CHARGE CONSENT ORDER

Background

Paula Dixon, LBSW was included in a Post Renewal Continuing Education Audit conducted by the Maryland Board of Social Examiners (“the Board”) on licenses requiring renewal by October 31, 2017. As a condition of continue licensure, licensed social workers are required to obtain forty (40) credit hours of Continuing Education Units (“CEU”) every two years in programs and categories approved by the Board, in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 19-309(d)(3)(ii) and COMAR 10.42.06.03. The CEU’s may all be in Category I but may not consist of more than twenty CEU’s in Category II. A minimum of three CEU’s, of the required forty CEU’S shall focus on ethics and professional conduct, including boundary issues.

In lieu of instituting formal proceedings against Ms. Dixon for violations of the Maryland Social Workers Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 19-101 et seq., the Board voted to resolve this matter by way of a Pre-Charge Consent Order. As a result, the Board and Ms. Dixon agreed to resolve this matter as set forth in this Consent Order.

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FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, Ms. Dixon was licensed to practice social work in Maryland, License No. 15385. Ms. Dixon was first licensed by the Board on August 27, 2009, and her license is set to expire on October 31, 2017.
2. All licensees are required to sign a statement on the renewal application attesting to having completed this requirement.
3. On January 4, 2016 Ms. Dixon was mailed a letter from the Association of Social Work Boards ("ASWB") on behalf of the Board stating that she was randomly chosen as part of a Post Renewal Continuing Education Audit. This letter requested that Respondent supply continuing education documentation within thirty days of the letter.
4. On February 5, 2016, Ms. Dixon was mailed a second notice from ASWB "2015 Post Renewal Audit-Problem Notice".
5. A Final Notice Certified Letter was sent by the Board on November 17, 2016 stating all correspondence and continuing education documents shall be received by the Board within 15 days from the date of the letter.
6. The Board sent a final email request on March 23, 2017. Ms. Dixon responded on March 23, 2017 that "I have been out of work since December 11, 2015 due to cancer related disabilities, and it is difficult to keep up with much of my normal routine". Ms. Dixon stated she would send the outstanding CEU documents. The Board did not receive the documents.
7. The audit revealed that the Board never received CEU documentation from Ms. Dixon.

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CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that Ms. Dixon is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Md. Code Ann. Health Occ. § Health Occ. § 19-311 (4), (5), (6), (7), (13), and COMAR 10.42.06.03.

ORDER

Based on an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board, it is this 12th day of May 2017, hereby:

ORDERED that Respondent's license shall be **REPRIMANDED**;

ORDERED Ms. Dixon shall pay a fine of \$1,500;

ORDERED that Ms. Dixon will automatically be audited during the next two licensing renewal cycles;

ORDERED that Ms. Dixon complete the outstanding 30 Category I and II CEU's which include 3.0 Category I Ethics within 180 days from the date of this Pre Charge Consent

ORDERED that this is a formal order of the Maryland Board of Social Work Order.

Examiners and as such is a public document pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions Article, Section 4-101 through 4-601 (Repl. Vol. 2014).

05/12/2017



Date

Denise Capaci, LCSW-C
Board Chair
Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners

CONSENT

1. By signing this Consent, I submit to the foregoing Consent Order as a resolution of this matter In lieu of formal charges, which process would have afforded me the right to a full evidentiary hearing. I consent and submit to the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order as if made after a full evidentiary hearing in which I would have the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law.
2. By signing this Consent, I waive any rights I may have had to contest the findings and determinations contained in this Consent Order.
3. I acknowledge that this is a formal order of the Board and as such is a public document.
4. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to enter into and enforce this Consent Order.
5. I sign this Consent Order freely and voluntarily and after having had the opportunity to consult with counsel. I fully understand the language, meaning, and effect of this Consent Order.

10/05/17

Date



Paula Dixon, LBSW

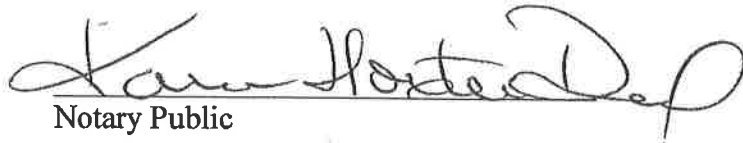
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STATE OF MARYLAND
COUNTY/CITY OF Talbot/Easton:

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Board of
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I hereby certify that on this 5th day of October, 2017, before me a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally appeared Paula Dixon, and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was her voluntary act and deed.


Notary Public

My commission expires: 12-8-2020

