

**IN THE MATTER OF** \* **BEFORE THE STATE BOARD**  
**SAMANTHA GORDIN, LGSW** \* **OF SOCIAL WORK**  
**License No. 19389** \* **EXAMINERS**  
**Respondent** \* **Case No. 2016-2252**

Received  
 APR 3 2019  
 Board of Social  
 Work Examiners

\* \* \* \* \*

**FINAL CONSENT ORDER**

The State Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board") charged **SAMANTHA GORDIN, LGSW** (the "Respondent"), with violation of certain provisions of Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 19-101, *et seq.*, (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2017 Supp.).

Specifically, the Board charged the Respondent with violation of the following provisions of § 19-311:

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

- (1) Obtained or attempted to obtain a license for the applicant... through...misrepresentation;
- (6) Violates any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board [;]

The Board also charged that the Respondent violated § 19-308 of the Act, as follows:

§19-308. IN EFFECT

- (d) Before the license expires, the licensee periodically may renew it for an additional 2-year term, if the licensee:
- (3) Submits to the Board:

- (ii) Satisfactory evidence of compliance with any continuing education requirement set under this section for license renewal.

Specifically, the Board further charged that the Respondent violated its Code of Md. Regs, (COMAR), §10.42.06 Continuing Education:

.07 Reporting, Documenting, and Auditing Compliance with Continuing Education Requirements.

- A. A social worker who has completed the continuing education requirements shall attest to that on a form supplied by the Board as part of the application for license renewal, reinstatement, or reactivation. (Emphasis added.)
- B. The Board shall audit a percentage of social workers, to be selected by the Board, for each renewal period.
- 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. (Emphasis added.)
- D. Documentation. A social worker shall provide to the Board (Emphasis added.):
  - (1) An official transcript for continuing education units earned in a course taken for credit;
  - (2) A certificate of completion for approved programs [;].
- F. Responsibility for Conducting the Audits.
  - (1) The Board staff shall:
    - (a) Review and evaluate the documentation submitted for the purpose of the audits; and
    - (b) Report the findings to the Board.

- (2) The Board may require a social worker to submit a copy of the purpose, objectives, and content areas from the continuing education program.
- (3) The Board may require a social worker to obtain additional continuing education units if a program is disapproved as a result of a review and evaluation.
- (4) The Board may take disciplinary action under COMAR 10.42.04 against any social worker who fraudulently attests to or does not submit continuing education documentation.
- (5) A licensee who fails to complete the continuing education requirements within the time frame specified under Regulation .03 of this chapter may be subject to informal or formal discipline for failure to meet the requirements.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds that:

1. At all times relevant to the charges herein, Respondent was licensed to practice graduate social work in the State of Maryland.<sup>1</sup> The Respondent was first licensed

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<sup>1</sup> § 19-101 (h) "Licensed graduate social worker" means an individual licensed by the Board to practice graduate social work.

- (l) "Practice graduate social work" means to practice social work:
  - (1) Under the supervision of a licensed certified social worker, licensed certified social worker-clinical, or licensed graduate social worker who meets the conditions specified in regulations; and
  - (2) Utilizing the education and training required under § 19-302(c) of this title.
- (m) (1) "Practice social work" means to apply the theories, knowledge, procedures, methods, or ethics derived from a formal educational program in social work to restore or enhance social functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, or communities through:
  - (i) Assessment;
  - (ii) Planning;
  - (iii) Intervention;
  - (iv) Evaluation of intervention plans;
  - (v) Case management;
  - (vi) Information and referral;
  - (vii) Counseling that does not include diagnosis or treatment of mental disorders;
  - (viii) Advocacy;
  - (ix) Consultation;
  - (x) Education;
  - (xi) Research;

on September 16, 2013. Her license expired on October 31, 2017. In July 2017, the Respondent requested that she be placed on inactive status, which the Board did, effective as of November 1, 2017.

2. Pursuant to the aforesaid regulations, the Board conducted an audit of licensees whose licenses were renewed by October 31, 2015.

3. As a condition of continued licensure, licensed social workers are required to obtain 40 credit hours of Continuing Education Units (CEU) every two years in programs and categories approved by the Board. The CEUs may all be in Category I but may not consist of more than 20 CEUs in Category II. Of the required 40 CEUs, a minimum of three CEUs shall focus on ethics and professional conduct, including boundary issues. All licensees are required to sign a statement on the renewal application attesting to having completed this requirement.

4. The Respondent was chosen to be included in the Board's audit for the renewal period from November 1, 2013 to October 31, 2015. On January 4, 2016, the Respondent was sent an initial notice requesting that the required continuing education documentation be supplied by February 4, 2016. The documentation was deemed not to be

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(xii) Community organization; or

(xiii) Development, implementation, and administration of policies, programs, and activities.

- (2) For an individual licensed as a graduate social worker, "practice social work" also includes:
- (i) Supervision of other social workers if the graduate social worker meets the requirements set out in regulations;
  - (ii) Formulating a diagnosis, under the direct supervision of a licensed certified social worker-clinical;
  - (iii) Treatment of biopsychosocial conditions; and
  - (iv) Treatment of mental disorders and the provision of psychotherapy under the direct supervision of a licensed certified social worker-clinical.

in compliance and the Board and the Respondent had various subsequent communications about the documentation thereafter.

5. Among the documentation that the Respondent supplied were documents for a course that she took in Pennsylvania, where she was working and living at the time. Although the credits were recognized by the Pennsylvania Board of Social Workers, the credits were not approved in Maryland. The Board, therefore, disqualified those credits, which disqualification caused the Respondent to be deficient of eleven Category I CEUs that were required for her October 31, 2015 renewal, in violation of § 19-308(d)(3)(ii) of the Act.

6. Consequently, a second letter, "Post Renewal Audit-Problem Notice" was sent on January 29, 2016. A "Final Notice" letter was sent on March 3, 2016 stating the audit file has been submitted to the Board because the Respondent had failed the audit.

7. In October 2017, the Respondent sent to the Board documentation that established that, after the audit, she had completed eleven Category I CEUs to rectify for her submitting renewal credit CEUs that the Board did not recognize. The Board subsequently credited those 11 CEUs toward completion of the necessary credits.

8. In initially obtaining her license without obtaining the requisite number of CEUs recognized by the Board, the Respondent violated the Board's Act and regulations, pursuant to § 19-311 (6), § 19-308 of the Act, and COMAR 10.42.06.07.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent violated Board's Act and regulations, pursuant to §§ 19-311 (6) and 19-308 of the Act, and COMAR 10.42.06.07. The Board dismisses the charge of § 19-311(1).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019, by a majority of the Board hereby:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall complete the 11 Category 1 CEUs within 90 days of the effective date of the Consent Order<sup>2</sup>;

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall be fined Five Hundred (\$500) payable to the Board within two months of the date that the Order is signed by the Board;

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall be automatically audited during the next two licensing renewal cycles;

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall bear all costs of complying with this Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the effective date of this Order is the date that it is signed by the Board;

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall obey all laws and regulations that govern the practice of social work in the State of Maryland.

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<sup>2</sup> The Board has determined that the Respondent has satisfied this requirement.

**ORDERED** that, should the Board receive information that the Respondent has violated the Act or, if the Respondent violates any conditions of this Order, after providing the Respondent with notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the Board may take further disciplinary action against the Respondent, including suspension or revocation. The burden of proof for any action brought against the Respondent, as a result of a breach of the conditions of the Order, shall be on the Respondent to demonstrate compliance with the Order or conditions; and it is further

**ORDERED** that, for purposes of public disclosure and, as permitted by Md. General Provisions §§4-101 et seq. (2014 Vol. and 2018 Supp.), this document consists of the contents of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order, and is reportable to any entity to whom the Board is obligated to report, and will be displayed on the Board's website.

4/12/2019  
Date

*Sherryl A. Silberman LCSW-C*

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

CONSENT OF SAMANTHA GORDIN, LGSW

I, SAMANTHA GORDIN, LGSW, acknowledge that I am represented by counsel, Richard Gordin, Attorney, and have consulted with counsel before entering into this Consent Order. By this Consent 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 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 agree to forego my opportunity to challenge these allegations. 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 after 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.

04/09/2019  
Date

  
SAMANTHA GORDIN, LGSW





STATE OF Washington, DC : ss

CITY/COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that, on this 9 day of April 2019, before me, Perry M. Plybon, a Notary Public of the foregoing State and  
(Print Name)

(City/County), personally appeared **SAMANTHA GORDIN**, LGSW, License No. 19389, and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed, and the statements made herein are true and correct.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notarial seal.

Perry M. Plybon  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ **My Commission expires March 31, 2022**

