

IN THE MATTER OF

*

BEFORE THE MARYLAND

SHAVON JONES-WARRICK, LCSW-C

*

STATE BOARD OF

Respondent

*

SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

License Number: 12692

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Case Number: 2018-2542

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FINAL ORDER

On the 13th day of September, 2019, the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board") notified **SHAVON JONES-WARRICK, LCSW-C** (Licensed Certified Social Worker – Clinical) (the "Respondent"), License Number 12692, of its intent to revoke her license to practice social work in the State of Maryland under the Maryland Social Workers Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. ("Health Occ.") §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2018 Supp.).

Specifically, the Board based its action on the Respondent's violation of the following provisions of the Act and Md. Code Regs. ("COMAR"):

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;

- (6) Violates any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board; [and]
- (7) Is convicted of or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or to a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside[.]

COMAR 10.42.03.03 – Responsibilities to Clients.

B. The licensee may not:

- (1) Participate or condone dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

In its Notice, the Board informed the Respondent that she had the opportunity to request a hearing by submitting a request in writing to the Board's Executive Director within thirty days of service of the Notice. More than thirty days have elapsed since the service of the Notice on the Respondent, and the Respondent has not requested a hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board makes the following findings of fact:

I. BACKGROUND

1. At all times relevant, the Respondent was licensed to practice clinical social work in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was initially licensed to practice clinical social work in Maryland on or about March 30, 2005. The Respondent's license is current until October 31, 2019.

2. At all times relevant, the Respondent practiced clinical social work in Clinton, Maryland. Her clients included individuals who were covered under Medicaid.

3. On or about August 27, 2018, the Board opened an investigation of the Respondent after receiving a report from the Maryland Department of Health, Office of the Inspector General informing the Board that the Respondent was investigated for billing irregularities and pleaded guilty to Felony Medicaid Fraud in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Maryland.

II. BOARD INVESTIGATION

4. In the course of its investigation, the Board obtained the court record in the Respondent's criminal case from the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Maryland.

5. The Respondent's court record showed that on or about July 23, 2018, the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, filed a criminal information in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Maryland, Criminal Case Number: 618204016, charging the Respondent with one count of Felony Medicaid Fraud, in violation of Md. Code Ann., Crim. Law § 8-509.

6. The criminal information alleged that between on or about November 19, 2013, and continuing through on or about June 14, 2016, the Respondent knowingly and willfully defrauded a State Health Plan, *to wit*: the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, in connection with the delivery of and payment for health care services at an aggregate amount of \$1,500 or more.

7. On or about August 14, 2018, the Respondent appeared before a Baltimore City Circuit Court judge and pleaded guilty to the sole count of Felony Medicaid Fraud, in violation of Crim. Law § 8-509.

8. The Statement of Facts in Support of Guilty Plea submitted by the State provided that with respect to three clients for whom the Respondent billed Medicaid in the aggregate amount of \$17,672.85 for mental health services, the Respondent failed to render the mental health services she claimed was provided to these clients.

9. The Circuit Court judge sentenced the Respondent to five years of incarceration, suspend all but time served (one (1) day), followed by five years of unsupervised probation, fine in the amount of \$3,000.00, restitution in the amount of \$11,834.25 and a prohibition from participating in the Maryland Medicaid Program.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent's plea of guilty to, and conviction for, Felony Medicaid Fraud, in violation of Crim. Law § 8-509, in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Maryland, Criminal Case Number 618204016, on or about August 14, 2018, constitute: committing an act of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of social work, in violation of Health Occ. § 19-311(4); engaging in a course of conduct that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards in the practice of social work, in violation of § 19-311(5); violating any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board, *to wit*, COMAR 10.42.03.03B(1), in violation of § 19-311(6); and pleading guilty to and being convicted of a felony or to a crime involving moral turpitude, in violation of § 19-311(7).

ORDER

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

ORDERED that the Respondent Shavon Jones-Warrick, LCSW-C's license to practice social work in the State of Maryland under License Number 12692 be and hereby is **REVOKED**; and it is further

ORDERED that this Order is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014).

9/13/2019

Date



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

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 19-313(b) (2014 Repl. Vol.), you have a right to take a direct judicial appeal. A Petition for Judicial Review must be filed within thirty (30) days of service of this Order and shall be made as provided for judicial review of a final decision in the Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-201 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol.) and Title 7, Chapter 200 of the Maryland Rules.