

FEB 11 2020

Board of Social Work Examiners

IN THE MATTER OF

\*

BEFORE THE

Ronnie Lewis, LMSW

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MARYLAND STATE BOARD

Respondent

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OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

License Number: G05452

\*

Board Case Number: 2019- 2699

\* \* \* \* \*

**PRE – CHARGE CONSENT ORDER**

**Background**

Ronnie Lewis 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 Mr. Lewis 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 Mr. Lewis 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, Mr. Lewis was licensed to practice social work in Maryland, License No. G05452. Mr. Lewis was first licensed by the Board on February 20, 1993, and his license is set to expire on October 31, 2019.
2. All licensees are required to sign a statement on the renewal application attesting to having completed this requirement.
3. On January 4, 2018, Mr. Lewis was mailed a letter from the Association of Social Work Boards ("ASWB") on behalf of the Board stating that he 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. A second letter, "2017 Post Renewal Audit- Second Notice", was sent on February 5, 2018.
5. A third letter, "2017 Post Renewal Audit-Problem Notice" was sent on February 28, 2018 stating his audit file will be forwarded to the Board.

**CONCLUSION OF LAW**

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

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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.

1-24-2020

Date

Ronnie Lewis, LMSW

Ronnie Lewis, LMSW

**ORDER**

Based on an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board, it is this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020, hereby:

**ORDERED** that Mr. Lewis's license shall be **REPRIMANDED**; and be it further,

**ORDERED** that Mr. Lewis pay a fine of \$1000 within 180 days

**ORDERED** that Mr. Lewis will automatically be audited during the next  
licensing renewal cycles.

**ORDERED** that Mr. Lewis will complete the outstanding 13.0 category I CEU's  
and 20.0 category I or II CEU's within 180 days

**ORDERED** that this is a formal order of the Maryland Board of Social Work  
Examiners and as such is a public document pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code,  
State Government Article, Section 10-617(h).

3/18/2020

Date

*Sherryl L. Silberman LCSW-C*

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

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STATE OF MARYLAND  
COUNTY/CITY OF BALTIMORE:

I hereby certify that on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY 2020  
~~JANUARY, 2020~~ before me a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and  
County/City aforesaid, personally appeared Ronnie Lewis, LMSW, and made an oath in  
due form that the foregoing Consent was his voluntary act and deed.

**JULIA OKIKIADE FASAKIN**  
Notary Public  
Baltimore County  
Maryland  
My Commission Expires **May 29, 2023**

*J. Fasakin*  
Notary Public

My commission expires: MAY 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023