

IN THE MATTER OF \* BEFORE THE MARYLAND  
 BRIDGET L. MIXON, LCSW-C \* STATE BOARD OF  
 RESPONDENT \* SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS  
 License Number: 18001 \* Case Number: 2020-2755

\* \* \* \* \*  
CONSENT ORDER

On March 3, 2023, the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the “Board”) charged **Bridget L. Mixon, LCSW-C** (“Licensed Certified Social Worker - Clinical”) (the “Respondent”), License Number 18001, with violating the Maryland Social Workers Practice Act (the “Act”) codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.).

The Board based its actions on the following provisions of the Act:

**§ 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.

On April 26, 2023, the parties appeared at a Case Resolution Conference (“CRC”) before a committee of the Board. The Respondent and the Administrative Prosecutor assigned to the case participated in the CRC. As a result of the negotiations at the CRC,

the parties agreed to the following Consent Order consisting of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board finds the following:

**I. Background**

1. At all times relevant, the Respondent was licensed to practice social work in the State of Maryland. The Respondent initially was licensed to practice as a licensed certified social worker in Maryland on or about October 26, 2016. The Respondent's license is inactive.

2. The Respondent was employed as a fee-per-session, employee-based mental health clinician with an organization (the "Organization") with locations in Calvert County and St. Mary's County, Maryland from on or about October 8, 2018 until January 10, 2020. At the Organization, the Respondent provided therapy to clients who were assigned her.

3. On or about January 16, 2020, the Board received a complaint (the "Complaint") from the mother (the "Complainant") of a 14 year-old female client (the "Client") of the Respondent. The Complainant alleged that the Respondent self-disclosed to the Client her past personal history of illicit drug use.

4. Based on the Complaint, the Board initiated an investigation of the Respondent.

## **II. Board Investigation**

5. In furtherance of its investigation, the Board in part subpoenaed records from the Organization, and interviewed the Respondent, the Complainant, and the Owner of the Organization.

6. In her interview, the Complainant stated that she learned from her son that the Client disclosed that the Respondent had “spoken to her about using acid....” The Complainant then “confronted [the Client] about it in a gentle way. And she indeed verified that, yes, this had been a part of their conversation. And so that is what led to me filing the complaint.”

7. In her interview, the Respondent stated she had a therapy session with the Client in which she “provided [the Client] an education in harm reduction emphasis. I shared that I struggled with substance abuse, drinking, when I was young, like 14, 15. And I chose to do that because [the Client] always [has] been interested in me. She tried to like get me off therapy and talk about myself....”

8. The Respondent further stated that in “the harm reduction session she asked about acid or LSD, and I told her I strongly advised against it, and I told her that I had tried it once when I was young in my rebel days, and it was awful and it was a terrible experience. I did that to dissuade her from wanting to go out and find that.”

9. The Respondent stated her intention was to discourage drug use by the Client and “was providing psychoeducation with harm reduction stance using motivational interviewing and helping her to understand what the drugs are and how bad they are.”

10. In her interview, the Owner of the Organization stated she also was a LCSW-C in the State of Maryland. The Owner stated she received a telephone call from the Complainant who “told me that she was filing a complaint against [the Respondent’s] license for an inappropriate disclosure against her daughter.” The Owner stated the Client “disclosed to the school counselor that [the Respondent] told her she used illicit drugs, because it helped her see things more clearly, and that was in a session with [the Client.]” The Owner stated that if the allegations were confirmed to be true, the Respondent’s actions would “be unprofessional.”

11. During her employment at the Organization, the Owner stated the Respondent “had a couple of issues with sharing too much information with clients before, but it was never egregious, it was more her doing too much talking and not letting the client – it wasn’t – it was more about her than the client in some sessions, was the feedback that I received,…”

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent violated Health Occ. § 19-311(4)(commits any act of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of social work); and § 19-311(5)(engages in a course of conduct that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards in the practice of social work).

## ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is on this **11th** day of **July**, 2023, by a majority of the quorum of the Board considering this case hereby:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent be and hereby is **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that if the Respondent applies for renewal of her license to practice social work in the State of Maryland and her license is reinstated or reissued, the Respondent immediately shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a minimum period of **ONE (1) YEAR** subject to the following terms and conditions:

- i. Within six (6) months of reinstatement, the Respondent shall successfully complete one Board-approved course on professional ethics. The Respondent shall be responsible for submitting written documentation to the Board of her successful completion of this course. The Respondent understands and agrees that she may not use this coursework to fulfill any requirements mandated for licensure renewal. The Respondent shall be solely responsible for furnishing the Board with adequate written verification that she has completed the course according to the terms set forth herein.
- ii. The Respondent shall comply with the Maryland Social Workers Practice Act and all laws, statutes and regulations pertaining thereto.
- iii. During the probationary period and upon securing employment as a social worker, the Respondent shall be supervised by a Board-approved supervisor (“Probation Supervisor”), to whom the Board may release any portion of the investigative file as is deemed necessary. The Respondent also must notify her employer of this Consent Order;
- iv. The Respondent shall engage the services of a Probation Supervisor within thirty (30) days of the effective date of securing employment as a social worker;

- v. The Respondent shall make her records available for inspection by the Probation Supervisor;
- vi. The Respondent shall meet at least once a month, for a minimum of three clinical hours, with the Probation Supervisor for random chart review and discussion at the Respondent's expense;
- vii. The Respondent shall provide the Probation Supervisor with a copy of this Consent Order prior to their initial meeting, and the Board may release to the Probation Supervisor any portion of the investigative file as is deemed necessary by the Board and/or the Probation Supervisor;
- viii. The Respondent shall ensure that the Probation Supervisor provides the Board with written quarterly reports on the Respondent's progress during the supervisory period, which shall include but not be limited to the number and type of cases reviewed, and issues discussed;
- ix. The Respondent is responsible for ensuring that the Probation Supervisor submits the required quarterly reports to the Board in a timely manner;
- x. A negative report from the Probation Supervisor, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, constitutes a violation of this Consent Order;
- xi. The Respondent shall abide by any and all recommendations made by the Probation Supervisor. Failure to cooperate and failure to abide by the Probation Supervisor's recommendations shall be deemed a violation of this Order;
- xii. The Board has sole authority to implement any changes in the supervision and retains all authority to approve any changes in the supervision;

- xiii. In the event that the supervisor discontinues supervising the Respondent for any reason, the Respondent shall immediately notify the Board and submit a replacement candidate to serve as her supervisor under the terms specified above.

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that in the event the Respondent's license to practice social work is reinstated or reissued, after the conclusion of **ONE (1) YEAR** from the date of reinstatement, the Respondent may submit a written petition to the Board requesting termination of probation. After consideration of the petition, the probation may be terminated, through an order of the Board, or a designated Board committee. The Board, or designated Board committee, may grant the termination if the Respondent has fully and satisfactorily complied with all of the probationary terms and conditions and there are no pending investigation or outstanding complaints of similar violations against her; and it is further

**ORDERED** that if the Board has reason to believe that the Respondent has failed to comply with any term or condition of probation or this Consent Order, the Respondent shall be given notice and an opportunity for a hearing. If there is a genuine dispute as to a material fact, the hearing shall be an evidentiary hearing before the Board. If there is no genuine dispute as to a material fact, the Respondent shall be given a show cause hearing before the Board; and it is further

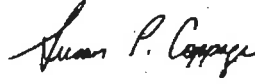
**ORDERED** that after the appropriate hearing, if the Board determines that the Respondent has failed to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Consent Order, the Board may reprimand the Respondent, place the Respondent on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend or revoke the Respondent's license to practice social work in Maryland. The Board may, in addition to one or more of the sanctions set forth above, impose a civil monetary fine on the Respondent; and it is further

**ORDERED** that in the event the Respondent's license to practice social work is reinstated or reissued, the Respondent shall not serve or continue to serve as: a Board authorized sponsor, presenter and/or trainer of social work continuing education learning activities, an ethics tutor, an evaluator for the Board, or a Board-approved supervisor for a period of five (5) years from the effective date of reinstatement; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent is responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this Consent Order is a public document. *See* Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 4-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.) and is reportable to any entity to whom the Board is obligated to report.<sup>1</sup>

07/11/2023



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Date

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Susan P. Coppage, LCSW-C, Board Chair  
Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners

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<sup>1</sup> This includes the Board's public website and NPDB.



## CONSENT

I, Bridget L. Mixon, LCSW-C, License No. 18001, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge that:

1. I have had the opportunity to consult with counsel before signing this document.  
I have knowingly and voluntarily agreed to enter 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.
2. I am aware that I am entitled to a formal evidentiary hearing, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 19-312 (2021 Repl. Vol.) and Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-201 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.).
3. I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have 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 as provided by law. I am waiving those procedural and substantive protections.
4. I voluntarily enter into and agree to abide by the terms and conditions set forth herein as a resolution of the Charges against me. I waive any right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and I waive my right to a full evidentiary hearing, as set forth above, and any right to appeal this Consent Order or any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.

5. I acknowledge that by failing to abide by the conditions set forth in this Consent Order, I may be subject to disciplinary actions, which may include revocation of my license to practice as a social worker.
6. I sign this Consent Order voluntarily, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order.

01/26/23  
Date

  
Bridget L. Mixon, LCSW-C

**NOTARY**

STATE OF Maryland

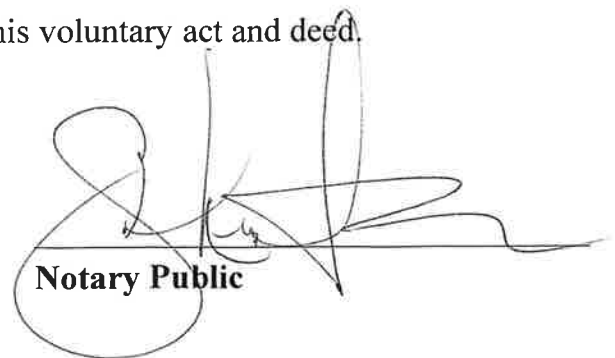
CITY/COUNTY OF St Marys

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June,

2023, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Bridget L. Mixon, LCSW-C, License Number: 18001, and gave oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS, my hand and Notary Seal.

SHEILA D NIMMERRICHTER  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
CHARLES COUNTY MD  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES  
2 1 14 120 26

  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 2.14.26