

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE
Beth Anne Appleton-Thierer, LCSW-C	*	MARYLAND STATE BOARD
Respondent	*	OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
License Number: 14578	*	Board Case Number: 14-1992

* * * * *

PRE – CHARGE CONSENT ORDER

Background

Ms. Beth Anne Appleton-Thierer 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, 2013. As a condition of continued 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. Appleton-Thierer 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. Appleton-Thierer agreed to resolve this matter as set forth in this Consent Order.

FINDING OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, Ms. Appleton-Thierer was licensed to practice social work in Maryland, License No. 14578. Ms. Appleton-Thierer was first licensed by the Board on May 7, 2015, 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 2, 2014, Ms. Appleton-Thierer 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. Ms. Appleton-Thierer responded to the audit by the deadline; however, the documentation was not in compliance with continuing education requirements.
4. On January 30, 2014, Ms. Appleton-Thierer was mailed a second notice from ASWB "2013 Post Renewal Audit-Problem Notice".
5. The audit revealed that Ms. Appleton-Thierer completed 15 hours in Category I and 22.5 hours in Category II for a total of 37.5 hours. Ms. Appleton-Thierer only completed 15 hours in Category I and therefore failed the audit.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that Ms. Appleton-Thierer 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 **September** . 2014, hereby:

ORDERED that Ms. Appleton-Thierer's license shall be reprimanded; and be it further,

ORDERED that Ms. Appleton-Thierer shall pay a fine in the amount of \$1,000.00, payable to the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners, within ninety days (90) of the date Order; and it be further,

ORDERED that failure to pay in full the above fine within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order shall be considered a violation of this Order, and after notice and opportunity for a show cause hearing shall subject Ms. Appleton-Thierer to further discipline such as suspension, revocation, or further fines based on the violations cited in this Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that Ms. Appleton-Thierer will automatically be audited during the next licensing renewal cycle.

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).



9/12/14

Date

Mark Lannon, 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 witness, 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.

9/18/15 Beth A. Appleton-Thierer, LCSW-C
Date Beth Anne Appleton-Thierer, LCSW-C

STATE OF MARYLAND
COUNTY/CITY OF Anne Arundel :

I hereby certify that on this 18th day of September, 2015, before me a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally appeared Beth Anne Appleton-Thierer, LCSW-C and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was her voluntary act and deed.

R. Alon
Notary Public

My commission expires: 01/22/2018