

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**PATRICIA ANN HAWKINS WARRICK, LCSW-C**

**Respondent**

**License Number: 12255**

\* **BEFORE THE**  
\* **STATE BOARD OF**  
\* **SOCIAL WORK**  
\* **EXAMINERS**  
\* **Case No. 2015-2083**

\* \* \* \* \*

**CONSENT ORDER**

On September 23, 2015, the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners ("the Board") charged **PATRICIA ANN HAWKINS WARRICK, LCSW-C (the "Respondent")**, License Number 12255 with violating the Maryland Social Work Examiners Act ("the Act") codified at Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. ("H.O.") §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol.) and Code Md. Regs. ("COMAR"), tit. 10, § 42.03.01 *et seq.*

The Board charged the Respondent with violating the following provisions of H.O. § 19-311:

Subject to the hearing provisions of §19-213 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:

- (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 plea or conviction set aside[.]

On December 3, 2015, a Case Resolution Conference was convened in this matter. The Respondent agreed to enter into this Consent Order consisting of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds the following:

1. The Respondent was initially licensed to practice as a licensed certified social worker-clinical ("LCSW-C") on February 3, 2004. Her license is currently active and is scheduled to expire on October 31, 2016.

2. At all times relevant, the Respondent was employed as a social worker with Baltimore City Public Schools. The Respondent worked Monday through Friday during school hours ( 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).

3. At all times relevant, the Respondent also operated a private social work practice at an office on Liberty Road in Baltimore County, Maryland. In her private practice, the Respondent provided mental health service to recipients in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program ("Medicaid").<sup>1</sup> A large number of the Respondent's Medicaid clients were children under 18 years old who were students in the Baltimore City Public Schools.

4. In or around May 2015, the Board received information from the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit ("MFCU") that the Respondent was convicted of Medicaid fraud for billing the state for mental health services she claimed to provide while at the same time working as a public school social worker in Baltimore.

5. According to court documents, on May 12, 2015, in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Maryland, the Respondent was convicted of felony Medicaid fraud and sentenced to a three-year jail sentence, which was

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<sup>1</sup> The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ("DHMH") located in Baltimore City, Maryland, administers and oversees the Medicaid program and authorized the Respondent to provide mental health services to Medicaid recipients.

suspended, five years of probation, restitution in the amount of \$39,702 and 100 hours of community service.

6. According to the statement of facts in the plea agreement, which the Respondent signed, during 2012, the Respondent submitted claims to the Medicaid program for 45-minute sessions she claimed to have provided in her Baltimore County office. These sessions occurred during the hours when employment records indicate that she was working for the Baltimore City Public Schools. Several Medicaid recipients were interviewed and confirmed that they never saw the Respondent during school hours at her private office.

7. An investigation revealed that the Respondent submitted fraudulent claims totaling \$39,701.79. The fraudulent claims were based on fabricated sign-in sheets.

8. The Respondent's conduct, as described above constitutes, in whole or in part, a violation of H.O. § 19-311(7).

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concluded that, if proven true, the factual allegations would support a finding as a matter of law that the Respondent violated H.O. §§ 19-311(7).

#### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016, by a majority of a quorum of the Board considering this case:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent's license to practice social work shall be **SUSPENDED** for a period of at least **ONE (1) YEAR**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that after **ONE (1) YEAR**, the Respondent may submit a petition requesting that the suspension of her license to practice social work be lifted; and it is further

**ORDERED** upon reinstatement of the Respondent's license to practice social work, she shall be immediately placed on Board-supervised **PROBATION** for a period of at least **FOUR (4) YEARS** and until the following terms and conditions are satisfactorily complied with:

1. The Respondent's status as a licensed clinical social worker will be listed in the Board's computer records and website as being on "Probation";
2. During the probationary period, the Respondent is prohibited from employment in an independent practicing and is prohibited from supervising other social workers;
3. The Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to her employer within five (5) days of commencing any employment. The Respondent shall ensure that her employer(s) send confirmation of their receive of this Consent Order to the Board;
4. During the probationary period, the Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete a one-on-one, Board-approved ethics tutorial, focusing on the issues that gave rise to this case. After the successful completion of the one-on-one ethics tutorial, the instructor shall provide

the Board with a written report detailing the Respondent's participation in and completion of the course. The Respondent shall also submit a written statement to the Board stating what she has learned from the ethics tutorial. The Respondent may not use any continuing education credits earned through taking the required course to fulfill any continued education requirements that are mandated for licensure renewal in this State;

5. The Respondent shall secure a Board-certified supervisor ("supervisor") who shall supply the Board with quarterly, written reports on the Respondent's practice. the Respondent shall provide the supervisor with a copy of this Consent Order prior to their initial meeting, and the Board may release to the supervisor any portion of the investigative file as is deemed necessary by the Board and/or supervisor. A negative report from the supervisor may result in a violation of this Consent Order and further sanctions at the Board's discretion. The Board, in its discretion, may reduce the frequency of the written reports from the supervisor, upon a written request from the supervisor;

6. The Respondent shall obey all state and federal laws. If the Respondent is charged with, convicted of, or pleads guilty to, any crimes, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside, she shall notify the Board, in writing, of any criminal charge(s), conviction(s), or guilty plea(s) within **TEN (10) DAYS** of the conviction or guilty plea. Failure to report a criminal charge, conviction,

or guilty plea to the Board in writing within **TEN (10) DAYS** is a violation of probation and this Consent Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that no earlier than **FOUR (4) YEARS** from the commencement of the probationary period, the Respondent may submit a written petition to the Board requesting termination of probation. The Board may, in its discretion, grant the termination if the Respondent has fully and satisfactorily complied with all of the probationary terms and conditions, including successful completion of the one-on-one ethics tutorial, and there are no pending complaints related to the charges; and it is further

**ORDERED** that if the Respondent violates any of the terms and conditions of Probation and this Consent Order, the Board, in its discretion, after notice and an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board, may impose any sanction which the Board may have imposed in this case, including a probationary term and conditions of probation, reprimand, suspension, revocation and/or a monetary penalty; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall practice according to the Maryland Social Work Examiners Act and in accordance with all applicable laws, statutes and regulations; and it is further

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

**ORDERED** that this Consent Order shall be a PUBLIC DOCUMENT pursuant to Md. Code Ann. General Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol.).



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Mark Lannon, LCSW-C, Board Chair  
State Board of Social Work Examiners

**CONSENT**

I, Patricia Ann Hawkins Warrick, acknowledge that I consulted with counsel before signing this document. By this Consent, I accept to be bound by this Consent Order and its conditions and restrictions. I waive any rights I may have had to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

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 as provided by law. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I also affirm that I am waiving my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.

I sign this Consent Order after having had an opportunity to consult with counsel, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the

language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order. I voluntarily sign this Order,  
and understand its meaning and effect.

01/13/2016  
Date

Patricia Ann Hawkins Warrick, LCSW-C  
Patricia Ann Hawkins Warrick, LCSW-C  
Respondent

Read and approved:

Roland Brown  
Roland Brown, Esq., Attorney for Respondent

**NOTARY**

STATE OF MARYLAND

CITY/COUNTY OF Baltimore:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016,  
before me, a Notary Public of the foregoing State personally appeared Patricia  
Ann Hawkins Warrick 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.

Karen T. Thomas  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 01/24/2019