

KANSAS BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD

Eisenhower State Office Building
700 SW Harrison, Suite 420
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3240

In the Matter of)
)
Jessica L. Calys)
)
Applicant for License Reinstatement)
as a Licensed Master's Social Worker)

Case No. 23-MS-009

Summary Proceeding Order

The above-captioned matter comes before the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (Board) for consideration of the application submitted by Jessica L. Calys, for reinstatement as a Licensed Master's Social Worker (LMSW). The Presiding Officers who considered her reinstatement application were the following Board members: Mary Jones, Jim Kilmartin, Johnna Norton, Cynthia Schendel, Laura Shaughnessy, Ric Steele, and Deb Stidham.

After reviewing its administrative records, the Board makes the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and orders.

Findings of Fact

1. The Board received an application for license reinstatement as a LMSW from Jessica L. Calys (Applicant).
2. The Board previously granted Applicant a LMSW License on October 21, 2009.
3. On October 10, 2016, the Board issued a Summary Proceeding Order of Revocation, revoking Applicant's LMSW license until further order of the Board. In the Order, the Board found that Applicant violated K.S.A. 65-6311(a)(4)(6) as evidenced by violating unprofessional conduct as defined by rules established by the Board and committed negligence or wrongful actions in the performance of her duties. The Board found violations of K.A.R. 102-2-7(a), in that Applicant obtained or attempted to obtain a license for herself by means of deceit, misrepresentation or concealment of a material fact; (b)(3) Applicant failed to report employment termination to the Board; (h) Applicant failed to recognize, seek intervention and otherwise appropriately respond when one's own personal problems, psychosocial distress or mental health difficulties interfere with or negatively impact professional judgment, professional performance and functioning or the ability to act in the client's best interest; (i) Applicant failed or refused to cooperate in a timely manner with any request from the Board for a response; and (k) Applicant failed

to provide proof of completion of 40 continuing education hours in a two-year period prior to renewal. Further, the Board found Applicant violated K.S.A. 65-6311(d) as evidenced by failing to provide proof of completion of 40 continuing education hours in the two-year period prior to renewal and Applicant violated K.A.R. 102-2-11a(e) as it was noted Applicant's failure to copy with the regulation concerning the renewal audit was considered further unprofessional conduct.

4. In support of her application for reinstatement, Applicant submitted a letter to the Board regarding the revocation of her LMSW license. She stated that since the time of her license revocation, she has been on a journey of personal and professional recovery. She stated she received formal treatment to build new personal skills then she worked in customer service to rebuild professional skills. Applicant states she was able to work up from a customer service clerk to a team lead, then later from the customer service field to senior home care. She noted that she has received promotions and increased work responsibilities, including supervising other care coordinators, then promoted further to conducting intakes with seniors and coordinating services.

5. Applicant further states she wishes to resolve her past disciplinary issues as part of her personal recovery and needs to resolve her past license revocation for her professional goals. Applicant takes responsibility for past disciplinary violations and states since her license revocation she has worked on her recovery and building new strengths. She states if she is faced with similar circumstances in the future, she understands it is her ethical and professional obligation to speak up and identify that she is not capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of the profession. Applicant states she sees the value in both formal and informal support and she states she will work proactively to take the necessary steps to prevent any recurrences.

6. Applicant also submitted three references. One reference is licensed as a Licensed Master's Social Worker, has known Applicant for four years, and has worked closely with Applicant for the past two years. The reference states Applicant maintained professionalism and decorum with residents, their families, and in her interactions with staff. The reference states Applicant upholds the Code of Ethics for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and values of the social work profession. The reference further states applicant displays professional ethics through her service, integrity, and competence; understands how social justice impacts the profession and the importance of human relationships when working directly with clients; and she maintains respect for the dignity and worth of each person, whether client, family member, or staff. The reference requested Applicant's license be reinstated.

7. The second reference is licensed as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, has known Applicant for four years, and has worked closely with Applicant for the past year and a half. The reference states Applicant was supportive in crisis interventions regarding seniors needing higher levels of care or services; that Applicant helped initiate emergency in-home care for residents who needed immediate care; and they worked together to educate and orient social work interns to home care services. The reference states Applicant's major strengths include leading with empathy and meeting clients where they

are; being competent and reliable; and that Applicant embodies the social work values of the importance of human relationships, dignity, and worth of a person, and service. The reference recommended Applicant's license be reinstated.

8. The third reference has worked with Applicant for the past four and a half years. The reference states Applicant shows a great level of professionalism; states Applicant shows leadership in certain situations; and states Applicant is reliable, empathetic, and engaging in work situations.

Conclusions of Law

9. The Board is authorized to issue a LMSW license to applicants who have met the qualifications under the Social Workers Licensure Act, K.S.A. 65-6321, *et seq.* (Act). See K.S.A. 65-6306, Qualifications for Licensure. One of the qualifications for licensure as a LSMW is an Applicant must show to the Board that the Applicant is a person who merits public trust. K.S.A. 65-6306(b)(3). The term "merits the public trust" is defined in K.A.R. 102-2-1a(p).

10. The Board is also authorized to issue, renew or reinstate a license or to place conditions or limitations on a license upon a finding that an applicant for licensure has violated a provision of the Act or one or more rules and regulations of the Board. K.S.A. 65-6311(a)(5). Applicant has submitted an application for license reinstatement as a LMSW after having her LMSW license revoked, after having been found to have violated several statutes and regulations while practicing as a LMSW. Thus, the Board has jurisdiction over Applicant and this matter.

11. Administrative proceedings regarding licensure under the Act are conducted in accordance with the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act (KAPA), K.S.A. 77-501 *et seq.* K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-5369(c). Under the KAPA, the Board may use summary proceedings to issue an order, subject to a party's request for a hearing. The Board finds that the use of summary proceedings in this matter does not violate any law and the protection of the public interest does not require the Board to give notice and opportunity to participate to persons other than the parties. K.S.A. 77-537.

12. Applicant's unprofessional conduct in 2016 shows at that time, she lacked the qualifications for LMSW licensure. Her past conduct culminated in disciplinary action against her and the revocation of her license.

13. However, Applicant has now shown she has gained insight and understanding concerning the issues involved with her unprofessional conduct in 2016. She received formal treatment to build new personal skills and she has worked in several positions to build professional skills. While working, she has received promotions with increased responsibilities and opportunities to demonstrate leadership. She values both formal and informal supports and plans to work proactively to avoid issues.

14. Additionally, all three professional references provided positive information supporting Applicant's application for reinstatement for licensure. These references provided reports of Applicants professional growth, leadership, empathy, and skills in assisting other individuals.

15. Based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Board determines that the application for license reinstatement as a Licensed Master's Social Worker filed by Jessica L. Calys should be granted.

Order

WHEREFORE, after consideration of the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, it is the decision and order of the Board that the application for license reinstatement filed by Jessica L. Calys for licensure as a Licensed Master's Social Worker should be and is hereby reinstated.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board



Mary Jones, Chair and Presiding Officer

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537(b) and 77-542(a), a written request for a hearing before the Board on the above Summary Proceeding Order may be filed with the Board within fifteen (15) days of the date listed on the certificate of service below. If a hearing is not requested in the time and manner stated, the above Summary Proceeding Order becomes effective upon expiration of the fifteen (15) day time. The Board's designee who may receive service of a request for a hearing on behalf of the Board is:

David Fye, Executive Director
Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
700 SW Harrison, Suite 420
Topeka, Kansas 66603

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on this 21st day of March 2023 a copy of the above and foregoing Summary Proceeding Order and Notice of Administrative Relief was placed in the U.S. mail, first-class postage prepaid addressed to:

Jessica L. Galys



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leslie A. Allen', written over a horizontal line.

Staff,
Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board