

BEFORE THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD
OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
CHARLOTTE PHILLIPS TAYLOR)
RESPONDENT) CASE NO. 15-2400B-03
)
)

ORDER

This cause comes before the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners (the Board), pursuant to the attached Hearing Officer's Recommendation and the entire administrative records. For good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED:

THAT the attached Hearing Officer's Recommendation is hereby adopted in its entirety except the Board declines to tax the Respondent with the cost of the proceedings.

THAT the Respondent is guilty of violating Section 34-30-4 (a) 6 Code of Alabama, 1975 and Rules 850-X-9-.01 (1) (a) 2; 850-X-09-.01 (2) (a) 1 and 850-X-.09-.01 (2) (c) 3, Administrative Code;

THAT the license of the Respondent is REVOKED.

THAT the Respondent is ordered to pay a fine totaling \$500.00 to the Board of Social Work Examiners within six (6) months of the date of this order.

Done this the 13th day of April 2016.


Brenda W. Holden
Executive Director
For the Board of Social Work
Examiners

**BEFORE THE ALABAMA
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

IN THE MATTER OF)	
)	
CHARLOTTE PHILLIPS)	CASE NO. 15-2400B-03
TAYLOR,)	
)	
RESPONDENT.)	

RECOMMENDATION OF THE HEARING OFFICER

I. Procedural Posture

Charlotte Phillips Taylor (hereinafter “Respondent”) was, heretofore, licensed by the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners (hereinafter “Board”), as a licensed social worker (“LBSW”). Respondent at all times pertinent in the Board’s complaint was and is subject to the Board’s jurisdiction.

Respondent was notified of a formal hearing to be held on January 22, 2016.¹ The Complaint and Order of Formal Hearing were sent to Taylor at her address of record in the Board’s file by certified mail and by regular mail through the United States Postal Service. Respondent did not attend the hearing. James Anderson, Esq., telephonically advised the Board that his client was going to pursue a different career path and would not be at the hearing. Pursuant to ALA. CODE § 41-22-12(c) (1975), the Board elected to proceed with the hearing without Respondent’s presence.

¹ Board Exhibit 3.

The Board, pursuant to ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 850-X-10-.06(4), engaged James Jerry Wood to act as a hearing officer in this matter. The undersigned conducted the hearing on January 22, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. Six Board Members were present. Ellen Leonard, Esq., represented the Board. Board Exhibits 1 – 3 were admitted without objection.

II. Findings of Fact

The Board's complaint against Respondent was admitted into evidence.² Pursuant to ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 850-X-10-.09, in Respondent's absence a plea of "not guilty" was entered for her by the hearing officer.

The Board's first witness was Jill R. Beck ("Beck"), Director, Youth Services Institute, University of Alabama School of Social Work. Beck filed a complaint against Respondent with the Board.³ Beck submitted her sworn affidavit detailing her investigation of the allegations against Respondent.⁴

In Beck's role as Director, she oversees the University's Accountability Based Sex Offender Program: Continuum of Care ("COC"). Respondent was employed as a Case Manager/Mentor with COC to provide support to COC clients in the community and to help them reintegrate. Respondent had been so employed since

² Board Exhibit 3.

³ Board Exhibit 1.

⁴ Board Exhibit 2.

2009. Respondent worked from home and was to provide services in four counties: Jefferson, Shelby, Talladega and St. Clair. Respondent was part of a two-person Therapist/Case Manager team. Elizabeth Ashley Davis was her Therapist partner. Case Managers are supposed to meet with clients once a week. Beck became aware that Respondent was not meeting with clients as required. Beck interviewed Respondent on September 23, 2015. Beck collected Respondent's mileage claims, her weekly schedules and paperwork, and compared them. Respondent had claimed significant amounts of mileage to and from St. Clair County during time periods that she had no clients there. Respondent's explanation was that she often got her counties confused and that she was looking for services in St. Clair County, but could not provide details. Beck prepared a matrix of Respondent's answers concerning her client contacts with what the clients said about whether Respondent had visited them.⁵ Several of the clients said they had never met Respondent in person even though Respondent was supposed to meet with them weekly. Respondent's Therapist partner had complained that Respondent was not meeting with their clients.⁶

⁵ Board Exhibit 2, p. 6.

⁶ Board Exhibit 2, p. 1.

Respondent's mileage claims reflect she was travelling to all of her service counties each week that she worked, as if she were visiting with all of her clients each week or providing some other case related service.⁷

Beck obtained from the University of Alabama Office of Internal Audit a review of all Respondent's travel reimbursements for fiscal years 2013 and 2014. The audit found evidence that during the two-year period from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2014, Respondent requested and received travel reimbursements amounting to \$10,165.00 to which she was not entitled,⁸ Respondent claims she made visits to her assigned clients "most weeks."

Respondent's employment with the COC program was terminated effective September 25, 2014.

The Board's second witness was Brenda Holden ("Holden"), Executive Director of the Board. Holden testified that the Board had received the complaint against the Respondent. Holden explained she had sent the Order of Formal Hearing and Complaint to the Respondent by certified and regular mail. The Respondent was properly served by mail at the address of record she provided to the Board. James Anderson, Esq., who had represented the Respondent in related matters

⁷ Board Exhibit 2, p. 3.

⁸ Board Exhibit 2, Exhibit C, p. 2.

indicated Respondent was aware of the scheduled hearing and would not attend having decided to pursue another career path.

The Board's complaint alleges Respondent received improper reimbursement for clients in St. Clair County in the amount of four thousand, one hundred and sixty-eight dollars (\$4,168.00) during a period when Respondent had no clients in St. Clair County. Respondent submitted a request for mileage reimbursement in Blount County when she did not meet with the client in Blount County. The complaint further alleges that Respondent failed to meet with clients as required by her social work position and Respondent failed to complete proper documentation on her meetings with clients.⁹

Conclusions of Law

Based on the testimony and documentary evidence, the Respondent violated ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 850-X-9-.01(1)(a)2 which states: *The social worker shall not participate in, condone, or be associated with dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or criminal activity.* The Respondent also violated ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 850-X-9-.01(2)(a)1, which states: *The social worker should serve clients with devotion, loyalty, determination, and the maximum application of professional skills and competence.*

⁹ Board Exhibit 3.

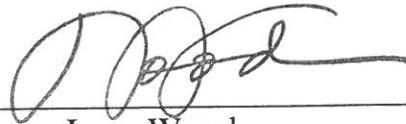
The Respondent also violated ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 850-X-9-.01(2)(c)3, which states, in part: *The social worker shall keep timely and accurate records detailing problems, treatment plans, scope of services, and dates and content of client contacts...*

The testimonial and documentary evidence clearly establishes, by a preponderance of the evidence that Respondent engaged in behavior that is dishonest and inappropriate in clear violation of the requirements of her professional licensure as a social worker.

Recommendation

The undersigned recommends that Respondent's license to practice as a social worker be revoked, that she pay the maximum applicable fines and be taxed with the costs of this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted this 4th day of March, 2016.



James Jerry Wood
Administrative Law Judge
State of Alabama
Alabama State Personnel Department
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Montgomery, Alabama 36130
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VIA CERTIFIED AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Charlotte Phillips Taylor

Birmingham, Alabama

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

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