LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF	**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS**
PANDORA CRANE	**OF LAW AND SANCTIONS**
LICENSE NO. 3003	**NUMBER 2012-107**

This matter came before the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners ("Board") on June 8, 2012 at or about 8:30 a.m. for a hearing on an Administrative Complaint filed with the Board by the Assistant Attorney General and docketed in the captioned proceedings following an Order of Summary Suspension issued by the Board on March 1, 2012. Board members, John McBride, LCSW, Lisa Lipsey, LCSW, Judith Haspel, LCSW, Carla Moore, LMSW, and Parker Sternbergh, LCSW, served on the hearing panel.

Complaint History

The complaint in this case originated with a 2011-2012 renewal application submitted to the Board by Pandora Crane which application included affirmative answers to the following questions, "Have you been charged with, convicted of, or did you plead guilty to or nolo contendere to violation of any state or federal, civil or criminal law?"; "Have you within the past year or are you currently using drugs, chemical substances (including controlled substances obtained either with or without a valid prescription), or intoxicating liquors to an extent that it impairs your functioning as a social worker or the delivery of social work services?"; and "Have you been a participant in an alcohol or drug treatment or rehabilitation program within the past year in which you were monitored or supervised relative to your use of drugs or alcohol?". On

August 26, 2011, the Board considered the renewal application and voted to approve the renewal conditional of Ms. Crane being evaluated for the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners Impaired Professional Program (IPP). Due to circumstances beyond her control, Ms. Crane was unable to immediately secure an appointment for an evaluation. Therefore, her renewal application was processed and her license was renewed through August 31, 2012 after receiving a notarized statement that she agrees "to obtain an evaluation for the Impaired Professional Program, follow all recommendations of the evaluator, and to enter the IPP if so deemed necessary." Pandora Crane was evaluated and the results of the evaluation were forwarded to Sherril Rudd, IPP Manager. Ms. Rudd took the information from the evaluation and drafted a Participation Agreement for the IPP. The IPP Participation Agreement (Agreement) was forwarded to Ms. Crane who refused to sign the Agreement. When the Board considered that Ms. Crane agreed to enter the IPP, was determined to be an appropriate candidate for the IPP, but refused to sign the IPP Participation Agreement, it found that the health, safety, or welfare of the public required emergency action, an Order of Summary Suspension was issued consistent with the Board's authority under La. R.S. 49:961(C) and Rule 911(B) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures. The Administrative Complaint alleges that by failing to follow all recommendations of the evaluator and sign the Participation Agreement, Ms. Crane has violated an order of the Board, such action is cause for discipline pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(5).

THE HEARING

Emalie Boyce, Assistant Attorney General, called the Board's Administrator, Emily Efferson, as a witness to authenticate multiple exhibits introduced as documentary evidence in support of the allegations contained in the Administrative Complaint. The exhibits included

Pandora Crane's 2011-2012 renewal application, minutes of the social work board meeting conducted on August 26, 2011, email from Emily Efferson to Pandora Crane dated August 29, 2011 notifying Ms. Crane that the Board voted to approve her renewal application conditional upon being evaluated for the IPP and subsequent entry into the IPP if deemed necessary, notarized statement from Ms. Crane dated September 2, 2011 whereby she agrees to obtain an evaluation for the IPP, follow all recommendations, and enter the IPP if necessary, email from Ms. Crane to Ms. Efferson dated September 10, 2011 notifying the Board that she had an intoxalyzer installed in her vehicle per an order of the 22nd JDC, a note made in Ms. Crane's file by Ms. Efferson dated September 22, 2011 that Ms. Crane's renewal application was processed upon receipt of Ms. Crane's notarized statement dated September 2, 2011, and an email from Ms. Crane to Ms. Efferson dated February 8, 2012 notifying the Board of her retirement. The testimony and the documents offered by the Assistant Attorney General were admitted into evidence without objection. Emalie Boyce, Assistant Attorney General, called the Board's IPP Manager, Sherril Rudd, as a witness to testify to Pandora Crane's compliance with the IPP. Ms. Rudd testified that Ms. Crane completed evaluations for the IPP and that she took the information from the evaluations to draft the Participation Agreement. Ms. Rudd testified that it was recommended, among other things, that Ms. Crane participate in psychotherapy, be subject to drug/alcohol screening on a regular basis, and to not obtain any medications with addictive potential unless prescribed by a board approved addictionologist. Ms. Rudd stated that Ms. Crane did not sign the Participation Agreement, but instead telephoned her to advise she was retiring. There were no questions for this witness and the testimony was accepted without objection. Pandora Crane was sworn in and provided a statement to the Board. She stated that

when she submitted her statement in August 2011 she had no intention of retiring. However, her employment setting changed and she could no longer meet the physical demands of being on her feet all day, so she made the decision to retire. At the close of the presentation of evidence the Board took the matter under deliberation and, after through review of all of the evidence, unanimously made the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Sanctions.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Pandora Crane submitted a 2011-2012 renewal application with affirmative answers to the following questions, "Have you been charged with, convicted of, or did you plead guilty to or nolo contendere to violation of any state or federal, civil or criminal law?"; "Have you within the past year or are you currently using drugs, chemical substances (including controlled substances obtained either with or without a valid prescription), or intoxicating liquors to an extent that it impairs your functioning as a social worker or the delivery of social work services?"; and "Have you been a participant in an alcohol or drug treatment or rehabilitation program within the past year in which you were monitored or supervised relative to your use of drugs or alcohol?".
2. The Board agreed to approve the renewal application conditional of Ms. Crane being evaluated for the IPP, following all recommendations of the evaluator, and entering the IPP if deemed necessary.
3. Pandora Crane submitted a notarized statement agreeing to obtain an evaluation for the IPP, follow all recommendations of the evaluator, and enter the IPP if so deemed necessary.
4. Ms. Crane completed the evaluation for the IPP.
5. Ms. Crane is required to have an intoxalyzer in her vehicle.

6. It was recommended that Ms. Crane participate in psychotherapy, be screened for drugs/alcohol on a regular basis, and to not obtain any medications with addictive potential unless recommended by a board approved addictionologist.

7. An IPP Participation Agreement was submitted to Ms. Crane, which she did not sign and return.

8. Ms. Crane is not in compliance with the recommendations of the IPP evaluator.

9. Ms. Crane is not a participant in the Board's Impaired Professional Program (IPP).

10. Ms. Crane is not in compliance with the Board's order that she follow the recommendations of the IPP evaluator and enter the IPP if deemed necessary by the IPP evaluator.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Findings of Fact led the Board to conclude that Pandora Crane's conduct rises to the level of a violation of the Social Work Practice Act.

Based on the Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that Ms. Crane's failure to comply with the terms of the Board's order relative to the conditions of having her license renewed, constitutes a violation of La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(5), which is cause for disciplinary action. Furthermore, the Board determines that Ms. Crane's continued ability to practice social work without participating in the IPP could be potentially detrimental to the client, which is cause for discipline pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(7).

SANCTIONS

It is ordered that:

1. Pandora Crane's license is revoked for three years from the date of this order.

2. Any application submitted by Ms. Crane after the period of revocation shall be treated as a new application, and Ms. Crane shall be subject to the licensing requirements in effect at the time of application.

3. As part of the application process, Ms. Crane shall demonstrate that she can safely practice social work by being evaluated for the Board's Impaired Professional Program and by having her treating physician(s) submit letters attesting she is fit to return to the practice of social work.

4. Prior to any application being approved, Ms. Crane shall pay the costs of this adjudication in the amount of $766.25.

July 20, 2012

Date

Lisa L. Lipsey, LCSW

Lisa L. Lipsey, LCSW

Chairperson