

June 8, 2016

To: The Honorable Nikki R. Haley,

I pray this letter finds you and your staff doing well. Before I start, I would like to thank you for your time. I don't know how you might be able to help me, or even if you can, but I have to try. I'm sure you are very busy and I don't want to take away from your duties, so I'll try to be as quick as I can.

My name is Marybeth Leigh Stanley. I am a single mother and I have two wonderfully bright and compassionate children. I work for the Axis 1 Center in Barnwell providing addiction's counseling for individuals Barnwell County. I love helping people make positive changes in their lives and it is such an awesome feeling to see someone "get it" and turn their life around in a way that allows them to be a contributing member of society and an inspiration to others. The grant that I am funded under ends on June 30, 2016 which means I will no longer be employed doing what I love the most – helping others. I have been applying for some different positions and although I have excellent references, along with the education and compassion that allows me to work as a competent professional in a variety of fields, I am being turned down. I have had three job interviews in the past week, all went great and two were pretty much a guarantee, until I shared with them my history about a charge I pled guilty to in 2008. I tried not to be discouraged, but I am. I know that if I don't find a job, I will be once again a single mom on food stamps and living in public housing with no future to offer my children. I need help. I know I can apply for a pardon, but I want to have my charge expunged so that I can further my career in the helping profession without having this charge follow me the rest of my life. I am praying that you can help or assist me in finding the help I need.

Let me tell you a little about my background and my charge. I would like to say first that in no way am I not accepting responsibility for my actions and I am very well aware that my actions have consequences. I am big on teaching accountability, both to my clients and my children. I know that what I did was wrong and there is nothing I can do to change that. Honestly, I'm not sure I would change it if I could, because I learned more about myself from that charge and since that charge, than I ever did before. I know that God took my mess and made it His message. No matter what we do or how far we fall, He is always there to pick us back up...if we just allow Him to. I cling to the verse Jeremiah 29:11 and I know He has a plan for my life and He wants to give me a future.

I grew up in a very abusive household in Hilda, SC. I was emotionally, mentally, physically, sexually and verbally abused by a variety of people who were supposed to love me and have my well-being at heart, including my mother, step-father, uncle, and two step-cousins. The sexual abuse occurred from around age four until twelve for the most part, the other various abuses went on until I left home at eighteen. When I left home at eighteen, I was on a very dangerous and dysfunctional path that included drinking, smoking pot, and promiscuity. I learned many years later that this was my very unhealthy way of coping with the entire trauma I had experienced in my young life. Due to my behaviors and out of control lifestyle, I was raped when I was nineteen years old by an acquaintance. Soon after that, I attempted suicide. As you can tell by now, life was not looking good for me. I had been beat down my entire nineteen years, abused, raped, taken advantage of, unloved, uncared for, treated like garbage. This was my life. I felt worthless and felt like my life had no value. Around age twenty I met a man, who would become the father of my children. He was twenty eight years old and not a nice guy. He was looking for someone to prey on and I was certainly easy prey. I didn't know that I deserved better. He lied, cheated, beat me, and choked me. In some odd way, it was comforting...I mean I had been treated this way all my life, this is what I knew. I didn't know how to be loved, but I certainly knew how to handle being hurt. At the age of twenty-one I gave birth to my daughter and less than two years later, I gave birth to my son. I left their dad when I was pregnant with my son. I have raised my children alone for all of their lives. After I had my daughter, I stayed with him because he told me I would never survive without him and I believed him. During my pregnancy with my son, I had this moment of clarity when

looking at my sweet daughter one day. I thought my word, I love this child more than my own life and she deserves better. She was so precious and so innocent and she deserved a life full of happiness and love and peace. I had to be the one to break the cycle of dysfunction, not only for myself, but for her and my soon to be new baby. They deserved the world and they were my world. So, I kicked him out and started working full-time. It was hard, living paycheck to paycheck, barely scraping by. I lived in a government apartment and I wanted more for my children. I wanted them to have a home that was safe and secure. So, even though I was barely making it, I went out and found a home and took over a mortgage on a home. Within one year of doing that, I was so deep in debt, several payments behind, and about to lose my home, car, everything. Several times the electricity was cut off. I was so full of pride. I didn't want to ask anyone for help. I wanted to prove that I could do this on my own. But the reality was, I couldn't. I was working at a loan company at the time. In late 2006, I started taking money from my employer. I did at first with the intention of putting it back...but I never had anything to put back. I got myself deeper and deeper in debt. I felt horrible, I knew the owner trusted me and I knew what I was doing was wrong. I didn't know what to do or how to get out of this mess I got myself into. I was so ashamed of myself. I started having panic attacks, I literally thought I was having a heart attack one night. In July 2007, after much prayer, I decided that I could not live like this anymore and I needed to tell the truth. So, I called the owner and told her what I had been doing and then I resigned. She was more heartbroken than angry; I didn't blame her one bit. I was heartbroken as well. I knew from the moment I decided to tell her that whatever the consequences were that I would have to deal with them. Praise God, I never spent one minute in jail. I went with the owner to the police station to file charges against me, I know that sounds crazy, but if I could make this process any less stressful for her, I owed her that much. I wrote a statement admitting what I did, she wrote her statement and about a week later the officer called me to turn myself in so that I would not be arrested in front of my small children. We went directly to the magistrate court and the magistrate let me go on a PR bond as I had never been in trouble before and he appreciated the fact that I wasn't caught, I came clean on my own accord. In May 2008, I pled guilty to breach of trust. I had no idea what was going to happen, but I knew that whether I was able to leave the courtroom that day as a free person or as an inmate, that God was in control and nothing would happen that He did not allow. Fortunately, I was allowed to pay restitution and would be put on probation for a maximum of five years, but would be off probation sooner if I paid the restitution before the five years was up. I worked and I made payments, but it was never enough. Then almost a year later, I lost my job and could no longer make any payments. I was taken back to court in May 2009 for violation due to not making restitution payments. The probation officers were nice and understanding of my situation, but they also had a job to do. I had some awesome supporters that I met through counseling and Celebrate Recovery (a program I attended to have support for being a victim of abuse and rape; they also support recovering addicts and a variety of other issues), and they were all willing to go to bat for me. I was overwhelmed, how could people who barely know me be willing to love me, accept me and stick up for me, when my own blood family members had never done that for me? It seemed unreal to me. I had no idea what was going to happen that day, maybe I would go to jail, and maybe I wouldn't. I was heartbroken at the thought of being away from my children and them possibly having to go live with their biological father, who as I stated earlier is not a nice man. Yet I knew that actions have consequences and whatever mine would be, I rightly deserved them. A very kind woman and her husband, Dr. Chip and Jackie Still, had made arrangements through my attorney (that they provided) to work out a deal with the victim (my former boss) and the solicitor and probation to do a one-time lump sum settlement of seven thousand dollars to settle the debt in full, which included restitution, probation fees, and any other fees that had occurred. I could not believe this had been done on my behalf and it was done because they genuinely loved me and my children and wanted the best for us. It was hard for me to grasp, but that is exactly what happened. Less than two months later, my daughter, my son, Jackie Still and I were involved in an accident that left all of us injured, but my daughter on life support and comatose. My sweet eight year old baby girl, my life, my gift God sent me to save me life....was not going to make it through the night. Well that's what the doctor's at Palmetto Health Children's Hospital said...but God said, "I have her and I want you". You see I believe with all of my heart that God allowed this accident to happen because He was going to use whatever He could to get through to me. I had a love-hate relationship with God before that accident. I believed, but not 100%. I still wasn't over my past. How could He love me and allow such horrible things to happen to me? I think He knew that the only way He would get through to me

was through my children, because they were my life. Every breath I took was for these babies. And that night in that ditch holding my bloody baby daughter in my arms, not seeing those beautiful brown eyes open, not hearing her sweet breath...I made the decision right then that I was going to trust Him with everything I had and everything I am. People talk about peace that surpasses all understanding; I had that peace. I knew that whether she was in Heaven or on Earth, that she would be ok. The helicopter took her away and Jackie and my son and I drove to the hospital. All I could do was pray for Mya and thank Him that Trevor and Jackie were ok. When we got to the hospital she was already in surgery (where I later found out they almost lost her several times just trying to get her stabilized). Later the doctors started pushing all these papers at me to sign for permission to do brain surgery and other procedures to try to help save her life. I felt like I was in a fog, but I knew she'd be ok. Later the doctor told me she was in a coma and it was wait and see at this point, but it was likely she wouldn't survive the night. Yet I believed she would be ok. I lost it for a moment when they sent the chaplain to come talk to me, but only a moment, because I knew she would be ok. I kept a vigil at her bedside and every bad report I got about her condition, I just kept believing she would be ok. No matter where she was going to be, she would be ok. I knew how much I loved her and I knew God loved her even more than I did, so I knew she would be ok. Three days later she woke up from her coma, I had never seen eyes more beautiful. Later that day she was taken off the ventilator and could breathe on her own. Exactly six days after the accident I was leaving the hospital with my child in my arms. Everyone knew she was a walking, talking miracle. And my relationship with God has never wavered since that time. Her recovery was long, she had memory loss, nerve damage, broken pelvis, almost a years' worth of physical therapy. I'm happy to report she is now a fifteen year old rising sophomore who is taking all honors classes and wants to be an astronomer and work for NASA. She is kind, compassionate, and super funny. She has a bright future ahead of her and all of this from a girl who they said wouldn't survive the night. God has been so good to me. He has been patient with me, loving, forgiving, full of grace and mercy. I started going to counseling more consistently, really dealing with my past issues of abuse. I knew that I needed to let that stuff go so that I could be healthy for my children. It's all about stopping that cycle of dysfunction and I am so proud to say that it has stopped with me and my children. In 2010 I enrolled at Denmark Tech and got my Associate's Degree in Human Services, where I graduated in May 2012 second in my class. Then I transferred to SC State in Orangeburg, SC to obtain my Bachelor's in Social Work, where I graduated in May 2015, again with honors. I also plan to attend school and get my Master's Degree in the near future.

All I want in this life is to be happy, healthy and help other's do the same. So often as a society we right people off for making a mistake or a bad decision. We no longer think they have anything to offer. I am here to say that is not true. I'm living proof. I made a bad decision, but I am somebody and I am worthy. I made a bad choice, I am not a bad choice. I am one of His most prized children and as such I want to live my life to honor Him and all He has given me. I am by no means perfect and I never will be, but I am a good person, a good mother, a good friend, and a contributing member of society. Please help me get this charge expunged off my record so that I can do what I was put here to do; help other's find their worth in this world, help others find their voice, help others realize that one bad choice doesn't have to equal a bad life. Please help me.

Thank you again for your time and I wish you well. I am enclosing my resume and some references as well just for you to get a clearer idea of who I am and what I am about.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Marybeth Leigh Stanley', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Marybeth Leigh Stanley

**MARYBETH LEIGH STANLEY**  
**260 Oriole Street**  
**Barnwell, South Carolina 29812**  
**Phone: (803) 387-5718**  
**E-mail: marybethstanley79@gmail.com**

### **Objective**

I am looking for an entry level position in human services or social work where my compassionate and engaging personality, along with my professional skills in intake, assessment, case management, and counseling would be needed.

### **Education**

2012-2015 South Carolina State University Orangeburg, SC Bachelors' in Social Work  
(graduated with honors)  
2010-2012 Denmark Technical College Denmark, SC Associate's Degree in Human Services  
(graduated with honors)

### **Work Experience**

**07/2015 - Present Axis 1 Center of Barnwell**

**Health Educator/ SC SBIRT:** Provided screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment in numerous healthcare sites, including the emergency room setting. I conducted brief therapy using MET and MI skills in healthcare sites and emergency room settings, conducted screenings and brief interventions with patients regarding drug and alcohol use. Provided smoking cessation education and facilitated a smoking cessation support group. Administered evidence based screening tools to determine patients' needs for further assessment and treatment opportunities. I entered data for four healthcare sites into the CareScope electronic health records system in a timely and efficient manner. I made referrals to outside agencies when appropriate. I worked alongside doctors, nurses, and mental health counselors in providing best healthcare practices regarding patient care in relation to harmful alcohol use, illegal drug use, overdose, and doctor shopping. I participated in numerous SBIRT trainings and monthly recordings for clinical supervision.

**Certified Addictions Counselor (in processing):** Administered intakes, bio-psychosocial assessments, and treatment planning. I made outside referrals when appropriate. I facilitated recovery and education groups. Facilitated parenting classes for DSS referrals. I provided individual therapy sessions. I worked in a supportive and effective manner with community referral sources such as DSS, Mental Health, Probation and Parole, Law Enforcement, Court Officials and School Officials. I entered all client data into CareLogic electronic health records in a timely and efficient manner following the standards set forth by CARF and HIPPA. I attended numerous professional development trainings and conferences. Attended health fairs to promote the agency and provide education resources to the community regarding alcohol use, drug use, and smoking cessation.

**08/2014– 05/2015 Axis 1 Center of Barnwell**

**BSW Intern:** Completed intakes and bio-psychosocial assessments. Co-facilitated several recovery groups and parenting classes. Documentation into electronic health records in a timely and efficient manner. Attend health fairs and school fairs to speak about alcohol use, drug use, and smoking cessation

**Work Experience (continued)**

**2001-2007 Instant Cash Title Loans Barnwell, SC**

Office Manager/ Loan Processing: Managed the day to day operations of a small loan company. I performed audits for financial agreements and processed loans. I performed marketing and advertising that caused a direct increase in clientele. I made bank deposits as well as all accounting and collections services. Supervise employees.

**1999– 2001 Elite Outsourcing Barnwell, SC**

Claims Processing: Worked as a liaison between patients, doctors offices, hospitals, and insurance companies in order to resolve claim disputes and get them paid.

**Professional Trainings**

Motivations Interviewing, Assertiveness Training, Stress Management, Adolescent Brain Development, ASAM Criteria, DSM-V, Anger Management, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, Cultural Diversity, Techniques of Group Counseling, Human Development, Motivational Enhancement Therapy, Substance Abuse Awareness, Family Psychoeducation, Smoking Cessation, Informed Trauma Care, Crisis Intervention, Domestic Violence Awareness, Geriatric Care and Counseling, Counseling/Co-Occurring Disorders, Mandated Reporting, CPR and First Aid Training (certified until 2019)

**Key Strengths**

Team player, compassionate, empathetic, engaging, quick learner, dedicated, loyal, can-do attitude, disciplined, detail oriented, skilled at motivational interviewing, prompt, effective, proactive, excellent time management skills, excellent communication skills

**Volunteer Work**

2008– Present: Celebrate Recovery

2016– Present: Women's Advisory Board

**References**

Cheryl Azouri-Long Executive Director Axis 1 Center of Barnwell 803-541-1245 ext . 229  
Pam Rush Director of Prevention Services Axis 1 Center of Barnwell 803-541-1245 ext. 246  
Beatrice Koon SC BIRT Consultant DAODAS 803-730-5720  
Alan Lyme SC SBIRT Clinical Trainer The Phoenix Center 864-467-2797  
Pamela Imm, Ph. D. Community Psychologist 803-603-3896



# PhoenixCenter

Prevent • Treat • Recover

May 9<sup>th</sup> 2016

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this as a letter of reference for Marybeth Stanley. It has been my pleasure to supervise Ms. Stanley's clinical practice in the South Carolina Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SC SBIRT) grant initiative.

Ms. Stanley has shown excellent skills in Motivational Interviewing, and has always been prompt in recording delivery and responsive to feedback. Her primary goal over the last year has been to provide the best experience and most effective interventions for the patients she has served, and she has done so.

I have no reservations in recommending Ms. Stanley to any future employer.

Sincerely,

Alan Lyme, LISW, ICCS  
SC SBIRT Clinical Trainer/Supervisor  
Training Director at Phoenix Center  
864 467-2797

Pamela S. Imm Ph.D  
Community Psychologist  
200 Buckthorne Drive  
Lexington, SC 29072

May 16, 2016

This letter is in support of Marybeth Stanley as a valuable employee who has built her capacities in the areas of counseling, motivational interviewing, and client engagement in human services. She will be an asset to your team given her content knowledge, professional demeanor and style, and attention to detail.

I have known Marybeth for approximately two years, first when she was a MSW graduate student and then more intently when she participated in regular trainings in a variety of content areas (e.g., trauma, adolescent development, etc.) under myself and other psychologists/professionals. In this setting, she was able to gain knowledge and improve her awareness and capacities of issues related to alcohol and drug use. Since that time, I am aware that she has participated in more intensive trainings, supervision, and technical assistance sessions and has been a quick study" in achieving proficiency in complex motivational interviewing skills.

I am sure that Marybeth will become a great role model who will be noticed quickly by your staff for her professionalism, skill, and engaging style. Her eagerness to learn new skills and show mastery will make her a strong candidate for a variety of positions.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Pamela S. Imm, Ph.D  
803-603-3896  
pamimm@windstream.net

May 8<sup>th</sup> 2016

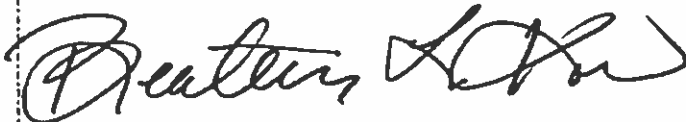
To whom it may concern:

Please accept this as a letter of reference for Marybeth Stanley. It has been my pleasure to guide Ms. Stanley's work in the South Carolina Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SC SBIRT) initiative.

Ms. Stanley has demonstrated advanced clinical, administrative, and health information technology skills in her role on the initiative. For over a year, Ms. Stanley has worked on the SC SBIRT initiative providing effective, best-practice clinical interventions for the patients she has served. In this time, she has demonstrated the highest level of competency in Motivational Interviewing (MI) skills – a rare achievement. She has also efficiently managed large caseloads, including entering data into four separate software systems, under strict timelines. Across this statewide initiative, Ms. Stanley volunteered to be among the first integrated health clinicians to provide screening, brief intervention, and brief treatment services within an emergency department setting. Furthermore, her friendly, proactive approach and can-do attitude has fostered a team oriented environment that has been paramount to the initiative's success.

I have no reservations in recommending Ms. Stanley to any future employer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beatrice Koon", written in a cursive style.

Beatrice Koon, LMSW  
SC SBIRT Consultant  
803-730-5720