

Marty M. Snyder, KS S Ct #11317
Kansas Attorney General's Office
120 SW 10th Avenue, Second Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1597

BEFORE THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD

In the Matter of)
)
TERESA COPELAND, LSCSW,)
License #3916,)
Respondent)
_____)

Case No. 14-CS-100

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

NOW, on this 21 day of January, 2016, the above-captioned matter comes before the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board [Board], by and through Assistant Attorney General Marty M. Snyder, by agreement of Teresa Copeland, LSCSW [Respondent / Licensee], by and through counsel Larry G. Michel, Esq., and the Board for the purpose of resolving the above-captioned case.

Licensee hereby acknowledges the following:

1. Teresa Copeland is, and was at all times relevant, a Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker within the meaning of the Kansas Social Workers Licensure Act, K.S.A. 65-6301, *et seq.*, and amendments thereto.
2. On March 7, 2014, the Board received a report of information concerning Licensee's conduct alleging Licensee may have violated certain statutes and regulations governing unprofessional conduct.
3. The Board conducted an investigation concerning Licensee's alleged violations of statutes and regulations. During the investigation, Licensee was informed of the reported information and was given the opportunity to respond to the allegations.

On May 7, 2014, Licensee's response was received by the Board. She denied and admitted some of the allegations as set forth in the reported complaint.

4. As a result of the investigation, the Board finds probable cause that the following facts have been established by a preponderance of the evidence:
 - a. At all relevant times, Licensee was employed by Youthville and was the supervisor for Complainant Bloomfield.
 - b. In September of 2011, Licensee was in a walking cast from a broken ankle and in a great deal of pain. She was on prescription pain medication, and her work responsibilities required her to travel extensively in a vehicle provided by her employer.
 - c. On September 23, 2011, Licensee insisted on doing 'Lifespan Integration' therapy in the Concordia office with Complainant 'to work on Complainant's past trauma.'. Complainant objected but felt she couldn't refuse as Licensee was her supervisor.
 - d. During the therapy session, Licensee was rocking back and forth, 'acting weird,' making odd comments and slurring her words. She had great difficulty reading her own writing. Complainant begged to halt the evaluation but Licensee insisted on proceeding. After two hours, Complainant said she couldn't stand any more and had to leave. Licensee had difficulty walking out the door.
 - e. Later that evening, Licensee was arrested and placed in jail for driving under the influence, and Youthville's vehicle was impounded. It was determined that Licensee had consumed a fifth of vodka while already taking pain medication.

f. Based on the arrest, Licensee was placed on unpaid administrative leave by Youthville and subsequently resigned voluntarily. She is now in her own private practice in charge of her own schedule and no longer travels for work. There have been no further complaints filed against her.

g. Complainant has continued to be traumatized by the experience of the Lifespan Integration therapy performed by Licensee while impaired on a supervisee and filed this complaint at the suggestion of her therapist.

5. The Complaint Review Committee of the Board finds that Licensee has violated the following statutes and regulations:

A. K.S.A. 65-6311. Grounds for suspension, limitation, revocation or refusal to issue or renew license; procedure.

(a) The board may suspend, limit, revoke, condition or refuse to issue or renew a license of any social worker upon proof that the social worker:

(4) has been found guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined by rules established by the board;

(6) has been found guilty of negligence or wrongful actions in the performance of duties;

B. K.A.R. 102-2-7. Unprofessional Conduct. Any of the following acts by a licensee . . . shall constitute unprofessional conduct:

(h) failing to recognize, seek intervention and otherwise appropriately respond when one's own personal problems, psychosocial distress ... interfere with or negatively impact professional judgment, professional performance and functioning ...;

(x) using alcohol ... while performing the duties of a licensee;

(tt) engaging in a dual relationship with a ... supervisee.

However, Licensee and the Board mutually desire to enter a Consent Agreement and Order [CAO] in lieu of formal adjudicative proceedings to resolve this matter.

WHEREFORE, Licensee waives all rights to an adjudication of facts and law which could be determined pursuant to a hearing conducted in accordance with the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act in relation to Case No. 14-CS-100.

WHEREFORE, Licensee waives the right to file a motion for reconsideration and all rights of appeal pursuant to the Kansas Judicial Review Act in relation to Case No.14-CS-100.

WHEREFORE, Licensee consents to the following terms and conditions:

- (a) Licensee shall obtain three additional CEUs in proper supervision, dual relationships and boundaries to be completed in person within six months of the effective date of this CAO. If no in-person offerings can be found, Licensee shall contact the Special Investigator and report that on-line courses will be necessary.
- (b) Licensee cannot supervise any other licensee of the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board until training for supervision certification is completed.
- (c) Licensee shall write a ten-page paper, APA format, on proper supervision, dual relationships and boundaries within six months of the effective date of this CAO and submit it to the Special Investigator for review by a member of the Complaint Review Committee.
- (d) Licensee shall be responsible for any costs and expenses incurred in satisfying the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order.
- (e) Evidence of Licensee's breach, violation or failure to comply with any of the conditions could result in a determination that Licensee's Kansas Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker license should be suspended until such time as Licensee can demonstrate compliance with all terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and Order to the satisfaction of the Board.

- (f) Licensee understands that a notification of this Consent Agreement and Order shall be provided to any other state licensing board if Licensee is also licensed, registered or certified in another state.
- (g) Licensee acknowledges an affirmative duty to notify the Board within five (5) days of any changes in personal or professional status which would inhibit compliance with any condition of this Consent Agreement and Order. In such event, a designee of the Board is authorized to modify or amend this CAO in writing.
- (h) This Consent Agreement and Order constitutes the entire agreement between the Licensee and the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board and may be modified or amended only by written agreement signed by Licensee and the Board or a designee of the Board.

WHEREFORE, Licensee consents to the submission of this Consent Agreement and Order to the Board's Complaint Review Committee and understands that, upon approval by the Complaint Review Committee, this Consent Agreement and Order will become a Final Order of the Board. The Board has authorized the Complaint Review Committee to determine approval of this Consent Agreement and Order.

WHEREFORE, the Board agrees that, so long as Licensee complies with the above conditions, the Board will not initiate further disciplinary action against Licensee in relation to violations of K.S.A. 65-6311 and K.A.R. 102-2-7 as a result of this proceeding.

WHEREFORE, the foregoing provisions are consented to, are hereby made the final Order of the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board and become effective on the date indicated in the Certificate of Service below.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 14th day of January, 2016.

Terry Pfannenstiel, Ph.D.
Terry Pfannenstiel
Chair, Complaint Review Committee

APPROVED AND CONSENTED TO:

[Signature]
Teresa Copeland, Licensee / Respondent

12/29/15
Date

APPROVED:

[Signature]
Larry G. Michel, Esq., KS S Ct #14067
Counsel for Licensee / Respondent

1/4/2016
Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on this 21 day of January, 2016, a true and correct copy of the above Consent Agreement and Order was deposited in the U.S. mail, first class postage prepaid, addressed to:

Teresa Copeland


Larry G. Michel, Esq.
Kennedy Berkley Yarnevich & Williamson,
PO Box 2567
Salina, KS 67402-2567

and a copy delivered via interoffice mail to:

Marty M. Snyder, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Disciplinary Counsel for the Board

Cindy D'Ercole
For the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board