

Marty M. Snyder, KS S. Ct. #11317  
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**BEFORE THE KANSAS BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD**

In the Matter of )  
)  
SUSAN JORDING, ) Case No. 17-AC-068  
LAC #1305, LPC #2653 )  
Respondent )

**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER**

NOW, on this 6 day of December, 2017, the above-captioned matter comes before the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board [Board], by and through Assistant Attorney General Marty M. Snyder, by agreement with Susan Jording [Respondent / Licensee], for the purpose of resolving the above-captioned case.

Respondent hereby acknowledges the following:

1. Susan Jording, at all times relevant, has been a Licensed Addictions Counselor within the meaning of the Addictions Counselor Licensure Act, K.S.A. 65-6601, *et seq.*, and amendments thereto. She has also been a Licensed Professional Counselor within the meaning of the Professional Counselors Licensure Act, K.S.A. 65-5801, *et seq.*, and amendments thereto.

2. On December 8, 2016, the Board received a report of information concerning Respondent's conduct, alleging Respondent may have violated certain statutes and regulations governing the practice of addictions counseling in Kansas.

3. The Board conducted an investigation concerning Respondent's alleged violation of statutes and regulations. During the investigation, Respondent was informed of the reported information January 7, 2017 and was requested to respond to

the allegations. Her written response was received February 10, 2017, and the Investigator obtained additional information from Complainant.

4. As a result of the investigation, the Board finds that the following facts have been established by a preponderance of persuasive evidence:

a. Licensee was employed as an addictions counselor with Valley Hope in Norton, Kansas. After a client of the facility was discharged, he turned up, possibly homeless, in the same city where Licensee lived. It is a small town where many of the residents are related and know one another.

b. Licensee tried to help the former client when he relapsed but crossed the line into a dual relationship and inadvertently breached his confidentiality in a text message to another employee of Valley Hope whose husband was the client's sponsor.

c. Based on these violations, including a text that appeared to indicate Licensee was seeing the client socially, her employment was terminated. However, Licensee denies that she and the former client ever lived together.

d. Licensee acknowledges she should not have gotten involved with trying to help a former client outside of work and will handle any similar situations much differently in the future.

#### **Conclusions of Law**

The Complaint Review Committee of the Board finds that probable cause exists to believe Respondent has violated the following statutes and regulations:

**A. K.S.A. 65-6615. Grounds for discipline (a)(9).**

**B. K.A.R. 102-7-11 – Unprofessional Conduct.**

Each of the following acts shall be considered unprofessional conduct for a licensed addiction counselor:

(a)(3) failing to notify the Board that her employment as a LAC was terminated due to misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance;

(i) performing services clearly inconsistent with one's training, education or experience or with accepted professional standards;

(r) failing to obtain written, informed consent from each client, or the client's legal representative or representatives, before performing any of the following actions: (3) releasing information concerning a client to a third person, unless required or permitted by law;

(v) engaging in a harmful dual relationship or exercising undue influence involving person who has been a client in the past 24 months.

**C. K.S.A. 65-5809. Grounds for discipline (a)(9).**

**D. K.A.R. 102-3-12a – Unprofessional Conduct.**

(b)(2)(C) failing to notify the Board that her employment as a LPC was terminated due to misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance;

(b)(20)(C) failing to obtain written, informed consent from the client before releasing information to a third person;

(b)(46)(i) engaging in a dual relationship with a previous client.

However, Respondent and the Board mutually desire to enter a Consent Agreement and Order in lieu of adjudicative proceedings to resolve the above violations.

WHEREFORE, Respondent 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 [KAPA] in relation to Case No. 17-AC-068.

WHEREFORE, Respondent waives the right to file a motion for reconsideration and all rights of appeal pursuant to the Kansas Judicial Review Act [KJRA] in relation to Case No. 17-AC-068.

WHEREFORE, the Board and Respondent agree to enter a Consent Agreement and Order [CAO] under the following terms and conditions of probation until she has completed one year of supervised practice:

(a) Licensee shall notify the Investigator when she obtains employment requiring either license.

(b) Licensee shall obtain an employment supervisor and meet face-to-face a minimum of one hour per week. Licensee shall provide copies of this CAO to her supervisor. The focus of the supervision shall be on boundaries, objectivity, dual relationships, not allowing personal issues to enter therapist-client relationship and confidentiality. The supervisor shall provide quarterly written reports to the Board's Investigator but initiate immediate contact if there are any problems.

(c) Licensee shall continue in her personal therapy until her therapist provides written confirmation to the Investigator that Licensee has made adequate progress.

(d) Licensee shall be responsible for any costs and expenses incurred in satisfying the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order.

(e) Evidence of Respondent's failure to comply with any of these conditions may result in suspension of Respondent's Kansas Licensed Addictions Counselor and Licensed Professional Counselor licenses until such time as she can demonstrate compliance with all terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Board.

(f) Respondent acknowledges an affirmative duty to notify the Board's Investigator 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 Consent Agreement and Order in writing.

(g) Respondent understands that a notification of this Consent Agreement and Order shall be provided to any other state licensing board if Respondent is also licensed, registered or certified in another state and as otherwise required by law.

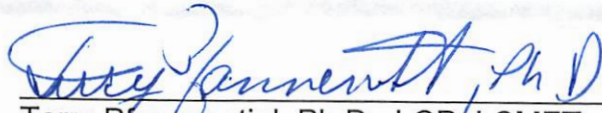
(h) This Consent Agreement and Order constitutes the entire agreement between Respondent and the Board and may be modified or amended only by written agreement signed by Respondent and the Board or a designee of the Board.

WHEREFORE, Respondent 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 Respondent complies with the above conditions, the Board will not initiate further disciplinary action against Licensee in relation to violations of K.S.A. 65-6615, K.A.R. 102-7-11, K.S.A. 65-5809 and K.A.R. 102-3-12a 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 30<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

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

**APPROVED AND CONSENTED TO:**

  
Susan Jording, LAC, LPC  
Licensee / Respondent

November 15, 2017  
Date

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that on this 6 day of December, 2017, 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:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

and emailed to: [REDACTED]

and a copy sent by building mail to:

Marty M. Snyder, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General

Cindy D'Ercole  
For the Board