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FILED WITH THE BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS
ON May 6, 1999

PETER VERNIERO
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
By: Joan D. Gelber
Deputy Attorney General
Division of Law 5th Floor
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101
Tel. (973) 648-2478

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION : Administrative Action
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSES OF :
MICHAEL S. ABRAMS, Ph.D. and :
LIDIA DENGELI, Ph.D. :
TO PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGY, AND OF : FINAL CONSENT ORDER AS TO
SALVATORE NAPOLI, M.D. : LIDIA DENGELI ABRAMS, Ph.D.
TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY :
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :

This matter was presented to the State Board of Psychological Examiners by way of Complaint filed September 22, 1997 by the Attorney General of New Jersey. The Complaint alleged that during the period 1988 - 1994, through the enterprise "Psychological Medicine" in Bayonne and Jersey City, respondent Dr. Dengelegi, together with other persons, had engaged in numerous forms of deceptive and dishonest conduct including fraudulent billing for professional medical and psychological services.

Respondent Dr. Dengelegi has at all times during the pendency of this matter been represented by Joseph M. Gorrell, Esq., and filed an Answer denying the charges. Dr. Dengelegi is currently licensed and registered to practice as Lidia Dengelegi Abrams, Ph.D. and will be referred to as such hereinafter or as respondent.

2

Trial was scheduled to commence March 15, 1999 before the Hon. Edith Klinger at the Office of Administrative Law.*

Dr. Dengelegi Abrams, having conferred with counsel, has determined to waive her right to an administrative hearing in this matter and, without admitting liability, to plead no contest to the allegations against her as set forth in the Complaint, i.e., the General Allegations and Counts 3 and 4.

Respondent has additionally represented that she was employed at "Psychological Medicine, Inc." between October 1990 and August 1992 as an unlicensed psychologist practicing under supervision. She contends that during that time she had no administrative responsibilities. She has acknowledged that she assisted in writing out the goal weight of patients on treatment charts, but has asserts that she believed that this had no medical significance. She has acknowledged that billing errors may have occurred, and that she may not have consistently kept treatment notes, particularly as to group therapy. She has recognized that the Attorney General alleged and expected to prove professional significance to the above acknowledgements as well as to prove the other violations alleged in the Complaint.

In the interests of settlement, Complainant Attorney General and respondent have agreed to enter into the following resolution of the filed Complaint. The Board having considered the relative involvement of respondent Dr. Dengelegi Abrams in the activities, and having considered any circumstances offered in mitigation, and taking into account the remedial provisions required by this Order, and for good cause shown,

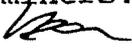
IT IS, ON THIS ^{May} 5 DAY OF ~~MARCH~~ 1999 *just*

ORDERED:

1. The license of Lidia Dengelegi Abrams, Ph.D., is hereby suspended for three years, the first two months of which shall be an

* A separate Final Order is being entered resolving the case as to Michael S. Abrams, Ph.D. The charges against Salvatore Napoli, M.D. were resolved June 5, 1998 by disciplinary Order filed with the State Board of Medical Examiners.

3

active suspension and the remainder shall be stayed as probation, on condition that she complies with all other terms of the Order. Respondent shall immediately surrender her engrossed license and biennial registration to the State Board of Psychological Examiners. The active suspension period shall commence on May ¹⁰ 1999. 

2. Respondent Dr. Dengelegi Abrams is assessed \$500 as partial investigative costs in this matter. In the event that all or part of such sum is paid on her behalf by another, she shall be credited with such payment. Payment shall be made within 10 days of the entry of this Order. Failure to make such payment in full shall result in inclusion of said debt in the Certificate of Debt noted below. Payment of costs shall precede payment of the penalty listed below.

3. Respondent Dr. Dengelegi Abrams shall pay to the State Board of Psychological Examiners, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22, a penalty of \$1,000. Respondent has requested permission to pay said penalty in installments. The Board, in full reliance upon her representations of financial situation, shall permit installment payments on such terms as the Board and respondent shall agree, which shall be no less than \$100.00 per month, and shall file a Certificate of Debt pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 to protect the judgment. The terms of payment are set forth in paragraph 4 below,

4. Each installment payment shall be due on the first day of each month commencing on the first day of June 1999. Interest shall accrue in accordance with Rule of Court 4:42-11(a). In the event that a monthly payment is not received within five days of its due date, the entire balance of the civil penalty and costs, as applicable to respondent Dr. Dengelegi Abrams, shall become due and owing. All payments required by this Order shall be made by certified check or money order made payable to the State Board of Psychological Examiners of New Jersey, delivered to the Board offices at 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey or mailed to P.O. Box 45017, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

5. In the event that respondent ~~respondent~~ shall resume professional practice, she shall not engage in practice for or through the entities "Psychological Health," "Psychological Health,

4

Inc.", "Psychological Health Group" or any entity other than the entities through which she represents she has recently practiced, i.e., "Lidia Dengelegi Abrams, Ph.D." or "Lidia Dengelegi Abrams, Ph.D., P.A." Respondent further represents that she has no financial or beneficial interest personally or through any of the family relationships defined in N.J.S.A. 45:9-22.4 in any other entity, and acknowledges that she would be required by this Order to submit to the Board proof of having dissolved the entity, or permanently severed or withdrawn the respondent's financial or beneficial interest in any such entity.

6. Until completion of the active suspension period ~~and until~~ ^{the} ~~the further Order of the Board,~~ respondent is prohibited from employment of a professional nature in any exempt setting pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:42-1.6. *Prior to conclusion of the active suspension period, respondent shall appear on expedited notice before a committee of the Board to discuss plans for professional practice.* In the event that respondent resumes the professional practice of psychology, she shall take and successfully complete, prior to December 31, 1999, a course in professional ethics having the prior approval of the Board, such as but not limited to a supervised version of an ethics course sponsored by the American Psychological Association, or the ProBE Program of Summit, New Jersey. Successful completion means that all sessions were attended, all assignments were properly and appropriately completed, and a passing grade was achieved which was unconditional and without reservations.

8. Respondent shall assure compliance with rules of the Board, including those regulating the preparation of and the ~~the~~ minimum content of a patient record.

9. Respondent shall comply with the Directives attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

10. Prior to June 1, 1999, and from time to time during the period of probation as the Board shall deem necessary, respondent shall appear, on notice, before the Board or its designated committee, to assure understanding of and compliance with this Order and the protection of the public.

5

11. In the event that respondent Dr. Dengelegi shall resume the professional practice of psychology after completion of the active suspension period, she shall submit to monitoring of her practice as follows: No later than the fifth day of each month, respondent shall transmit to the Board office a true and complete copy of her patient record for the first patient seen each month, along with a copy of respondent's bill (and insurance claim form, if any) for the services rendered, and a copy of respondent's office appointment book page confirming the identity of the first patient. Patient identification shall be redacted on the appointment page and in the record to disclose only initials. The Board shall maintain such records as confidential. Monitoring shall continue for the duration of the probation period unless earlier terminated by the Board.

12. All billing for services rendered by the respondent to all patients shall be issued as follows: a copy of each bill shall be submitted directly to the patient or patient's guardian, or the payor agency as applicable. The bill/copy to each recipient shall specify, in plain English, the nature of the professional service rendered, the date and duration of the session/service, the location, the fee, and the diagnosis, as well as the standard diagnosis and procedural codes.

13. Respondent shall waive collection of any bills issued but unpaid, or claimed to be owed, for services claimed to have been rendered by "Psychological Medicine" or by "Psychological Health, Inc." or by any other general business corporation or purported non-profit corporation or by said respondent under the auspices of any such entity.

14. Respondent shall not incorporate any entity to offer professional health care services, whether denominated a professional service corporation, a limited liability corporation or partnership, without prior notice to the Board. Respondent shall not incorporate any entity to offer professional health care services as a non-profit corporation.

15. Respondent shall submit to the Board, no later than July 1, 1999, a list containing the names of each of her patients (redacted

MAY-05-99 14.59 FROM NJ DIV OF LAW

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PAGE 7/7

6

except (or initials) as of the date of her signing of this Order, the full name of the clinic or licensed mental health practitioner (who shall not be co-respondent Michael S. Abrams, Ph.D.) to whom the patient was referred and the date of the transfer/referral.

16. This Order is intended to resolve all issues arising in connection with the allegations made by the Attorney General in the Complaint filed before the State Board of Psychological Examiners. The entry of this Order shall not limit the authority of the Attorney General or of any other person or agency to initiate any further action permitted by law, whether administrative, civil or criminal, in any court of competent jurisdiction in connection with any matters not alleged in the Complaint herein resolved.

THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE UPON FILING.

STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

By: Kenneth G. Roy
Kenneth G. Roy, Ed.D., Chair

I have read the within Order and incorporated Directives and understand their terms. I consent to the filing of the Order by the State Board of Psychological Examiners.

X Lidia Dengelegi Abrams
Lidia Dengelegi Abrams, Ph.D.

Witness:
X Joseph M. Grunell
Counsel to Dr. Dengelegi Abrams



Compliance For Lidia Dengelegi Abrams, PhD

Violations | Actions | Citation | Monetary Penalties | Restitution | Limits | Monitoring

From: Board Violation: (none)

Complaint #	Docket #	Cause #	State	Start	End	Action
Practicing Psychologist license #355100296800:						
511				06/06/1999	00/00/0000	Cost
511				06/06/1999	00/00/0000	Fine/Penalty-acti
511			NJ	05/10/1999	07/10/1999	Suspension-acti
511			NJ	08/10/1999	05/06/2002	Suspension-sta

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