

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
THERAPY EXAMINERS

FILED

June 14, 2012
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION :
OR REVOCATION OF THE CERTIFICATION :
OF :
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: :
Theresa Koehler :
Certification No. 37CA0031400 :
: :
: :
TO PRACTICE :
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING IN THE :
STATE OF NEW JERSEY :

Administrative Action

FINAL ORDER
OF DENIAL OF REINSTATEMENT
OF CERTIFICATION

This matter was opened to the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee ("Committee") of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners (the "Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On September 9, 2005, Theresa Koehler ("Respondent") was issued a certification as an alcohol and drug counselor.
2. On October 23, 2009, Respondent entered into a Consent Order with the Committee, imposing upon Respondent a suspension of two years, with the first nine months to be served as an active suspension, and the remainder to be served as a period of probation.

3. Paragraph 2 in the Ordered section of the Consent Order requires that respondent shall appropriately refer, transfer or terminate the treatment of all her clients, and submit written documentation to the Committee that all of her clients have been referred to qualified licensed health care professionals.

4. On July 23, 2010, respondent appeared before the Committee accompanied by counsel, Matthew Dorsey, Esq. and admitted that she continued to see a client with whom she had begun treatment prior to the filing of the Consent Order, during the period of active suspension.

5. Respondent also admitted during her testimony that her brochure, which was public on the internet, advertising her services as a life coach had the word "addiction" on it during the period of her active suspension.

6. In the entrance to the building where respondent worked as a life coach during her period of active suspension, the directory at the entrance lists T. Koehler as "CADC", indicating that respondent was representing herself as a certified alcohol and drug counselor during the period of her active suspension.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct, in continuing to see a client whom she was required to terminate and transfer under the terms of her Consent Order with the Board, constitutes professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e). Respondent's use of the title

CADC during the period of her active suspension, as set forth above, constitutes the use or employment of dishonesty, deception, and misrepresentation in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), and unlicensed practice in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:2D-8.

DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline provisionally denying respondent's application for reinstatement of her certification as a CADC, provisionally ordering respondent to continue paying the civil penalty imposed by her Consent Order, and provisionally imposing a reprimand upon respondent, was entered on December 30, 2011, and a copy was forwarded to respondent's last known address by means of regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order of Denial was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Although the Provisional Order sent by means of certified mail was returned as unclaimed, the regular mailing was not returned. Because the Order was forwarded to respondent's address of record,

the Board deems service to have been effected. Accordingly, the Board considered the matter, determined that further proceedings were not necessary and the Provisional Order denying reinstatement of certification should be made final.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 14th day of June, 2012,
ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's application for reinstatement of her certification as a CADC is hereby denied, unless and until she demonstrates that she has complied with all of the terms of her Consent Order, dated October 23, 2009, with the nine month period of active suspension to begin as of the entry of this Final Order of Discipline.

2. Respondent is ordered to continue paying the civil penalty imposed by Paragraph 4 of the Consent Order, in accordance with the payment plan established thereunder.

3. Respondent is hereby reprimanded for violating the Consent Order filed on October 23, 2009 for engaging in the unlicensed practice of alcohol and drug counseling.

By: Edward Reading LCADC
Edward Reading, LCADC
Committee Chair