

FILED WITH THE BOARD OF  
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS  
ON Oct. 7, 2013

*J. Michael Staller*

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

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PERMIT :  
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**PAMELA LIVECCI, Psy.D.** :  
:  
TO PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGY :  
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :  
:  
\_\_\_\_\_ :

Administrative Action  
  
CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened by the New Jersey State Board of Psychological Examiners (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") following the Board's review of information filed by Dr. Richard Cevasco, Ed.D. and Dr. Harold Goldstein, Ph.D., who served as Dr. LiVecchi's supervisors while under permit with the Board to obtain the post-doctoral hours for licensure purposes. A three year permit was issued on May 26, 2010. The Respondent was employed at the University of Medicine and Dentistry Correctional Health Care from July 2009 until January of 2012 when she resigned her position. Her employment duties included intake, individual and group therapy, discharge planning, conducting assessments and referrals.

The information provided indicated that the Respondent had an unprofessional relationship with an inmate/patient that she had previously treated. The relationship occurred after the Respondent ceased direct provision of services and the inmate/patient was transferred to another correctional facility.

The Respondent appeared at an investigative inquiry before the Boars represented by Richard West, Esquire. She testified that she met the inmate/patient during a routine psychological evaluation conducted to assess whether he was a security risk. He was provided individual supportive counseling by the Respondent to assist him with coping in the prison environment. In April 2011, the inmate was transferred to another facility. He requested the return of written materials that he had provided to her. She sent the materials. From May 2011 to October 2011 the inmate repeated requests for her phone number and she gave it to him in October. Respondent claimed contact was only by phone and mail and continued for ten months until January 2012.

Respondent confirmed that she resigned her positions at UMDNJ in January 2012 and at a part time job at CFG Health Systems where she was assigned to the Middlesex County Jail. On January 24, 2012 she began psychotherapy with Dr. Kathleen Cullina-Bessey, Psy.D. She is seeking to re-enter the work force and she has contacted Dr. Anthony Tasso to serve as her supervisor. She has elected not to resume working at a correctional facility. She is interested in conducting intakes and crisis counseling for addicts. Respondent expressed her deep regret for her "strong lapse of judgment." She also expressed that she failed to report this inappropriate relationship with her supervisor out of shame, anxiety and fear or disappointing her supervisor, Dr. Goldstein.

Upon review of all the information, submissions and the Respondent's testimony in this matter, the Board concludes that a cause for revocation of her permit exists as a result of the conduct detailed above. Specifically, the Board finds that Dr. LiVecchi committed egregious boundary violations with this inmate which constitutes a violation of professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.A.C. 45:1-21(e). The Board is also troubled with the

Respondent's failure to discuss the counter-transference issues with her supervisor as it demonstrated a breakdown in the supervisory relationship.

The parties desiring to resolve this matter without the need for further disciplinary proceedings; and the Respondent acknowledging and not contesting the findings of the Board; and the Board having been satisfied that the within resolution adequately protects the public health, safety and welfare, and for good cause shown:

ACCORDINGLY, ON THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF October 2013,  
ORDERED THAT:

The Respondent, Pamela LiVecchi, Ph.D., shall immediately return the permit issued to her by the Board and such surrender of the permit shall be deemed a revocation of the permit.

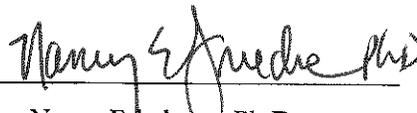
2. Dr. LiVecchi is hereby formally reprimanded for her conduct as described above which constitutes professional misconduct for participating in serious boundary violations with a former client.
3. Dr. LiVecchi shall not apply for a permit to engage in the practice of psychology in the State of New Jersey for a minimum of two years from the filing date of this order. Prior to any application, respondent shall demonstrate that she has continued in psychotherapy with a Board approved New Jersey licensed therapist from a minimum of two years from the filing date of the order. The Respondent may apply for her license to practice psychology at which time she must appear before the Board or a committee thereof to demonstrate her fitness and competency to practice and to discuss her practice plans.
4. Any grant of a permit to practice psychology shall be on condition that Respondent practice under the requirements of a permit under supervision for a minimum of two additional years from the date of the issuance of the permit. The supervisor shall be

approved by the Board prior to practice under supervision. The approved supervisor shall monitor Respondent's client files and procedures for practice to assure that psychological standards of care are followed and that boundary issues and counter-transference issues shall be discussed and adequately addressed in the course of practice. An immediate report to the Board shall be made of any violations of the standards of practice including boundary violations and counter-transference issues. Upon completion of a minimum of two years of practice under permit, the supervisor shall report to the Board and make recommendations regarding continued practice under a permit on whether the Respondent is able to commence practice under a license. Supervision shall not be terminated without further action of the Board. All costs of supervision under permit shall be borne by the Respondent.

5. Respondent shall enroll in an ethics course and a boundary course covering countertransference issues. These courses shall be pre-approved by the Board and Respondent shall submit written proof that she has satisfactorily completed both courses. Both courses shall be completed within six months of the filing date of this order.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD  
OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Nancy Friedman, Ph.D.  
Chair

I have read and understand the within  
Consent Order and agree to be bound  
by its terms. Consent is hereby given  
to the Board to enter this Order.

*Pamela LiVecchi*

Pamela LiVecchi, Psy. D.

This Order is agreed to as to form  
and entry.

*Richard A West 9-11-13*

Richard West, Esquire  
Attorney for Pamela LiVecchi, Psy.D.