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FILED BY THE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
J. Michael Walker
April 9, 2014

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF **Patricia Packard, LCSW** License No. 44SC05379200 TO PRACTICE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	Administrative Action **CONSENT ORDER**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board") upon receipt of information that Respondent, Patricia Packard ("Respondent") had engaged in misconduct by entering into a personal relationship with a client, ("K.G."), soon after the time during which respondent was providing social work services to the client.

Specifically, the complaint alleged that K.G., a client of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Intervention Services ("DASI"), received social work services from respondent from January 8, 2007

until April 25, 2007. In October 2011, the director of DASI became aware that respondent and K.G. had entered into a personal relationship and purchased a home together on June 20, 2008. The complaint alleges that on October 18, 2011, respondent resigned her position with DASI when confronted with this information.

Respondent submitted a written reply to the complaint through her attorney, JoAnn Pietro, Esq. In her reply, respondent admits that she provided psycho-education and referrals to K.G. for a period of approximately four months, but did not provide psychotherapeutic services. Respondent contends that she was not acting as a social worker or LCSW in her contact with K.G. Respondent neither admitted nor denied the existence of a personal relationship with K.G.

Having reviewed the entire record, it appears to the Board that Respondent provided social work services to K.G., although those services do not appear to be clinical in nature, and entered into a personal relationship with K.G. within twenty-four months of the termination of the social worker/client relationship, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44G-10.7(c). Respondent's conduct provides grounds to take disciplinary action against her license to practice clinical social work in New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h). The parties desiring to resolve this matter without recourse to formal proceedings, respondent having expressly waived her right to a hearing in this matter, and the

Board finding that entry of this Order adequately protects the public health, safety, and welfare, for good cause shown;

IT IS ON THIS 9th **DAY OF** April, **2014,**

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent's license to practice social work shall be and hereby is suspended for a period of three (3) years. The first eighteen (18) months shall be served as a period of active suspension, and the remaining eighteen (18) months shall be stayed and served as a period of probation, contingent on compliance with the terms of this Order and the laws governing the practice of social work in the State of New Jersey. The period of suspension shall begin within 30 days of the entry of this Order or the conclusion of the semester, whichever is later.

2. During the period of active suspension, Respondent shall not engage in the provision of mental health services in any setting, including exempt settings as provided in N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-5.

3. Following the period of active suspension and reinstatement of respondent's license, Respondent's social work services shall be supervised weekly by a New Jersey licensed clinical social worker, not previously known by Respondent, who satisfies the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:44G-8.1 and who shall be pre-approved by the Board following submission of his or her credentials to the Board. The prospective supervisor shall be

provided with a copy of this Consent Order. He or she shall submit to the Board a signed copy of this Consent Order, indicating that he or she has read the Order and agrees to comply with its terms. In addition to a review of all client progress notes, the supervision shall focus on: boundary issues, social work ethics, and transference and counter-transference. The supervisor shall provide quarterly progress reports regarding supervision of Respondent for the period of probation. An unfavorable report may be considered a violation of this Consent Order. In the event the supervisor becomes aware of a boundary or ethics violation by Respondent, the supervisor shall notify the Board by telephone and in writing within twenty-four (24) hours of learning of the events. At the conclusion of one year of supervision, the supervisor shall submit to the Board a final report assessing Respondent's ability to resume the independent clinical practice of social work. Respondent may not terminate supervision without the consent of the Board.

4. Respondent shall successfully complete twenty (20) credits of in-person continuing education courses relating to ethics, boundaries, transference and counter-transference. Respondent must take at least one course in each of the three categories listed above, to acquire the total of twenty credits. The twenty credits may be counted toward the biennial requirement of forty (40) credits for the renewal of respondent's license.

Respondent shall provide the Board with proof of successful completion for each course taken within thirty (30) days of completion.

5. During the entire three-year period of suspension, Respondent shall engage in psychotherapy with a New Jersey licensed clinical social worker or other New Jersey licensed mental health professional pre-approved by the Board. The frequency of the sessions are to be determined by the treating therapist. The therapy shall address boundaries, transference and countertransference and the reasons underlying respondent's conduct so that it does not recur. The therapist must review and sign this Consent Order and agree to provide quarterly reports to the Board regarding respondent's treatment progress, diagnosis and prognosis. Respondent may not terminate therapy without the Board's permission.

6. In the event the Board receives information during the probationary period which the Board in its sole discretion deems reliable that respondent has failed to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order, or has engaged in any dual relationship or boundary violation, the Board may immediately enter an order making respondent's period of stayed suspension active. Respondent shall have the right to apply to the Board to request a hearing, on seven (7) days' notice, for removal of the automatic suspension, but the application shall be limited

to a showing that the information submitted to the Board was false or inaccurate.

7. Respondent may not resume the independent practice of social work without supervision until successful completion of the probationary period, with proof of compliance with the terms of this Order, and further Order of the Board.

NEW JERSEY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

By: Dawn Apgar 4/9/14
Dawn Apgar, Ph.D., LSW, ACSW
Board President

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.

Patricia Packard, LCSW

4-7-2014
Date

Consent is given as to form and entry of this Order.

JoAnn Pietro, R.N., Esq.
Attorney for Patricia Packard, LCSW

4-7-14
Date