BEFORE THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN THE MATTER OF:

STEPHANIE SKINNER, PH.D.

Holder of License No. 4822 for the Practice of Psychology in the State of Arizona,

Respondent.

Case No: 23-12

INTERIM CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER FOR EVALUATION AND PRACTICE RESTRICTION

In the interest of a prompt and judicious interim settlement of the above-captioned matter before the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners ("Board") and consistent with public interest, statutory requirements and responsibilities of the Board, and pursuant to A.R.S.§ 32-2061 *et seq.*, Stephanie Skinner ("Respondent"), holder of License No. 4822 and the Board enter into this Interim Consent Agreement and Order for Evaluation and Practice Restriction ("Interim Consent Agreement") as an interim resolution of this matter until such time a final order is entered by the Board.

JURISDICTION

1. The Board is the state agency authorized pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute ("A.R.S.") § 32-2061 *et. seq.*, and the rules promulgated thereunder in the Arizona Administrative Code ("A.A.C." or "rules") at R4-26-101 *et seq.*, to regulate and control the licensing of psychologists in the State of Arizona.

2. Respondent is the holder of license number PSY-4822 for the practice of psychology in the State of Arizona.

3. The Board has personal and subject-matter jurisdiction over Respondent pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2061 *et seq.*, and the rules at A.A.C. R4-26-101, *et seq.*

INTERIM CONSENT AGREEMENT

Respondent understands and agrees that:

1 1. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter pursuant to A.R.S.
 2 § 32-2061 *et seq*.

2. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Interim
4 Consent Agreement.

3. Respondent has a right to a public hearing concerning this case. She further
acknowledges that at such formal hearing she could present evidence and cross-examine
witnesses. Respondent irrevocably waives her right to such a hearing as it relates to matters
concerning the Interim Consent Agreement.

9 4. Respondent further does not relinquish Respondent's rights to an administrative
10 hearing, rehearing, review, reconsideration, judicial review or any other administrative and/or
11 judicial action, concerning the matters related to a final disposition of this matter, unless
12 Respondent affirmatively does so as part of the final resolution of this matter.

5. This Interim Consent Agreement shall be subject to the approval of the Board and shall
be effective only when signed by the Executive Director. In the event that the Board does not
approve this Interim Consent Agreement, it is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and
shall not be relied upon nor introduced in any action by any party, except that the parties agree
that should the Board reject this Interim Consent Agreement and this case proceeds to hearing,
Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of
this document or any records relating thereto.

6. The Interim Consent Agreement, once approved by the Board and signed by the
Respondent, shall constitute a public record which may be disseminated as a formal action of the
Board and shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

7. The following Interim Findings of Fact are no more and no less than allegations which
have not been proven. By signing this Interim Consent Agreement, Respondent has not admitted
to the allegations but does acknowledge that if this matter were to proceed to a formal hearing
the Board would offer evidence to the trier of fact in support of the allegations.

INTERIM FINDINGS OF FACT

Respondent is a licensed psychologist in the State of Arizona, license number
 4822. She has been licensed in Arizona since February 6, 2017.

2. On September 15, 2022, the Board received a complaint against Respondent.
Subsequently, on September 20, 2022, the Board's Executive and Deputy Directors virtually
interviewed Respondent. The information received by the Board to date could demonstrate that
Respondent may have a health condition that could place patients and the public at risk, the
specifics of which are contained in the Board's files.

INTERIM CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board has personal and subject matter jurisdiction in this case under A.R.S. § 32-2061 *et seq.*, and is authorized to rehabilitate or discipline licensees who engage in unprofessional conduct (A.R.S. §§32-2063-2081) and to require a licensee to undergo any combination of mental, physical or psychological competence examinations at the licensee's expense and shall conduct investigations necessary to determine the competence and conduct of the licensee pursuant to A.R.S. §32-2081(G).

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2081(K)(5) the Board has the authority to "[e]nter into an agreement with the licensee to restrict or limit the licensee's practice or activities in order to rehabilitate the psychologist, protect the public and ensure the psychologist's ability to safely engage in the practice of psychology."

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ORDER FOR EVALUATION AND PRACTICE RESTRICTION

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties agree to
the following Order:

During the pendency of this Interim Consent Agreement, Respondent's License to
 practice psychology, license no. 4822 IS SUSPENDED. Because this is an Interim Consent
 Agreement and not a final decision by the Board regarding the pending investigation, it is subject
 to further consideration by the Board. Once the investigation is complete, it will be promptly

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1 provided to the Board for its review and appropriate action.

2 2. During the period of suspension, Respondent shall not practice psychology as defined
3 in A.R.S. §32-2061(9) or hold herself out as a practicing psychologist or in any way convey to
4 the public that she holds an active license to practice psychology.

3. The suspension of Respondent's license shall continue until such time the Board enters
a final order with respect to this matter after a formal hearing or acceptance of a Consent
Agreement and Order as a final resolution of the matter.

8 4. Prior to the lifting of the suspension, Respondent shall complete a comprehensive 9 psychological evaluation with a Board-approved provider that includes a substance abuse 10 component to assess whether Respondent has a substance use/dependence issues, involving 11 alcohol or drugs. As part of the evaluation, the evaluator shall opine on Respondent's fitness for duty and her ability to safely and competently practice psychology at the present time. Within ten 12 13 (10) days of the effective date of this Interim Consent Agreement and Order, Respondent shall 14 schedule an appointment with one of the Board-approved evaluators listed below for an 15 evaluation. The evaluation shall be completed within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of 16 this Interim Consent Agreement and Order unless otherwise extended one time by the Executive 17 Director upon showing of good cause. Within five (5) days of scheduling of the evaluation, 18 Respondent shall notify the Board in writing of the name of the evaluator and the date/time of 19 the evaluation. The effective date of this Interim Consent Agreement and Order is the date it is signed by the Board's Executive Director. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ONE OR MORE 20 21 OF THESE TERMS SHALL BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF A BOARD ORDER 22 AND MAY RESULT IN THE REVOCATION OF RESPONDENT'S LICENSE. Nicole Lazorwitz, Psy.D. a. 23

3507 N Central Ave, Suite 101, Phoenix, AZ 85012 Phone: 520-428-4528 Website: https://www.drlazorwitz.com/

b. Eric Lott, M.D. Community Bridges Inc.

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1855 W. Baseline Rd, Suite 101, Mesa, AZ 85202 Phone: 480-343-2158
c. Lawrence Sideman, Ph.D.
10269 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85020 Phone: 602-677-1206
d. Kathleen Cramer, Ph.D.
1830 S Alma School Rd, Suite 104, Mesa, AZ 85210 Phone: 480-355-4261
Website: <u>https://www.drkathleencramer.com/</u>
5. Respondent shall ensure that the evaluator submits their final report to the Board
office as soon as it is complete, but no more than 30 days from the date the evaluation.
Respondent shall present this Interim Consent Agreement and Order to the evaluator prior to the
date of the evaluation, or at the time of the evaluation, as directed by the evaluator.
6. COMMUNICATION WITH EVALUATOR: Because Respondent is undergoing the
evaluation pursuant to a Board Order, she shall instruct any attorney retained on her behalf not to
contact the evaluator. Any questions or concerns must be addressed to Board staff.
7. CLIENT: The evaluator is conducting an evaluation solely for the benefit of the
Board and is not treating Respondent as a client or patient. There is no doctor/patient relationship
between the evaluator and Respondent.
8. COSTS: All costs associated with the compliance with this Interim Consent
Agreement and completion of the evaluation is the sole responsibility of Respondent, pursuant to
A.R.S. §32-2081(G).
9. RELEASES: Respondent shall sign, authorize and complete any and all releases
necessary as requested by the evaluator to help ensure a complete and thorough evaluation and to
ensure the report is properly released to the Board as set forth above.
10. FINAL WRITTEN REPORT: The Board authorizes the Executive Director to
contact the evaluator to request the final report in writing for the Board's review. All results of
the evaluation are the sole property of the Board.
11. FAILURE TO COMPLY: Failure to timely comply with this Interim Consent
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Agreement constitutes unprofessional conduct and may result in disciplinary action against
 Respondent by the Board.

12. Respondent's license to practice psychology shall not be fully restored unless and
until the Board determines in its sole discretion that Respondent may safely engage in the
practice of psychology. Respondent understands that should the Board lift the suspension of her
license, the Board may order that she return to practice on a limited basis and/or under certain
terms and conditions.

8 13. Respondent may request, in writing, release and/or modification of this Interim 9 Consent Agreement. Respondent's request must be accompanied by information demonstrating 10 that Respondent is safe to practice psychology. All reasonable efforts shall be made to place 11 Respondent's request for release on the next regular Board agenda provided that the agenda can 12 accommodate the request and provided a complete submission is received by Board staff no less 13 than 14 days prior to the Board meeting. Whether the submission is complete is within the 14 discretion of the Board staff. The Board has the discretion to determine whether it is appropriate 15 to modify or release Respondent from this Interim Consent Agreement, and may require any 16 combination of examinations, continuing education, and/or evaluations in order to determine 17 whether Respondent is safe to resume the practice or psychology.

18 14. Respondent's license to practice psychology expires on June 30, 2024. Pursuant to 19 the terms of this Interim Consent Agreement, Respondent's license remains indefinitely 20 suspended unless and until otherwise ordered by this Board. In the unlikely event there is no 21 final order entered in this matter at time Respondent's license expires and Respondent fails to 22 timely submit an application for renewal, her license remains suspended pursuant to the terms of 23 this Interim Consent Agreement. If Respondent seeks timely renewal of her license and the 24 Board grants her application for renewal, the license shall automatically be placed on indefinite 25 suspension or other restrictions until such time the Board orders otherwise. The Board reserves 26 the right to take other administrative action against Respondent's application for renewal,

1 || including denial of the same, in the event circumstances arise that justify such denial.

15. Respondent has read and understands this Interim Consent Agreement as set forth herein, and has had the opportunity to discuss this Interim Consent Agreement with an attorney.

16. Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement or any part thereof, may be considered in any future disciplinary action against her.

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17. Time is of the essence with regard to this Interim Consent Agreement.

18. If Respondent fails to comply with the terms of this Interim Consent Agreement, the Board shall properly institute proceedings for noncompliance with this Interim Consent Agreement, which may result in suspension, revocation, or other disciplinary and/or remedial actions. Respondent agrees that any violation of this Interim Consent Agreement is a violation of A.R.S. § 32-2061(16)(aa), which is violating a formal board order or consent agreement.

19. Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement does not constitute a final resolution of this or other matters currently pending before the Board, if any, and does not constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigation, action or proceeding. Respondent also understands that acceptance of this Interim Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision or officer of this state from instituting other civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject of this Interim Consent Agreement.

20. Respondent understands that the foregoing Interim Consent Agreement becomes effective upon signature of the Executive Director on behalf of the Board. Any modification to this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties in writing.

21. Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement is a public record that may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board and shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

October Alember, 2022. DATED THIS dav of 1 2 ARIZONA BOARD OF 3 PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS 4 idi Houst Paartonen 5 6 Stephanie Skinner, Ph.D. Heidi Herbst Paakkonen Respondent **Executive Director** 7 8 **ORIGINAL** filed electronically 9 This 7 day of October , 2022 to: 10 Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners 1740 W. Adams St., Suite 3403 11 Phoenix, Arizona 85007 12 COPY of the foregoing mailed by Certified Mail No. 9489009000276379774784 This 7 day of October , 2022 to: 13 14 Stephanie Skinner, Ph.D. Address on Record 15 Respondent 16 COPY of the foregoing via email (jeanne.galvin@azag.gov) This 7 day of October , 2022 to: 17 18 Jeanne M. Galvin Assistant Attorney General 19 2005 North Central Ave. SGD/LES Phoenix, Arizona 85004 20 Jeanne.galvin@azag.gov Attorney for the State of Arizona 21 COPY of the foregoing mailed by USPS regular mail 22 this 7 day of October, 2022 to: Flynn Carey, Esq. 2.3 2600 N. Central Ave., Suite 1000 Phoenix, AZ 85004 24 Attorney for Respondent 25 ennifer Michaelsen 26 8