

1 **BEFORE THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS**
2 **FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA**

3 IN THE MATTER OF:

4 **BRET RINGDAHL, PH.D.**

5 Holder of License No. PSY-005542
6 for the Practice of Psychology
7 in the State of Arizona,

8 Respondent.

Case No: 24-17

**INTERIM CONSENT AGREEMENT
AND ORDER FOR EVALUATION AND
PRACTICE RESTRICTION**

9
10 In the interest of a prompt and judicious settlement of the above-captioned matter before
11 the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners (“Board”) and consistent with public interest,
12 statutory requirements and responsibilities of the Board, and pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2061 et seq.
13 and A.R.S. § 41-1092.07(F)(5), Bret Ringdahl (“Respondent”), holder of license number PSY-
14 005542, and the Board enter into this Interim Consent Agreement and Order for Evaluation and
15 Practice Restriction (“Interim Consent Agreement”) as an interim resolution of this matter until
16 such time a final order is entered by the Board.

17 **JURISDICTION**

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

22 2. Respondent is the holder of license number PSY-005542 for the practice of
23 psychology in the State of Arizona

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

26 **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.*

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

5 3. Respondent has a right to a public hearing concerning this case. He further
6 acknowledges that at such formal hearing he could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.
7 Respondent irrevocably waives his right to such a hearing as it relates to matters concerning the
8 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.

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15 approve this Interim Consent Agreement, it is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and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

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

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

1 **INTERIM FINDINGS OF FACT**

2 1. Respondent is a licensed psychologist in the State of Arizona, license number
3 5542. He has been licensed in Arizona since September 2, 2022. Respondent previously held a
4 Supervised Temporary Psychologist license, no. PSY-T-000047, from November 12, 2021 –
5 September 2, 2022.

6 2. On November 7, 2023, the Board received a complaint against Respondent from
7 his employer. The information received could demonstrate that Respondent may have a health
8 condition that, if true, could place patients and the public at risk. The specifics of this allegation
9 are contained in the Board’s files.

10 **INTERIM CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

11 The Board has personal and subject matter jurisdiction in this case under A.R.S. § 32-
12 2061 *et seq.*, and is authorized to rehabilitate or discipline licensees who engage in
13 unprofessional conduct (A.R.S. §§32-2063-2081) and to require a licensee to undergo any
14 combination of mental, physical or psychological competence examinations at the licensee’s
15 expense and shall conduct investigations necessary to determine the competence and conduct of
16 the licensee pursuant to A.R.S. §32-2081(G).

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

21 **ORDER FOR EVALUATION AND PRACTICE RESTRICTION**

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

24 1. During the pendency of this Interim Consent Agreement, Respondent’s License to
25 practice psychology, license no. 5542 **IS SUSPENDED**. Because this is an Interim Consent
26 Agreement and not a final decision by the Board regarding the pending investigation, it is subject

1 to further consideration by the Board. Once the investigation is complete, it will be promptly
2 provided to the Board for its review and appropriate action.

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

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

9 4. Prior to the lifting of the suspension, Respondent shall complete a comprehensive
10 psychological evaluation with a Board-approved provider that includes a substance use
11 component to assess whether Respondent has substance use/dependence issues, involving
12 alcohol or drugs. As part of the evaluation, the provider shall opine on Respondent's fitness for
13 duty and his ability to safely and competently practice psychology at the present time. Within
14 sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Interim Consent Agreement and Order, Respondent
15 shall schedule an appointment with one of the Board-approved providers listed below for an
16 evaluation. The evaluation shall be completed within one hundred twenty (120) days of the
17 effective date of this Interim Consent Agreement and Order unless otherwise extended one time
18 by the Executive Director upon showing of good cause. Within five (5) days of scheduling of the
19 evaluation, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing of the name of the evaluator and the
20 date/time of the evaluation. The effective date of this Interim Consent Agreement and Order is
21 the date it is signed by the Board's Executive Director. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ONE
22 OR MORE OF THESE TERMS SHALL BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF A
23 BOARD ORDER AND MAY RESULT IN THE REVOCATION OF RESPONDENT'S
24 LICENSE.**

- 25 a. Nicole Lazorwitz, Psy.D.
26 3507 N Central Ave, Suite 101, Phoenix, AZ 85012
Phone: 520-428-4528

1 b. Eric Lott, M.D.
2 Community Bridges Inc.
3 1855 W. Baseline Rd, Suite 101, Mesa, AZ 85202
4 Phone: 480-343-2158

5 5. Respondent shall ensure that the evaluator submits their final report to the Board
6 office as soon as it is complete, but no more than 30 days from the date the evaluation.
7 Respondent shall present this Interim Consent Agreement and Order to the evaluator prior to the
8 date of the evaluation, or at the time of the evaluation, as directed by the evaluator.

9 6. COMMUNICATION WITH EVALUATOR: Because Respondent is undergoing the
10 evaluation pursuant to a Board Order, he shall instruct any attorney retained on his behalf not to
11 contact the evaluator. Any questions or concerns must be addressed to Board staff.

12 7. CLIENT: The evaluator is conducting an evaluation solely for the benefit of the
13 Board and is not treating Respondent as a client or patient. There is no doctor/patient relationship
14 between the evaluator and Respondent.

15 8. COSTS: All costs associated with the compliance with this Interim Consent
16 Agreement and completion of the evaluation is the sole responsibility of Respondent, pursuant to
17 A.R.S. §32-2081(G).

18 9. RELEASES: Respondent shall sign, authorize and complete any and all releases
19 necessary as requested by the evaluator to help ensure a complete and thorough evaluation and to
20 ensure the report is properly released to the Board as set forth above.

21 10. FINAL WRITTEN REPORT: The Board authorizes the Executive Director to
22 contact the evaluator to request the final report in writing for the Board's review. All results of
23 the evaluation are the sole property of the Board.

24 11. FAILURE TO COMPLY: Failure to timely comply with this Interim Consent
25 Agreement constitutes unprofessional conduct and may result in disciplinary action against
26 Respondent by the Board.

 12. Respondent's license to practice psychology shall not be fully restored unless and

1 until the Board determines in its sole discretion that Respondent may safely engage in the
2 practice of psychology. Respondent understands that should the Board lift the suspension of his
3 license, the Board may order that he return to practice on a limited basis and/or under certain
4 terms and conditions.

5 13. Respondent may request, in writing, release and/or modification of this Interim
6 Consent Agreement. Respondent's request must be accompanied by information demonstrating
7 that Respondent is safe to practice psychology. All reasonable efforts shall be made to place
8 Respondent's request for release on the next regular Board agenda provided that the agenda can
9 accommodate the request and provided a complete submission is received by Board staff no less
10 than twenty-one (21) days prior to the Board meeting. Whether the submission is complete is
11 within the discretion of the Board staff. The Board has the discretion to determine whether it is
12 appropriate to modify or release Respondent from this Interim Consent Agreement, and may
13 require any combination of examinations, continuing education, and/or evaluations in order to
14 determine whether Respondent is safe to resume the practice of psychology.

15 14. Respondent's license to practice psychology expires on July 31, 2024. Pursuant to
16 the terms of this Interim Consent Agreement, Respondent's license remains indefinitely
17 suspended unless and until otherwise ordered by this Board. In the unlikely event there is no
18 final order entered in this matter at the time Respondent's license expires and Respondent fails to
19 timely submit an application for renewal, his license remains suspended pursuant to the terms of
20 this Interim Consent Agreement. If Respondent seeks timely renewal of his license and the
21 Board grants his application for renewal, the license shall automatically be placed on indefinite
22 suspension or other restrictions until such time the Board orders otherwise. The Board reserves
23 the right to take other administrative action against Respondent's application for renewal,
24 including denial of the same, in the event circumstances arise that justify such denial.

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

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

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

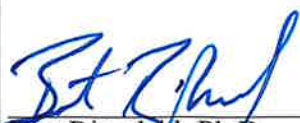
4 18. If Respondent fails to comply with the terms of this Interim Consent Agreement,
5 the Board shall properly institute proceedings for noncompliance with this Interim Consent
6 Agreement, which may result in suspension, revocation, or other disciplinary and/or remedial
7 actions. Respondent agrees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

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


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

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

23 DATED THIS 8 day of December, 2023.

24
25 
26 Bret Ringdahl, Ph.D.
Respondent

ARIZONA BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS


Heidi Herbst Paakkonen
Executive Director

1 **ORIGINAL** filed electronically
2 this 8 day of December, 2023 with:

3 Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners
4 1740 W. Adams St., Suite 3403
5 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

6 **COPY** of the foregoing sent electronically by email
7 this 8 day of December, 2023 to:

8 Bret Ringdahl, Ph.D.
9 Email Address on Record
10 Respondent

11 **COPY** of the foregoing sent electronically by email (jeanne.galvin@azag.gov)
12 this 8 day of December, 2023 to:

13 Jeanne M. Galvin
14 Assistant Attorney General
15 2005 North Central Ave. SGD/LES
16 Phoenix, Arizona 85004
17 Attorney for the State of Arizona

18 By: Jennifer Michaelson
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