

Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners 1740 W. Adams St., Suite 3403 Phoenix, Arizona 85007 Phone (602) 542-8163 Fax (602) 542-8279 https://psychboard.az.gov

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> Executive Director Jenna Jones

Sent US postal service and certified mail 70162140000069594596

November 14, 2018

Lynn Nunemacher, Psy.D. New Hope Psychological Services 3651 E. Baseline Rd., Ste. E-204 Gilbert, AZ 85234

Dear Dr. Nunemacher:

At the November 2, 2018, meeting the Board met in open session to discuss the Consent Agreement and Order for Probation, Continuing Education, Practice Restriction and Mentoring (Consent Agreement). After deliberations, the Board voted to accept the Consent Agreement. Enclosed is the fully effective Consent Agreement. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Board office at (602)-542-8159.

Sincerely,

Jenna Jones

**Executive Director** 

Cc: J. Arthur Eaves, Esq. Jeanne Galvin, A.A.G.

enclosure

# BEFORE THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA

n the Matter of:	) Case No. 17-36
Lynn Nunemacher, Psy.D.  Holder of License No. PSY- 003987  for the Practice of Psychology  n the State of Arizona	CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER FOR PROBATION, CONTINUING EDUCATION, PRACTICE RESTRICTION AND
	MENTORING

On October 5, 2018, the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners ("Board") met in open session to discuss the above-referenced cases. Lynn Nunemacher, Psy.D. ("Respondent") was present with her legal counsel, Larry J. Cohen. After discussion, consideration, and deliberation, the Board voted to enter into a Consent Agreement for purposes of resolving this matter and in lieu of further administrative proceedings in Complaint No. 17-36.

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. The Board is authorized to regulate the practice of psychology in Arizona pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2061, *et seq*, and the rules promulgated thereunder, found in 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-003987 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.

### **RECITALS**

Respondent understands and agrees that:

1. The Board and Respondent enter into this Consent Agreement and Order ("Consent Agreement") to promptly and judiciously resolve these matters, consistent with the public interest and the statutory requirements of the Board.

- 2. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this 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.
- 4. Respondent irrevocably waives any right to rehearing or review or to any judicial review or any other appeal of this matter.
- 5. Respondent has agreed to enter into this Consent Agreement as an economical and practical means of resolving the issues alleged in the Complaint.
- 6. This Consent Agreement shall be subject to the approval by the Board and shall be effective only when signed by the Executive Director and accepted by the Board. In the event that the Board does not approve this 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 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.
- 7. The Consent Agreement, once approved by the Board, evidenced by the signature of the Executive Director or her designee and signed by the Respondent, shall constitute a public record that may be disseminated as a formal action of the Board and shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.
- 8. Respondent voluntarily enters into this Consent Agreement for the purpose of avoiding the expense, uncertainty, and prolonged time involved in further administrative proceedings. The issues contained herein are resolved by settlement and not actually litigated. Any allegations and findings herein may not be used for *res judicata* or collateral estoppel effect in any subsequent civil proceedings for any claims of professional liability or negligence by or on behalf of Complainant(s).

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On December 18, 2017, the Board received Complaint No. 17-36 that alleged acts

of unprofessional conduct that, if found by the Board to be factually supported, could justify the Board taking action against Respondent.

- 2. The allegations in Complaint No. 17-36 raise issues concerning Respondent's supervision of a trainee and the trainee's delivery of clinical services, compliance with statute and rules pertaining to supervision, informed consent for clients who receive services from trainees, payment arrangement for clients, stipend arrangement for trainees and establishing an accurate description of the trainee's status for clients.
  - 3. In July 2014 Cyrus Behrana completed a master's degree in counseling.
- 4. Respondent was familiar with Mr. Behrana from having been his supervisor in connection with her role as Clinical Director at Desert Heights Academy, where Mr. Behrana received training as part of an education program that ultimately would result in his obtaining his master's degree.
- 5. She continued to be familiar with him and provided supervision when he returned to Desert Heights Academy as a full time employee after he obtained his master's degree, working in positions sometimes referred to as a clinician and other times as an intern.
- 6. When Mr. Behrana approached Respondent seeking clinical work experience in a private practice setting Respondent agreed to provide that supervision experience through her private practice, New Hope Psychological Services (New Hope) by implementing the same supervision model she used at Desert Heights Academy.
- 7. Mr. Behrana provided psychotherapy from September 2015 to September 2017 under Respondent's supervision at New Hope.
  - 8. Mr. Behrana notified the clients that Respondent was supervising him.
  - 9. Respondent provided Mr. Behrana with clinical supervision for the clients he saw.
- 10. Although Mr. Behrana was not enrolled in a program nor was he an intern he used, with Respondent's knowledge, the title "intern in clinical psychology" when he interacted with clients.
  - 11. Mr. Behrana's clients referred to him as their therapist.
  - 12. Mr. Behrana collected money and engaged in unauthorized practice for more than

two and a half years while under the Respondent's supervision.

- 13. Respondent was aware that Mr. Behrana was charging New Hope clients to himself but denies knowing initially that he was charging some clients to Behrana Counseling.
- 14. Respondent did not provide Mr. Behrana with a W2 or a 1099 during the time Mr. Behrana provided therapeutic services to clients at New Hope because she did not consider him an employee or an agent of New Hope.
- 15. Respondent suggested to Mr. Behrana that he keep his money separate from New Hope for tax purposes.
- 16. Respondent was not familiar with the rules and statutes of the Arizona State Board of Behavioral Health Examiners (BBHE)(the board responsible for licensing counselors) regarding supervision, relying instead on Mr. Behrana to be familiar with the rules and statutes of the Board to which he intended eventually to apply for licensure.
- 17. Around September 2017, when the BBHE opened an investigation of Mr. Behrana's activities at New Hope, Respondent became aware for herself of BBHE's statutes and regulations.
- 18. While the BBHE investigation was pending, Respondent discovered that while working at New Hope Mr. Behrana created his own business, Behrana Counseling.
- 19. At that time Respondent directed Mr. Behrana to stop charging clients; Respondent intended to start paying Mr. Behrana directly through New Hope.
- 20. However, with the BBHE investigation pending Respondent and Mr. Behrana decided instead to discontinue the supervisory relationship, and either referred Mr. Behrana's clients to other providers or arranged for the clients to continue treatment with Respondent.
- 21. Respondent acknowledges that she should have familiarized herself with BBHE statutes and regulations before she commenced a clinical supervision relationship with Mr. Behrana in her private practice.
- 22. Respondent acknowledges that she should have complied but failed to comply with the BBHE statutes and regulations when providing clinical supervision to a person whose professional activities are within the scope of the BBHE.

- 23. Respondent admits that in providing a clinical supervision experience for Mr. Behrana in her private practice she was obliged to adhere to the principles and standards of the American Psychological Association Ethical Principles of Psychologists Code of Conduct, and in particular; Principle 7.01 Design of Education and Training Programs.
- 24. Respondent admits that in providing a clinical supervision experience for Mr. Behrana in her private practice she failed to adhere to the principles and standards of the American Psychological Association Ethical Principles of Psychologists Code of Conduct, and Principle 7.01 Design of Education and Training Programs.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The conduct and circumstances described in Complaint 17-36, if supported by the facts alleged, would constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to: A.R.S. § 32-2061(16) (dd) for possibly violating an ethical standard adopted by the Board as it pertains to the American Psychological Association Ethical Principles of Psychologists Code of Conduct 7.01 Design of Education and Training Programs.

## **ORDER**

Pursuant to A.R.S. §32-2081(S) the Board has determined that the Respondent's conduct in Case No. 17-36 warrants disciplinary action. Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- 1. **PROBATION**: Respondent's license as a Psychologist is placed on probation for a minimum period of twelve (12) Months from the effective date of this Consent Agreement, unless otherwise ordered by the Board. The effective date of this Consent Agreement is the date that it is signed by the Board's Executive Director, or her designee, on behalf of the Board.
- 2. **CONTINUING EDUCATION:** In addition to the continuing education requirements that are required by rule for license renewal, Respondent shall complete an additional twelve (12) hours of continuing education to address the issues raised in the Complaint. 17-36. Six (6) of the hours shall address supervision of trainees and the remaining hours shall address Informed Consent and Ethics. The continuing education shall be completed

prior to the termination of probation. Within fourteen (14) days of completing the continuing education, Respondent shall submit certificates of completion to the Board's Executive Director. Up to six (6) of the additional hours may be for continuing education completed within sixty (60) days prior to the execution of this Consent Agreement.

- 3. **PRACTICE RESTRICTION:** During the probationary period, Respondent shall refrain from providing any clinical supervision in connection with her private practice or in any other setting.
- 4. PRACTICE MONITOR/MENTOR: During the probationary period,
  Respondent shall meet for four (4) hours each month for the first three (3) months of the
  probationary period with a licensed psychologist pre-approved by the Board (Mentor) who is
  providing clinical supervision in the course of that licensed psychologist's private practice.

  After the first three (3) months, Respondent shall meet with the Mentor for two (2) hours each
  month for the remainder of the probationary period whether that be twelve (12) months or a
  shorter period as determined by the Board. The purpose of this mentoring is for the Respondent
  to receive professional guidance and input concerning the standard of care for providing
  supervision and the professional and ethical way to provide clinical supervision in a private
  practice setting.

The guidance and input shall at a minimum include following:

- 1. The establishment and formation of training plans and supervision;
- 2. Documentation of and record keeping in clinical supervision;
- 3. Obtaining client consent for supervision and interacting with clients in the course of providing clinical supervision;
  - 4. Meeting with the supervisee and providing clinical supervision;
- 5. Charging for services provided by a clinical supervisee and receiving payment from patients for such services.
- 6. Compliance with state statute and rules pertaining to supervision.

  The Mentor may supplement this list of issues with such other issues that the Mentor deems appropriate.

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The Mentor shall submit to the Board quarterly reports confirming that the meetings took place and that in the course of meetings with the Respondent there was discussion about the above referenced topics. The report shall describe generally the other content concerning the delivery of clinical supervision that the mentor and the Respondent discussed. The report shall also include the Mentor's recommendations regarding the need for any additional remedial activities on the part of Respondent with respect to the establishment and formation of a clinical supervision experience and the delivery of clinical supervision services. The Respondent shall be responsible for all costs and expenses associated with the twelve hours of meeting with the Mentor and the preparation and submission of the report.

Respondent shall present this Order to the Board approved Mentor prior to the date of the first meeting. The first meeting between Respondent and her Mentor shall occur within 30 days of the effective date of this Order.

Within ten (10) business days of the effective date of this agreement,
Respondent shall enter into an agreement with one of the following psychologists to serve as
her Mentor, or Respondent may self-select a psychologist who is approved by the Board Chair
and the Board's Executive Director. Respondent shall submit the name of the psychologist to
the Board within ten days of entering into the agreement with the Mentor. The Mentor shall
have no familial or business relationship with Respondent:

Lynette Livesay, Psy.D. 3450 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Phoenix, AZ 85012 602-265-8338

Wendy Bunn (Beghein), Psy.D. 3450 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Phoenix, AZ 85012 602-351-6905

Diana Milner, Ph.D.

11011 S. 48<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 200

Phoenix, AZ 85044

602-796-7081

Lawrence Sideman, Ph.D. 2233 W. Dunlap Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85021 602-216-3104

If, during the probation period, the Mentor is unable or unwilling to continue to act as Respondent's Mentor, within ten (10) business days of the Mentor's termination of the relationship, Respondent shall contact the Board in writing and request additional names of other potential Mentor's approved by the Board. Respondent shall notify the Board of her new Mentor within 15 business days after the names of additional potential Mentors are provided.

- 5. **TERMINATION OF PROBATION:** At the end of one year, unless otherwise ordered by the Board, Respondent may petition the Board, in writing, and request termination from probation. Respondent may request termination of probation after six (6) months of probation and with the Mentor's recommendation. If the Board determines that Respondent has not complied with the requirements of this Consent Agreement, the Board may either (a) continue the probation, or (b) institute proceedings for noncompliance with this Consent Agreement, which may result in the suspension, revocation, or other disciplinary or remedial action.
- 6. <u>CONTINUED APPLICATION OF TERMS:</u> If, between the effective date of this Consent Agreement and the termination of Respondent's probation by the Board, Respondent fails to renew her license while under this Consent Agreement and subsequently

applies for a license, the remaining terms of the Consent Agreement, including probation and monitoring, shall be imposed if the application for licensure is granted.

- 7. **EFFECTIVE DATE**: Respondent understands that the foregoing Consent Agreement shall not become effective unless and until adopted by the Board of Psychologist Examiners and executed on behalf of the Board. Any modification to this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties in writing.
- 8. <u>CONSIDERATION IN FUTURE ACTIONS</u>: Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement or any part thereof, may be considered in any future disciplinary action against her.
- 9. **FINAL RESOLUTION**: This Consent Agreement constitutes a final resolution of this disciplinary matter but does not constitute a dismissal or resolution of other matters currently pending before the Board, if any, and does not constitute any waiver, expressed or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigations, actions or proceedings. Further, this 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 Consent Agreement.
  - 10. **TIME**: Time is of the essence regarding this Consent Agreement.
- 11. <u>COSTS</u>: The Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred because of her compliance with this Consent Agreement.
- 13. <u>NON-COMPLIANCE</u>: If Respondent fails to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement, the Board shall properly institute proceedings for noncompliance with this Consent Agreement, which may result in suspension, revocation, or other disciplinary and/or remedial actions. Violation of this Order is a violation of A.R.S. § 32-2061(16)(aa), which is "violating a formal board order, consent agreement, term of probation or stipulated agreement."
- 14. <u>PUBLIC RECORD</u>: This Consent Agreement and Order 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.

DATED this 14th day of November, 2018.

1 2 ARIZONA BOARD OF **PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS** 3 4 5 Lynn/Nunemacher, Psy.D Jenna Jones 6 Respondent Executive Director 7 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this 8 14th day of November, 2018, with: 9 The Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners 1740 W. Adams St., Suite 3403 10 Phoenix, Arizona 85007 11 COPY mailed by US and certified postal service # 70162140 0000 6959496 This 14th day of 400ember, 2018, to: 12 13 XXXXXXXXX Lynn Nuremacher, Psy. D. Address on Record 14 15 COPY mailed by US postal service This 14 day of November, 2018 to: 16 17 Larry Cohen, Esq. The Cohen Law Firm 18 PO Box 10056 19 Phoenix, AZ 85064-0056 COPY of the foregoing emailed this 14th day of November, 2018, to: 20 21 22 Jeanne M. Galvin, AAG Arizona Attorney General's Office 23 SGD/LES 2005 North Central Ave. 24 Phoenix, Arizona 85004 25 26 By: fleathe Broadder 27

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