



Sam Brownback
Governor

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October 4, 2016

Veronica New



Re: Report of Alleged Violation 14-MS-0108

Dear Ms. New:

This letter is to confirm that you satisfied all of the conditions set forth in the Consent Agreement and Order dated September 9, 2016. The case is now closed.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy D'Ercole".

Cindy D'Ercole
Special Investigator

Whitney L. Casement, KS S Ct # 25466
Kansas Office of the Attorney General
120 SW 10th Avenue, Second Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1597

BEFORE THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD

In the Matter of)
)
Vernona New, LMSW)
License #8010,) Case No. 14-MS-0108
Respondent)
_____)

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

NOW, on this 20th day of August, September, 2014, the above-captioned matter comes before the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board [Board], by and through Assistant Attorney General Whitney L. Casement, by agreement of Vernona New [Licensee] and the Board for the purpose of resolving the above-captioned case.

Licensee hereby acknowledges the following:

1. Vernona New is currently, and was at all times relevant to this Consent Agreement and Order, a Licensed Master Social Worker within the meaning of the Kansas Social Workers Licensure Act, K.S.A. 65-6301, *et seq.*, and amendments thereto.
2. On or about April 21, 2014, the Board's licensing department received self-report of information concerning Licensee's conduct, alleging Licensee may have violated certain statutes and regulations governing her license as a Licensed Master Social Worker.
3. As a result of the report and subsequent investigation, the Board finds probable cause that the following facts have been established by a preponderance of clear and convincing evidence:
 - a. Licensee is a Licensed Master Social Worker currently licensed in Kansas.

- b. Licensee provided a reference to a potential employer of a family member, without disclosing the familial relationship to said potential employer.
- c. On or about March 3, 2014, Licensee informed the same family member's employer that she had performed "intake" for the family member for inpatient care. Licensee did so in order to protect her family member from losing her job. At no time did Licensee disclose the familial relationship with said employer.

4. The Complaint Review Committee of the Board finds that Licensee has violated the following statute and regulation:

A. K.S.A. 65-6311. Grounds for suspension, limitation, revocation or refusal to issue or renew license; procedure.

- (a) The board may suspend, limit, revoke, condition or refuse to issue or renew a license of any social worker upon proof that the social worker:
 - (4) has been found guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined by rules established by the board;

B. K.A.R. 102-2-7. Unprofessional Conduct. Any of the following acts by a licensee or an applicant for a social work license shall constitute unprofessional conduct:

- (h) failing to recognize, seek intervention, and otherwise appropriately respond when one's own personal problems, psychosocial distress, or mental health difficulties interfere with or negatively impact professional judgment, professional performance and functioning, or the ability to act in the client's best interests;
- (w) engaging in professional activities . . . involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;

However, Licensee and the Board mutually desire to enter a Consent Agreement and Order in lieu of adjudicative proceedings to resolve the reported violations.

WHEREFORE, Licensee waives all rights to an adjudication of facts and law which could be determined pursuant to a hearing conducted in accordance with the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act in relation to Case No. 14-MS-0108.

WHEREFORE, Licensee waives the right to file a motion for reconsideration and all rights of appeal pursuant to the Kansas Judicial Review Act in relation to Case No. 14-MS-0108.

WHEREFORE, Licensee consents to the following terms and conditions:

(a) Licensee shall practice only under individual supervision by a Board-approved supervisor and shall meet with her supervisor monthly and in person for a period of two years from the effective date of this Consent Agreement and Order. The focus of the supervision shall be on ethical boundaries, both personal and professional, and dual relationships. Licensee shall provide a copy of this Consent Agreement and Order to the supervisor and authorize the supervisor to provide written quarterly reports to the Board's Special Investigator for the two-year term of supervision.

(b) Licensee shall complete three extra hours of continuing education in ethics, focusing on professional boundaries. The three additional hours of continuing education shall be conducted by Licensee in person within 180 days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement and Order. This condition shall be deemed satisfied upon the Board's receipt of Licensee's written proof of completion of the three extra hours of continuing education by or before 180 days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement and Order. Failure to provide the Board with written proof of completion of the extra continuing education hours by or before 180 days of the effective date is a violation of this Consent Agreement and Order and may result in further action by the Board.

(c) Licensee shall research, write, and submit to the Board a 10-page professional paper on the following subject: The impact on the public and social work profession of providing a tainted professional recommendation for licensure. The paper shall be double-spaced with one-inch margins and in American Psychological Association (APA) format. The paper shall be

submitted to the Board by or before 90 days from the effective date of this Consent Agreement and Order.

(d) Licensee shall be responsible for any costs and expenses incurred in satisfying the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order.

(e) Licensee understands that a notification of this Consent Agreement and Order may be provided to any other state or federal agency with which Licensee is licensed, registered, or certified.

(f) Licensee acknowledges an affirmative duty to notify the Board within five (5) days of any changes in personal or professional status which would inhibit compliance with any condition of this Consent Agreement and Order. In such event, a designee of the Board is authorized to modify or amend this Consent Agreement and Order in writing.

(g) This Consent Agreement and Order constitutes the entire agreement between the Licensee and the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board and may be modified or amended only by written agreement signed by Licensee and the Board or a designee of the Board.

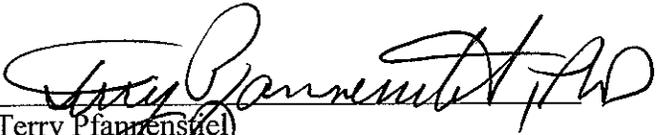
WHEREFORE, Licensee consents to the submission of this Consent Agreement and Order to the Board's Complaint Review Committee and understands that, upon approval by the Complaint Review Committee, this Consent Agreement and Order will become a Final Order of the Board. The Board has authorized the Complaint Review Committee to determine approval of this Consent Agreement and Order.

WHEREFORE, the Board agrees that, so long as Licensee complies with the above conditions, the Board will not initiate further disciplinary action against Licensee in relation to violations of K.S.A. 65-6311 and K.A.R. 102-2-7 as a result of this proceeding.

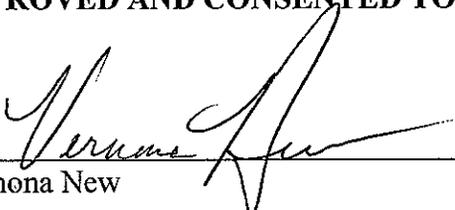
WHEREFORE, the foregoing provisions are consented to, are hereby made the Final Order of the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, and become effective on the date

indicated in the Certificate of Service below.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Terry Pfannenstiel
Chair, Complaint Review Committee

APPROVED AND CONSENTED TO:



Vernona New
Licensee

Date 8/28/24

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on this 20th ⁹ day of September, 2014, a true and correct copy of the above Consent Agreement and Order was deposited in the U.S. mail, first class postage prepaid, addressed to:

Vernona New



and a copy delivered via interoffice mail to:

Whitney L. Casement
Assistant Attorney General
120 SW 10th Ave., 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612
Disciplinary Counsel for the Board

Cindy D'Avole
For the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board