

Marty M. Snyder, KS S Ct #11317  
Assistant Attorney General  
120 SW 10<sup>th</sup> St, Second Floor  
Topeka, KS 66612-1597

**BEFORE THE KANSAS BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD**

In the Matter of )  
 )  
CYNTHIA RIDDELL, )  
 )  
LMSW #7172, Respondent )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Case No. 15-MS-47

**SUMMARY PROCEEDING ORDER OF DEFINITE SUSPENSION**

NOW, on this 9 day of June, 2015, the above-captioned complaint comes before the Complaint Review Committee [Committee] of the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board [Board].

**I. FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Committee finds that the following facts have been established by a preponderance of the evidence:

1. Cynthia Riddell is a Licensed Masters Social Worker, License #7172, which was issued by the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board.

2. At all times relevant to the complaint herein, Respondent was practicing as a Licensed Masters Social Worker within the meaning of the Kansas Social Workers Licensure Act, K.S.A. 65-6301, *et seq.*, and amendments thereto.

3. On or about August 8, 2014, the Board received information that Respondent, as a DCCCA employee of eight years responsible for emergency assistance for needy families, had misappropriated more than \$1,200 of agency funds. She also entered false reports attributing payment of funds to specific client families for

their emergency needs. Contact with the families revealed that they were never contacted by Respondent and their needs remained unfulfilled. DCCCA immediately initiated support services.

4. DCCCA terminated Respondent's employment on July 3, 2014, however, Respondent failed to report the termination to the Board.

5. Respondent was informed about the complaint and was requested to respond in writing but failed to respond to the allegations until January 23, 2015, claiming that a prior written response dated November 13, 2014 had been mailed to the Board. In her response, Ms. Riddell admits the allegations and expresses great remorse. The Complainant confirms repayment in full of the amounts misappropriated that had been discovered at the time the complaint was filed.

## **II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Complaint Review Committee concludes the following based upon the undisputed facts:

1. The Kansas Administrative Procedure Act [K.A.P.A.], K.S.A. 77-537, provides that a state agency may use summary proceedings, subject to a party's request for a hearing on the order, if the use of the proceedings in the circumstances does not violate any provision of law and the protection of the public interest does not require the state agency to give notice and an opportunity to participate to persons other than the parties.

2. The actions of Cynthia Riddell violate:  
**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;

**K.A.R. 102-2-7, Unprofessional Conduct,**

(b)(3) except when the information has been obtained in the context of a confidential relationship, failing to notify the board, within a reasonable period of time, that any of the following conditions apply to any person regulated by the board or applying for a license or registration, including oneself: has been demoted, terminated, suspended, reassigned, or asked to resign from employment, or has resigned from employment, for some form of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance;

(i) failing or refusing to cooperate in a timely manner with any request from the board for a response, information that is not obtained in the context of a confidential relationship, or assistance with respect to the board's investigation of any report of an alleged violation filed against oneself or any other applicant or professional who is required to be licensed or registered by the board. Each person taking longer than 30 days to provide the requested response, information, or assistance shall have the burden of demonstrating that the person acted in a timely manner;

(w) engaging in professional activities, including billing practices and advertising, involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;

(jj) taking credit for work not performed personally, whether by giving inaccurate or misleading information or by failing to disclose accurate or material information.

### III. SANCTION

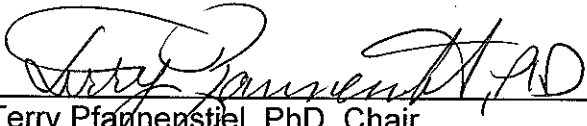
Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and pursuant to K.S.A. 65-6311(a) and K.S.A. 77-537, the Committee orders as follows:

A. Respondent's Kansas Licensed Masters Social Worker license shall be and is hereby suspended for a definite period of thirty (30) days, effective beginning on the effective date of this Order as provided in the Notice of Relief below. During the period of suspension, Respondent shall not practice Social Work in Kansas and shall not state that she is a Licensed Kansas Social Worker through any means including but not limited to business cards, letterheads, advertisement, billing or otherwise. Suspension shall begin on the effective date of this Order, and Reinstatement shall occur automatically on the 31<sup>st</sup> day after the suspension begins.

B. This Summary Proceeding Order shall be posted to the Board's website and provided to the National Practitioner Databank and any other jurisdictions where Respondent is known to have been licensed or as further required by law.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated this 9 day of June, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Pfannenstiel, PhD, Chair  
Complaint Review Committee  
Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

### NOTICE OF RELIEF FROM SUMMARY PROCEEDING ORDER

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537 and K.S.A. 77-542, this Summary Proceeding Order is subject to your request for a hearing. If you desire a hearing, you must direct a written request for hearing to:

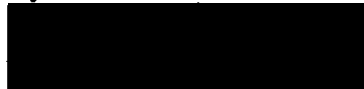
Max Foster, Executive Director  
Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board  
Eisenhower State Office Bldg, Suite #420  
Topeka, KS 66603

Any written request for hearing must be filed within fifteen (15) days of service of this Notice. If a hearing is not requested in the time and manner stated, this Summary Proceeding Order becomes final and effective upon the expiration of the time for requesting a hearing and will be a Final Order of the Board.

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on this 9 day of June, 2015, a copy of the above and foregoing Summary Proceeding Order was placed in the U.S. mail, first-class postage prepaid, addressed to:

Cynthia Riddell



and by inter-office mail to:

Marty M. Snyder, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General  
120 SW 10th Ave., 2nd Floor  
Topeka, KS 66612

Cindy D'Ercole  
For the Board