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BEFORE THE KANSAS BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD

In The Matter Of)
)
RICHELLE J. STROUP, LMSW) Case No. 20-MS-0124
License #7669)
)
Respondent)
_____))
Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-536

SUMMARY PROCEEDING ORDER

NOW, on this 1 day of January, 2021, the above-captioned matter comes before the Complaint Review Committee of the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (Board).

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Richelle J. Stroup (“Respondent”) was at all times relevant, a Licensed Master Social Worker (“LMSW”), having been issued LMSW License No. 7669. This license expires on January 31, 2022. Respondent is currently, and was at all times relevant an LMSW within the meaning of the laws relating to regulation of social workers, K.S.A. 65-6301 *et seq.*
2. On or about February 10, 2020, a Report of Alleged Violation was received by the Board alleging Licensee may have violated certain statues and regulations governing the practice of licensed master social workers in the State of Kansas.

3. From approximately June 2019 through September 2019, Respondent was employed at the Amy Meek Family Therapy Group (“AMFTG”).

4. Respondent would provide services to her clients, and then AMFTG would submit to the insurance companies using the AMFTG NPI number for the services provided by Respondent.

5. Respondent notified AMFTG that she was giving her notice that she was leaving AMFTG. Respondent was concerned about reimbursement for services provided while she was employed at AMFTG, but had not been reimbursed by AMFTG for these services before she left employment.

6. Based upon her concern, Respondent removed clients from the AMFTG office calendar to avoid claims to be submitted by the office biller to insurance. After she removed the clients from the AMFTG office calendar, Respondent then submitted to the insurance companies claims for services provided by Respondent. Respondent used her personal NPI number for this billing. Respondent intended to remit to AMFTG the amount owed under the employment contract.

APPLICABLE LAW

7. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537(a) of the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act (“KAPA”), a state agency may use summary proceedings, subject to a party’s request for a hearing on the order, if:

- (1) The use of those proceedings in the circumstances does not violate any provision of law;
- (2) 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;
- (3) based upon an investigation of the facts by the state agency, beyond receipt of the allegations, the state agency believes in good faith that the allegations will be supported to the applicable standard of proof, provided however that an alleged failure to meet the standards set forth in this subsection shall not be subject to immediate judicial review and shall not invalidate any later agency action that has been supported to the applicable standard of proof; and
- (4) the order does not take effect until after the time for requesting a hearing has expired.

8. Pursuant to K.S.A. 65-6302(b): "Social work practice" means the professional activity of helping individuals, groups or communities enhance or restore their capacity for physical, social and economic functioning and the professional application of social work values, principles and techniques in areas such as psychotherapy, social service administration, social planning, social work consultation and social work research to one or more of the following ends: Helping people obtain tangible services; counseling with individuals, families and groups; helping communities or groups provide or improve social and health services; and participating in relevant social action. The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behavior; of social, economic and cultural institutions and forces; and of the interaction of all these factors. Social work practice includes the teaching of practicum courses in social work and includes the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders as authorized under K.S.A. 65-6306 and 65-6319, and amendments thereto.

9. Pursuant to K.S.A. 65-6311(a)(5): The board may refuse to issue, renew or reinstate a license, may condition, limit, revoke or suspend a license, may publicly or privately censure a licensee or may impose a fine not to exceed \$1,000 per violation upon a finding that a licensee or an applicant for license has violated a provision of the social workers licensure act or one or more rules and regulations of the board. Specifically, K.A.R. 102-2-7(j): offering to perform or performing services clearly inconsistent or incommensurate with one's training, education, and experience and with accepted professional standards for social work.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

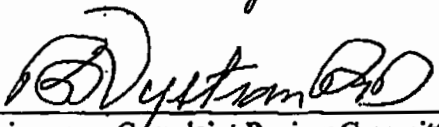
10. Respondent is in violation of K.S.A. 65-6311(a)(5), as defined in K.A.R. 102-2-7(j), in that Respondent performed services clearly inconsistent with her training, education, and experience and with accepted professional standards for social work when she removed clients from

the AMFTG office calendar to avoid AMFTG submitting insurance claims; instead, Respondent submitted under her name the client services to the client's insurance company.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and pursuant to the authority granted by K.S.A. 65-6311(a) and K.S.A. 77-537, the Complaint Review Committee of behalf of the Board finds that the Kansas LMSW license of Respondent Richelle J. Stroup should be and is hereby **PUBLICALLY CENSORED** for her violations of the Kansas Social Workers Licensure Act.

IT IS SO ORDERED ON THIS 5th DAY OF January 2021.


Chairperson, Complaint Review Committee
On behalf of the 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:

David B. Fye, Executive Director
Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
700 SW Harrison St., Suite 420
Topeka, KS 66603-3929

This written request must be filed within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date indicated in the below Certificate of Service. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-503(c), the 15-day period begins the day after the date indicated in the Certificate of Service and includes weekends and legal holidays. If the 15th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the 15-day period runs until 5:00 p.m. on the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. A request is considered "filed" on the date it is received at the Board's office. If a hearing is not requested in the time and manner stated, this Summary Order becomes a final order subject to judicial review. A petition for judicial review should be directed to the above recipient.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on this 7 day of January, 2021, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Summary Proceeding Order was deposited in the U.S. mail, first class postage prepaid, addressed to:

Tracie R. England
Attorney for Respondent/Licensee
Gilland Green, LLC
1 North Main, Suite 700
Hutchison, KS 67501

and by email to: jane.weiler@ag.ks.gov

Jane E. Weiler, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Disciplinary Counsel for the Board



For the Board