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**BEFORE THE KANSAS BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD**

In The Matter Of )  
)  
LAUREN M. MAUTZ, LMSW ) Case No. 22-MS-0008  
License #11870 ) Case No. 22-MS-0010  
)  
Respondent )  
\_\_\_\_\_)  
Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-536

**SUMMARY PROCEEDING ORDER**

NOW, on this 4 day of April, 2022, 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. Lauren M. Mautz (“Respondent”) was at all times relevant, a Licensed Master Social Worker (“LMSW”), having been issued LMSW License No. 11870. This license is active, and will expire on August 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.*

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2. On or about, July 9, 2021, the Board received a Report of Alleged Violation (“RAV”) alleging Respondent may have violated certain statues and regulations governing the

practice of social workers in the State of Kansas. A subsequent investigation determined the following facts.

3. Respondent was employed at the Four County Mental Health Center in the State of Kansas.

4. During the time of her employment, on approximately July 1, 2021, Respondent was to provide a crisis screening at a police department in the State of Kansas. The police officer involved with this case expressed concerns regarding Respondent's behavior, specifically that she was providing counseling services while under the influence of a substance. Respondent's employer was contacted, and Respondent provided a drug screen.

5. On or about July 8, 2021, Respondent was terminated from Four County Mental Health Center due to non-compliance with the organization's drug free workplace policy.

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6. Additionally, on or about July 15, 2021, the Board received another RAV alleging Respondent may have violated certain statutes and regulations governing the practice of social workers in the State of Kansas. A subsequent investigation determined the following facts.

7. While Respondent was employed at the Four County Mental Health Center, she accessed and viewed documents related to another client. Respondent was not assigned to provide services to this client. Respondent admitted to accessing the confidential information.

#### **APPLICABLE LAW**

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. K.S.A. 65-6311(a)(9): 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 been found to have engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by applicable rules and regulations adopted by the Board. Specifically:

a. K.A.R. 102-2-7(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.

b. 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.

c. K.A.R. 102-2-7(s): revealing information, a confidence, or secret of any client, or failing to protect the confidences, secrets, or information contained in a client's records, except when at least one of these conditions is met (3) the licensee is a party to a civil, criminal, or disciplinary investigation or action arising from the practice of social work, in which case disclosure is limited to that action.

d. K.A.R. 102-2-7(x): using alcohol or illegally using any controlled substance while performing the duties or services of a licensee.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

11. The Board finds that Respondent was in violation of K.S.A. 65-6311(a)(9), as defined in K.A.R. 102-2-7(h), in that Respondent failed to appropriately respond to her own personal problems, which impacted her ability to provide services to a client.

12. Additionally, Respondent was in violation of K.S.A. 65-6311(a)(9), as defined in K.A.R. 102-2-7(j), in that Respondent performing services clearly inconsistent or incommensurate with one's training, education, and experience and with accepted professional standards for social work attempted to provide counseling services while under the influence of a substance; and she accessed the clinical files of a client that was not her client.

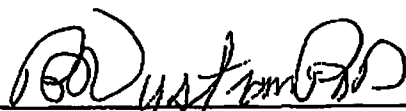
13. Further, Respondent was in violation of K.S.A. 65-6311(a)(9), as defined in K.A.R. 102-2-7(s)(3), in the Respondent failed to protect the confidences of a client when she accessed the records of the client not assigned to her.

14. In addition, Respondent was in violation of K.S.A. 65-6311(a)(9), as defined in K.A.R. 102-2-7(x), in the Respondent attempted to provide counseling services while under the influence of a substance.

**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 Laura M. Mautz should be and is hereby **PUBLICALLY CENSORED** for her violations of the Kansas Social Workers Licensure Act.

IT IS SO ORDERED ON THIS 31<sup>st</sup> DAY OF March, 2022.

  
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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 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 4 day of April, 2022, 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:

Lauren M. Mautz, LMSW



and by email to: [jane.weiler@ag.ks.gov](mailto:jane.weiler@ag.ks.gov)

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

  
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For the Board