

WAKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE
ETHICS COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD
EC-351-15

THE NORTH CAROLINA)
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROFESSIONAL)
PRACTICE BOARD,)

Petitioner)

) CONSENT ORDER

)
)
)
JOHN W. S. HOWARD)

Respondent)

This matter is before the Ethics Committee (the “Committee”) of the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board (the “Board”), pursuant to Chapter 150B of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21 of the North Carolina Administrative Code, Chapter 68, Section .0600, and with the consent of John W. S. Howard, (Respondent), Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS), License #3330, Certified Clinical Supervisor-Intern (CCS-I), License # 8482, to consider the entry of a Consent Order in lieu of an Administrative Hearing.

Respondent, represented by Rebekah A. Parker, Attorney at Law with the firm of Connors Morgan, PLLC, is receiving this proposed Informal Resolution by the Ethics Chairman of the N. C. Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board resulting from a review and investigation of a Complaint brought by Andreana Williams, a Manager with Step by Step Care, Inc.; 709 E. Market Street, Suite 100-B; Greensboro, N.C. 27401. Committee Chairman, Mark Crabtree, and Board Counsel, Ann Christian, present the findings of the investigation into these matters to the Respondent and his Counsel. Both parties stipulate and agree to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law recited in this Consent Order and to the discipline imposed. Based upon the consent of the parties, the Ethics Committee hereby enters the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent was credentialed by the Board as an Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS) on or about June 4th, 2009 and a Certified Clinical Supervisor Intern on or about May 29, 2012.
2. At all times relevant to this Order, Respondent Howard was engaged in practice as an LCAS and CCS-I in Guilford County, North Carolina while providing services as a substance abuse professional at Step by Step Care, Greensboro, North Carolina.
3. Two patients on entirely different time schedules who were undergoing assessments conducted by Respondent Howard reported independently to other staff, including Kay Sluss-Hammarck, CSAC, that they were inappropriately touched during the assessment process, causing one to feel unsafe and both to suffer discomfort and distress.
4. Respondent's conduct is mitigated by the factors that he responded in full to the Complaint forwarded by the Board and has also cooperated by meeting with the Ethics Chairman, Executive Director, and Counsel to the Board as the Board worked to resolve this matter informally.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent Howard is in violation of North Carolina General Statute 90-113.44 (a)(6), and (a)(9) as well as Rule 21 NCAC 68 .0507 (CLIENT WELFARE).

The Respondent admits that sufficient violations of the laws governing the substance abuse profession exist for the Board to take action as authorized by G.S. 90-113.33 (2).

The Respondent waives any further Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in these matters.

Based on the foregoing, and with the consent of the Respondent, IT IS
THEREFORE THE

ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

1. That Respondent Howard shall receive disciplinary action in the form of a Public Reprimand.

2. That Respondent Howard shall complete twelve (12) additional hours of Board-approved continuing education within twelve (12) months from the date both parties enter into this Consent Order that address the subject of client welfare and professional cognizance of personal boundaries of the patient as it relates to the scope of practice of the substance abuse professional.

3. Respondent shall violate no rules adopted by the Board or any provision of the Practice Act during the period of time he is completing the aforementioned requirements.

This the 13th day of April, 2016.

Mark Crabtree, LCAS, CCS

Mark Crabtree, LCAS, CCS
Ethics Chairperson
NCSAPFB

John W. S. Howard, LCAS, MAK

John W. S. Howard
Respondent