

WAKE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE
ETHICS COMMITTEE
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD
EC-148-10

THE NORTH CAROLINA)	
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROFESSIONAL)	
PRACTICE BOARD,)	
Petitioner)	CONSENT ORDER
)	
)	
THOMAS F. WATKINS,)	
Respondent)	

This matter is before a Panel of the Ethics Committee (the Panel) of the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board (the Board), pursuant to Chapter 150B of the North Carolina General Statutes and 21 North Carolina Administrative Code 68 .0600, and with the consent of Thomas F. Watkins, Respondent, Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC), Number 1873, Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS), Number 1007, Certified Clinical Specialist (CCS), Number 465, to consider the entry of a Consent Order in lieu of an Administrative hearing.

Respondent is represented by James A. Wilson, Attorney and Counselor at Law, who has discussed with his client and negotiated a proposed informal resolution resulting from a review of this Complaint by an Ethics Hearing Panel of the Board. Board Attorney, E. Ann Christian, presented the findings of the investigation into these matters to the Respondent's 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 North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board hereby enters the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent Watkins was credentialed by the Board as a CSAC on or about 12/19/2002, LCAS on or about 9/10/2005 and a CCS on or about 7/23/2009. These credentials have continued in effect until the current date.

2. At all times relevant to this Order, Respondent Watkins was engaged in practice as a substance abuse professional in Raleigh, North Carolina, employed by the Office of DWI Services of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

3. The Hearing Panel finds that during the course of Respondent's employment at the Office of DWI Services, he signed DWI assessments in the role of a substance abuse professional providing independent professional services during the time he was employed with the Office of DWI Services in violation of Rule 21 NCAC 68 .0507 (b) wherein he is charged to inform clients of the nature and direction of his loyalties and responsibilities and keep all parties participating in the client's care informed of these commitments as well as section (f) of the same Rule wherein he should have anticipated the cessation or interruption of services to clients when he accepted employment with the Office of DWI Services but continued to provide assessments to DWI clients in conflict to his responsibility to the Office of DWI Services.

4. The Panel finds the allegation that Respondent failed to guide his supervisee to perform services responsibly, competently, and ethically in violation of Rule 21 NCAC 68 .0512 (5) in that his oversight of his supervisee was generally lax and he specifically failed to inform his supervisee to cease providing services when the supervisee no longer had the qualifications required by law to provide prescribed educational services, "with merit."

5. The Panel finds that Respondent misrepresented his credentials by providing a resume to a potential employer stating that he was credentialed as a Certified Clinical Supervisor prior to the date he was awarded this credential in violation of North Carolina General Statute 90-113.44 (a)(6) and Rule 21 NCAC 68 .0601 (2)(b) by holding himself out to the public to provide professional services for which he was not credentialed and Rule 21 NCAC .0505 (b)(3) wherein he made a false statement concerning his credentials.

FINAL CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

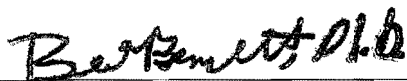
1. Respondent admits that his conduct in these matters constitutes sufficient basis for disciplinary action regarding his credential, pursuant to G.S. 90-113.44.

2. Respondent waives any further findings of fact or conclusions of law regarding this matter.

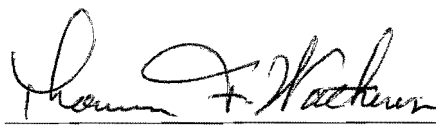
PROPOSED ORDER OF THE BOARD

1. That the Respondent shall receive a suspension of all credentials issued by this Board, simultaneously, for a period of six (6) months, to begin no later than thirty (30) days from the date of his signature as affixed to this Consent Order.
2. That the Respondent shall obtain twelve (12) additional hours of ethics training during the course of the next two years following the effective date of this Consent Order.
3. That the Respondent once reinstated to the practice of substance abuse counseling shall obtain supervision for a period of one (1) year at the rate of one (1) hour per month by a Certified Clinical Supervisor approved by the Board.
4. That if Respondent fails to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order, that failure shall constitute his failure to protect the safety and welfare of the client within the meaning of Rule 21 NCAC 68 .0507 (a) and shall be grounds for the immediate suspension by this Board of his credentials to practice as a substance abuse professional for a period of ninety (90) days.
5. That the Respondent shall resign any position with the Board wherein the Respondent serves as an employee or volunteer.
6. That the Respondent shall violate no rules or regulations of the Board.

This the 3rd day of November, 2011.



Bert Bennett, Ph.D.
Ethics Chairperson
NCSAPPB



Thomas F. Watkins
Respondent