

NORTH CAROLINA
BUMCOMBE COUNTY

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROFESSIONAL
PRACTICE BOARD

NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD,

Petitioner

v.

LAUREN MYERS,
Respondent

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CONSENT ORDER
EC-545-19

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; 21 N.C.A.C. 68.0600, and N.C. Gen. Stat. §90-113.44; with the consent of Respondent Lauren Myers ("Myers"), in lieu of a formal hearing on issues raised in those ethics complaints filed April 12, 2019 (collectively Ethics Complaint No. 545-19).

The Board, with the consent of Myers, makes the following **FINDINGS OF FACT**:

1. Petitioner North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board ("the Board"), was established by G.S. 90-113.32, and is recognized as the registering, certifying, and licensing authority for substance abuse professionals described in the Practice Act. The Board was established to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare, to protect the public from being harmed by unqualified persons, to assure the highest degree of professional care and conduct on the part of credentialed substance abuse professionals, to provide for the establishment of standards for the education of credentialed substance abuse professionals, and to ensure the availability of credentialed substance abuse professionals of high quality to persons in need of these services. The Board, under authority granted by the Practice Act regulates Board-credentialed persons offering substance abuse counseling services, substance abuse prevention services, or any other substance abuse services for which the Board may grant registration, certification or licensure.

2. Myers is a citizen and resident of Buncombe County, North Carolina; and is neither a minor nor an incompetent person. Myers currently resides at 8205 Anderson Avenue, Warren, OH 44484.

3. On March 2, 2017, Myers was licensed as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist - Associate (LCAS-A No. 23365).

4. On April 12, 2019, the Board received two (2) ethics complaints, one a self report by Myers, asserting that Myers had been involved in a romantic and sexual relationship with a client, while the client was receiving services through the agency where Myers was employed.

5. In fact, in March 2019, Myers was involved in a brief sexual relationship with a client, while the client was receiving services through the agency where Myers was employed.

6. Myers' acts constitute engaging in a dual relationship that impairs professional judgment or increases the risk of exploitation of a client, and is grounds for discipline under N.C.G.S. Section 90-113.44(10).

7. Myers' acts also constitute participating in sexual activity or sexual contact with a current or former client or client of one's agency, and is grounds for discipline under 21 NCAC 68 .0601(4)(b).

8. Myers is subject to discipline up to and including permanent revocation of any certifications and licenses issued by the Board.

9. The parties have agreed, rather than proceed with a Contested Case with respect to the issues raised in the Complaint, to the informal resolution contained herein.

10. More specifically, the parties agree: (a) Myers' license as an LCAS-A should be suspended for two (2) years; (b) the second year of the suspension will be stayed if Myers completes twelve (12) hours of Continuing Education, focusing on Ethics/Boundary issues (which hours may be used for no other purpose); and (b) provide a copy of the Consent Order to her LCAS-A supervisor, who will affirm receipt of the Consent Order and agree that boundary issues will be regularly addressed as part of Myers' supervision.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING FINDINGS OF FACT, THE BOARD CONCLUDES AS A MATTER OF LAW:

1. The Board has the power and authority to suspend Myers's license as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist - Associate; and the resolution contained herein is an appropriate resolution of this case.

2. Each party should bear its own costs incurred in connection with the Board's investigation.

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing FINDINGS OF FACT and CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, and with the consent of the parties, pursuant to the authority set forth in N.C.G.S. § 90-113.33, *et seq.*, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The credentials granted to Myers by the Board, including her license as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist - Associate (LCAS-A No. 23365), are hereby suspended for two (2) years from the date of entry of this Consent Order.

2. The first year of the two (2) year suspension shall be active.

3. The second year of the two (2) year suspension shall be stayed provided that Myers: (a) complete, prior to the end of the first year of the suspension, twelve (12) hours of Continuing Education with a focus on Ethics/Boundary issues (with the hours not to be used for any other purpose); and (b) provide a copy of the Consent Order to her LCAS-A supervisor, who will affirm to the Board both receipt of the Consent Order, and that boundary issues will be

regularly addressed as part of Myers' supervision.

4. Each party to this proceeding shall bear their own costs, and the Board shall bear its own costs of investigation.

This the ____ day of _____, 2019.

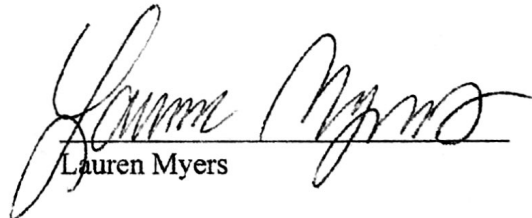
NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

By: _____
Dale Willetts, Ethics Chair

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, Lauren Myers, do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety, that I have consulted with counsel concerning the contents and effect of the same (or have had the opportunity to consult with counsel and have not done so), and that I voluntarily accept that there is a factual basis for the findings of fact set forth herein; and that those findings of fact are legally sufficient to support the findings, conclusions and discipline provided for therein, and that I assent to the terms of the Consent Order. I further express my understanding that the contents of this Consent Order shall become a part of my record with the Board, and are a public record under North Carolina law.

This the 12 day of June, 2019.


Lauren Myers

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this the 12 day of June, 2019.



Notary Public

My commission expires: 9-3-23

