

**NORTH CAROLINA  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY**

**BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA  
ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD**

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST )  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD, )  
Petitioner )  
v. )  
SANDRA JEAN HUNT-NORTON, )  
Respondent )

**CONSENT ORDER  
EC-608-20**

THIS MATTER is before a Panel of the Ethics Committee ("the Panel") of the North Carolina Addictions Specialist 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 Sandra Jean Hunt-Norton ("Hunt-Norton"), in lieu of a formal hearing on issues raised in that ethics complaint filed, against her, on November 15, 2019 (EC No. 595-19).

The Board, with the consent of Hunt-Norton, makes the following **FINDINGS OF FACT:**

1. Petitioner North Carolina Addictions Specialist 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. Prior to January 1, 2020, the Board was known as "North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board".

2. On November 13, 2017, Respondent Sandra Jean Hunt-Norton ("Hunt-Norton") was certified, by the Board, as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC No. 21012). As of January 1, 2020, Certified Substance Abuse Counselors were re-titled "Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselors"("CADCs"); and Hunt-Norton's proper certification designation is CADC No. 22012.

3. On July 11, 2018, Hunt-Norton was licensed, by the Board, as a Licensed Clinical

Addictions Specialist – Associate (LCAS-A No. 24712).

4. On November 15, 2019, the Board received an Ethics Complaint against Hunt-Norton; Hunt-Norton responded to the Ethics Complaint; and the Board conducted an investigation.

5. Hunt-Norton acknowledges that during the time she was employed by Behavioral Counseling and Psychological Center in Fayetteville, North Carolina (“BCPC”), there were several occasions when she failed to treat colleagues with respect, courtesy and fairness, in violation of 21 NCAC 68. 0510(a).

6. Hunt-Norton further acknowledges that she referred clients of BCPC to a “recovery house” at 6823 Mangrove Drive, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28314 (“the House”); that the House is leased by Come In Broken Outreach Ministries, Inc. (“Come In”); and that Come In is owned and managed by Hunt-Norton.

7. Hunt-Norton further acknowledges that she has an ownership interest, and is an officer and director of Working Hands, Inc. (“Working Hands”) and Roots of Sobriety, Inc. (“Roots”).

8. Hunt-Norton’s referral of clients to the House; Come In; Working Hands and Roots; and to any entity in which she has an ownership interest, or is an officer or director, and to any entity in which any member of her family has an ownership interest or is an officer or director, creates a dual relationship which could impair professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation of a client, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0509(b); is the use of her professional relationship for financial or other personal advantage, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0509(d); and is conduct that could result in harm or injury to the public, in violation of N.C.G.S. Section 90-113.44(a)(9).

9. Hunt-Norton is subject to the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Act and the rules promulgated thereunder. The Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Hunt-Norton and the subject matter of this proceeding.

10. Pursuant to the provisions of the 21 NCAC 68 .0101 *et seq.*, and the provisions of the General Statutes cited above, grounds exist to discipline Hunt-Norton relating to the facts and circumstances set forth above, up to and including permanent revocation of all of Hunt-Norton's licenses and certifications.

11. Hunt-Norton and the Board agree that the appropriate discipline, with respect to the matters raised in the Ethics Complaint, is contained in the decretal paragraphs of this Consent Order.

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

1. The Board has the power and authority to impose discipline on Hunt-Norton, 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. Within ninety (90) days of full execution of this Consent Order, Hunt-Norton shall enroll in and complete three (3) hours of Board approved Continuing Education focusing on professionalism in the office environment; three (3) hours of Board approved classes focused on anger management generally; and six (6) hours of Board approved Continuing Education in Ethics. Pre-approval requests shall be directed to Barden Culbreth, Executive Director of the Board.

2. Hunt-Norton shall not refer any of her future clients (or any client at a facility where she is employed) to Come In Broken Outreach Ministries, Inc. ("Come In"); Working Hands, Inc. ("Working Hands"); Roots of Sobriety, Inc. ("Roots"); or any entity in which she or any member of her family (to include her father, mother, grandparent, child, or any individual closer in relation to first cousin once removed) has an ownership interest or is an officer or director; nor shall she refer any individual to the House.

3. To the extent that any of Hunt-Norton's current clients are receiving services from Come In Broken Outreach Ministries, Inc. ("Come In"); Working Hands, Inc. ("Working Hands"); Roots of Sobriety, Inc. ("Roots"); or any entity in which she or any member of her family (to include her father, mother, grandparent, child, or any individual closer in relation to first cousin once removed) has an ownership interest or is an officer or director; she shall, within thirty (30) days of entry of this Order, ensure that her clients are referred to a third party for those services (including residential services as provided at the House); or referred to a third party for counseling.

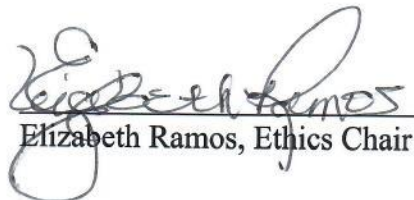
4. Breach of decretal paragraphs 2 or 3 is grounds for permanent revocation of all licenses and certifications issued by the Board.

Each party shall bear their own costs.

This the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

By:

  
Elizabeth Ramos, Ethics Chair

### STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, Sandra Jean Hunt-Norton., 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

  
Sandra Jean Hunt-Norton