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BEFORE THE  
NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL  
PRACTICE BOARD

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST)  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD, )  
Petitioner )

v. )

CHRISTAL S. SMITH, )  
Respondent )  
LCAS-A No. 22911 )  
CADC No. 15071 )

**CONSENT ORDER**  
**EC No. 578-19**

THIS CAUSE is before the Ethics Committee of the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board (“the Board”), acting on behalf of the Board, pursuant to Chapter 150B of the North Carolina General Statutes; 21 N.C.A.C. 68 .0600, and N.C. Gen. Stat. Section 90-113.44; with the consent of Respondent Christal Smith, in lieu of a formal hearing on issues raised in that Ethics Complaint referenced above; and currently pending before an Administrative Law Judge appointed by the Office Of Administrative Hearings in *North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board v. Christal S. Smith*, OAH File No. 21 SAP 01870 (“the Contested Case Proceeding”).

The Board, acting through its Ethics Committee, and with the consent of Respondent, makes the following **FINDINGS OF FACT**:

1. Petitioner North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board, formerly known as “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. On May 19, 2016, Respondent was certified as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (“CADC”), CADC No. 15071. Respondent’s certification as a CADC would expire, on May 18, 2022, if not renewed.

3. On July 18, 2016, Respondent was licensed as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist – Associate (“LCAS-A”), LCAS-A No. 22911. Respondent’s license as a LCAS-A would expire, on July 17, 2021, if not renewed.

4. On or about September 12, 2019, the Board received various reports concerning Respondent (“the Complaint”); the substance of which was reflected in a Survey by North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (“DHSS”) dated August 15, 2019 (“the Report”).

5. In the Report, DHSS asserted that Ready4Change, Inc., a/k/a Ready 4 Change, Inc., of which Respondent was the Chief Executive Officer and Licensee; and with respect to which she was the owner, had engaged in conduct with respect to substance abuse counseling clients that endangered their health, safety and welfare, and which constituted exploitation of clients of Ready4Change, Inc.

6. DHSS revoked Ready 4 Change, Inc.’s license, imposed administrative penalties, and took other action which Ready 4 Change, Inc. challenged in that Contested Case identified as *Ready 4 Change, Inc. v. North Carolina Department Of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Service Regulation*, OAH File No. 19 DHR 5308 (“the Ready 4 Change case”).

7. On November 6, 2020, the Honorable Michael C. Byrne, Administrative Law Judge, entered a Final Decision in the Ready 4 Change case (“the Final Decision”). A true and accurate copy of that Final Decision is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and fully incorporated herein by reference.

8. Respondent denies any and all misconduct in this matter, but Respondent concedes the Board could conclude, based upon findings of fact contained in the Final Decision, that she had engaged in conduct with respect to substance abuse clients at Ready4Change, Inc., and permitted conduct by her employees with respect to substance abuse clients at Ready4Change, Inc., which endangered their health, safety and welfare, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0601(6)(e).

9. Respondent denies any and all misconduct in this matter, but Respondent concedes the Board could conclude, based upon findings of fact contained in the Final Decision, that she also engaged in other conduct with respect to substance abuse clients at Ready4Change, Inc., that constituted exploitation of clients of Ready4Change, Inc., and that she permitted conduct by her employees, with respect to substance abuse clients at Ready4Change, Inc., that constituted exploitation of clients of Ready4Change, Inc., in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0601(5)(c).

10. Finally, Respondent denies any and all misconduct in this matter, but Respondent concedes the Board could conclude, based upon findings of fact contained in the Final Decision, that Respondent failed to follow the standards of skill and competence possessed and applied by professional peers certified in this State, acting in the same or similar circumstances, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0601(6)(a).

11. Respondent is subject to the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Act and the rules promulgated thereunder. The Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Respondent and the subject matter of this proceeding.

12. Pursuant to 21 NCAC 68.0601 and other provisions of the 21 NCAC 68.0101 *et seq.*, and based upon findings of fact in the Final Decision, Respondent concedes the Board could conclude grounds exist to discipline Respondent relating to the facts and circumstances set forth above, up to and including permanent revocation of Respondent's license as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist - Associate and her certification as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

13. Respondent and the Board agree to the imposition of permanent revocation of all licenses and certifications issued by the Board. "Permanent revocation", as used herein, permits Respondent to re-apply for licensure and certification by the Board at any time more than five (5) years after the date this Consent Order is entered by the Board.

**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 Respondent, and the resolution contained herein is an appropriate resolution of this case.

2. The Board should permanently revoke Respondent's license as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist - Associate and her certification as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

3. Each party should bear their own costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

1. Respondent's certification as a Certified Alcohol And Drug Counselor, CADC No. 15071, is permanently revoked.

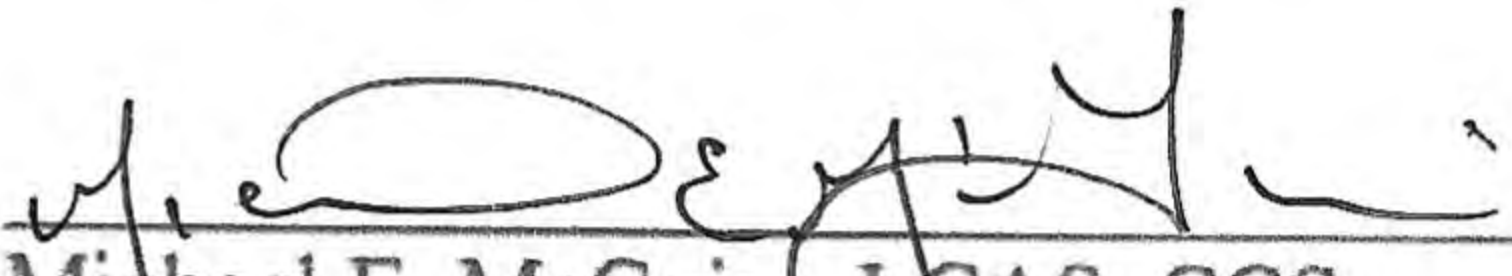
2. Respondent's license as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist – Associate, LCAS-A No. 22911, is permanently revoked.

3. Upon entry of this Consent Order, the Board shall dismiss the Contested Case Proceeding as moot.

4. Each party shall bear their own costs.

This the 8 day of June, 2021.


NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

By:   
Michael E. McGuire, LCAS, CCS  
Ethics Chair

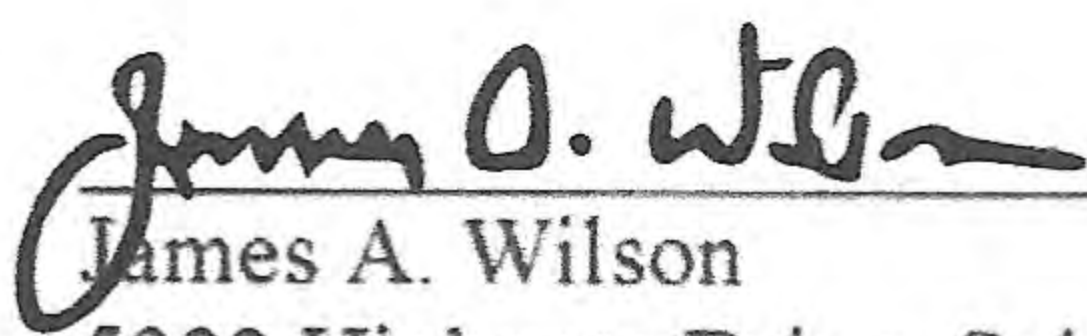
**STATEMENT OF CONSENT**

I, Christal Smith, 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, without admission, 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 is a public record under North Carolina law. I hereby waive any right to judicial review of the Consent Order, and to the discipline imposed therein.

This the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

  
Christal Smith

**SIGNATURE OF COUNSEL:**

By:   
James A. Wilson  
5322 Highgate Drive, Suite 243  
Durham, NC 27713

*Counsel for Respondent*