

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF WAKE

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA  
ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD  
EC CASE NO. 881-25

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS  
SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL  
PRACTICE BOARD,  
Petitioner,

v.

MENDI W. LEWIS  
(CADC No. 22471),  
Respondent.

**CONSENT ORDER**

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, Article 3A of the North Carolina General Statutes; the North Carolina Substance Use Disorder Professional Practice Act; and Chapter 68 of the North Carolina Administrative Code. The Board, with a quorum present, and Respondent stipulate and agree to the entry of the following Consent Order:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Petitioner Board was established by the North Carolina General Assembly to credential and regulate substance use disorder professional in North Carolina, in accordance with Chapter 90, Article 5C, of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. Respondent currently is a citizen and resident of Beaufort County, North Carolina; and is neither a minor nor an incompetent person.
3. On January 6, 2020, Respondent was credentialed by the Board as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (“CADC”) (CADC No. 22471), which will expire on January 5, 2026, if not renewed.

4. On May 20, 2025, Cortney Tindal (“Tindal”), Respondent’s supervisor, filed a formal complaint before the Board alleging Respondent engaged in unprofessional communications with a Coastal Horizons Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (“TASC”) client. The complaint was designated by the Board as Ethics Complaint (“EC”) Case No. 881-25.
5. Upon investigation into EC Case No. 881-25, the Board determined the following:
  - a. Coastal Horizons is a North Carolina provider that offers substance use, mental health, crisis intervention, justice and general wellness services.
  - b. TASC is a program for offenders involved in the criminal justice system.
  - c. Coastal Horizon offers TASC program services to client offenders.
  - d. During all times relevant to this matter, Respondent was employed by Coastal Horizons as a Beaufort County TASC Care Manager.
  - e. Client X participated in the Beaufort County TASC program, whereby Respondent facilitated an assessment with Client X.
  - f. Client X incurred \$75.00 in associated fees for TASC services rendered, specifically, for the assessment completed by Respondent.
  - g. While payments for TASC services are generally not required by Coastal Horizon, offender clients are encouraged, when feasible, to remit payment for TASC services rendered. Coastal Horizons generally does not refuse to render or complete TASC program services due to an offender client’s inability to pay. Payment plans may be facilitated by Coastal Horizon for remission of incremental payments for TASC fees.

- h. Per standard procedure at Coastal Horizons, TASC payments were to be remitted online via a designated payment portal. Offender clients were to be provided with a Quick Response (“QR”) code leading to a website, swipesimple, to remit payment. TASC fees were not to be accepted personally by the care team or care manager at Coastal Horizons.
- i. CashApp is a mobile payment service that allows users to remit and receive payment, acting as a digital wallet enabling peer-to-peer remission of payments. The above-referenced website utilized by Coastal Horizons for TASC-related payment remission, swipesimple, is not affiliated with CashApp.
- j. On April 15, 2025, and April 16, 2025, Respondent engaged in text message communications with Client X relating to TASC fees.
- k. In the above-referenced text message communications with Client X, Respondent requested payment for TASC services rendered, to be remitted to Respondent’s personal CashApp account. Respondent included a link to her personal CashApp in the text messages.
- l. In the above-referenced text message communications with Client X, Respondent utilized inappropriate language, including profanity, and commented on Client X’s personal behavior and reproductive choices. Respondent also indicated pressure from her supervisor to collect payment.
- m. On May 5, 2025, Respondent was terminated from employment at Coastal Horizons due to the above-referenced communications with Client X.

- n. On or about May 7, 2025, Tindal requested termination as Respondent's clinical supervisor.
- o. Upon information and belief, Respondent had communications with twenty-two (22) clients in which Respondent requested remission of payment in the form of cash or via Respondent's personal CashApp.
- p. On May 27, 2025, Respondent submitted a written response to EC Case No. 881-25, in which Respondent reported informing Client X that Respondent could accept Client X's TASC payment via Respondent's personal CashApp, with Respondents reported intent being to deposit the funds into Coastal Horizon's bank account. Respondent denied actually receiving payment from Client X via Respondent's personal CashApp account.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 6. Respondent is subject to the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Act and the rules promulgated pursuant to that Act. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter of this proceeding.
- 7. The acts and omissions of Respondent as described above constitute violations of the following:
  - a. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(6), for engaging in an act or practice in violation of any of the provisions of this Article or any of the rules adopted pursuant to it, or aiding, abetting, or assisting any other person in such a violation;
  - b. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(7), for malpractice, gross negligence, and incompetence while serving as a substance use disorder professional;

- c. 21 NCAC 68 .0503(h), for failing to complete reports and record keeping functions in a manner that supports the client's treatment experience and welfare;
- d. 21 NCAC 68 .0507(a), for failing to protect the safety and welfare of the client;
- e. 21 NCAC 68 .0507(i), for failing to collaborate with other health care professionals providing treatment or support services to a client;
- f. 21 NCAC 68 .0511(a), for failure to establish financial arrangements to protect against fraud and deceptive business practices in professional practice and in accord with the best interests of the client or person served, the professional, and of the profession;
- g. 21 NCAC 68 .0601(4)(c), for exploitation of a relationship with a client or person served by entering into personal financial arrangements with a client or person served in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0511; and
- h. 21 NCAC 68 .0601(5)(c), for participating in dishonesty, fraud, misrepresentation, or any other illegal act involving a client or person served.

Respondent committed one or more of the violations described above. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.33(2), the Board has the authority to deny, suspend, or revoke Respondent's licensure, certification, or registration to practice in this State or reprimand or otherwise discipline Respondent's license, certificate, or registration in North Carolina.

BASED upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and in lieu of further proceedings, Respondent wishes to resolve this matter by consent and agrees that Board staff and counsel may discuss this Consent Order with the Board *ex parte* whether or not the Board accepts this Consent Order as written.

Whereas Respondent acknowledges that she read this entire document and understands it;

Whereas Respondent acknowledges that she enters into this Consent Order freely and voluntarily;

Whereas Respondent acknowledges that she had full and adequate opportunity to confer with legal counsel in connection with this matter;

Whereas Respondent understands that this Consent Order must be presented to the Board for approval; and

Whereas the Board has determined that the public interest is served by resolving this matter as set forth below.

THEREFORE, with the consent of Respondent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's CADC (CADC No. 22471) credential is hereby suspended for a period of twenty-four (24) months from the execution of this Consent Order.
2. The Board shall retain jurisdiction under Article 3A, Chapter 150B for all administrative hearings held in connection with or pursuant to this Consent Order. If the Board receives evidence that Respondent has violated any term of this Consent Order or any other law or rule enforced by the Board, the Board shall schedule a show cause hearing for a determination of the violations. If the Board determines that a violation has occurred, the Board may impose such disciplinary action as it determines is appropriate and is authorized by law.
3. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by the Board and Respondent and reflect the entire agreement between Respondent and the Board, there being no agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies, alters, or modifies this

Consent Order.

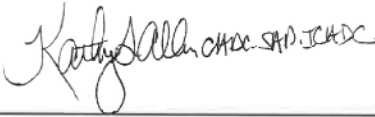
4. No modification or waiver of any provision of this Consent Order shall be effective unless it is in writing, adopted and approved by the Board, and signed by the parties affected.
5. Both the Board and Respondent participated in the drafting of this Consent Order. Any ambiguities herein shall not be construed against either party in any future civil or administrative proceeding.
6. Each party to this proceeding shall bear their own costs, and the Board shall bear its own costs of investigation.
7. Upon its execution by the Board and Respondent, this Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof.

CONSENTED TO BY:

MENDI W. LEWIS

 Date: 7-11-2025  
Respondent Signature

By Order of the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board, this the  
11th day of July, 2025.

By:   
Kathy Allen, Ethics Chair