

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD
EC CASE NO. 900-25

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS
SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL
PRACTICE BOARD,

Petitioner,

v.

KENDRA A. HATCHER
(LCAS No. 28220, CADC No. 22610)
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; Chapter 90, Article 5C of the North Carolina General Statutes, the North Carolina Substance Use Disorder Professional Practice Act; and Title 21, 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 professionals 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 Mecklenburg County, North Carolina; and is neither a minor nor an incompetent person.
3. On July 26, 2022, Respondent was credentialed by the Board as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist Associate (“LCAS-A”) (LCAS-A No. 28220), which will expire on July 25, 2027, if the full LCAS credential is not obtained prior.

4. On April 7, 2021, Respondent was credentialed by the Board as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (“CADC”) (CADC No. 22610), which expired on April 6, 2025.
5. On September 5, 2025, Respondent submitted a self-report ethics complaint before the Board disclosing a criminal conviction. The complaint was designated by the Board as Ethics Complaint (“EC”) Case No. 900-25.
6. Upon investigation into EC Case No. 900-25, the Board determined the following:
 - a. During all times relevant to this matter, Respondent was employed by Anuvia Prevention and Recovery Center (“Anuvia”), a substance use disorder prevention and treatment center located in Charlotte, North Carolina.
 - b. On September 4, 2024, Respondent was criminally charged with Mail Fraud under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 1342 and Asset Forfeiture under 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461. The criminal case was heard in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia – Newport News Division, court case no. 4:24-CR-00054-RCY-RJK-1.
 - c. Respondent failed to timely report the issuance of the above-referenced criminal charges to the Board.
 - d. On September 19, 2024, Respondent waived indictment and preliminary hearing and entered a guilty plea in the above-referenced criminal case.
 - e. On March 17, 2025, the court found Respondent guilty of Mail Fraud, per the plea agreement entered on September 19, 2024, in the above-referenced criminal case.
 - i. The offense date for the above-referenced criminal conduct was from on or about May 2020 until on or about October 2021.

- ii. Respondent and a coconspirator regularly corresponded with incarcerated individuals in the Virginia Department of Corrections. These incarcerated individuals recruited other inmates in order to obtain the inmates' personal identifying information, which was used to apply for expanded unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic, benefits for which these incarcerated individuals were not eligible.
 - iii. The personal identifying information provided to Respondent and her coconspirator was used to file fraudulent claims for unemployment benefits with the Virginia Employment Commission, by falsely representing that the applicants for unemployment benefits were able and available for work, when, in fact, they were incarcerated. Respondent coordinated to obtain, transfer and expend associated proceeds, a portion of which were provided to the inmates. Respondent kept a portion of the proceeds for herself.
 - iv. Approximately thirty-eight (38) of the fraudulent claims made on behalf of incarcerated applicants were successful. In total, approximately \$546,786.00 in unemployment benefits were approved to Virginia inmates. The Virginia Employment Commission suffered approximately \$480,392.72 in actual losses.
- f. Respondent was sentenced to six (6) months of confinement with the US Bureau of Prisons, with five (5) years of supervision to be served following release from confinement.

- i. Special conditions of Respondent's supervision include participation in a mental health treatment program and prohibition from engaging in any aspect of the banking business, or any similar occupation where Respondent would have access to money or personal information of others.
- ii. Respondent was ordered to pay \$63,296.00 in restitution jointly and severally with any others ordered to pay restitution for the same losses. Respondent was ordered to pay at least \$150.00 per month, or twenty-five percent (25%) of her net income, whichever is greater, towards restitution.
- g. Respondent failed to timely report the above-referenced criminal conviction to the Board.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 7. 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.
- 8. The acts and omissions of Respondent as described above constitute violations of the following:
 - a. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(3), for conviction of an offense under any municipal, State, or federal law other than traffic laws as prescribed by Chapter 20 of the General Statutes;
 - b. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(6), for engaging in an act or practice in violation of any of the provisions of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90, Article 5C, or any of the rules adopted pursuant to it;

- c. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(9), for engaging in conduct that could result in harm or injury to the public;
- d. 21 NCAC 68 .0503(e), for failing to report known unethical conduct by a substance use disorder professional to the Board; and
- e. 21 NCAC 68 .0606(c)-(d), for failing to notify the Board within 30 days from the date of any charges, conviction or finding of guilt, or pleading of nolo contendere for all criminal convictions.

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 LCAS (LCAS No. 28220) and CADC (CADC No. 22610) are hereby suspended, until if and when Respondent submits documentation to the Board demonstrating successful completion of court-ordered supervision and full payment of restitution in relation to the above-referenced criminal conviction.
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:

KENDRA A. HATCHER



Respondent Signature

Date:

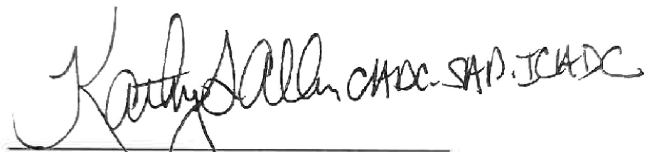
10/14/2025

Respondent Signature Date

By Order of the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board, this the

15th day of October, 2025.

By:


Kathy Allen, Ethics Chair