STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD
EC CASE NOS. 935-26, 940-26

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD, Petitioner, v. LUIS ZUNIGA (LCAS No. 28634), (CCS-I No. 22837) 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 Pitt County, North Carolina; and is neither a minor nor an incompetent person.

3. On January 27, 2026, Respondent was credentialed before the Board as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist ("LCAS") (LCAS No. 28634), which will expire on January 26, 2028, if not renewed.
4. On April 7, 2026, Respondent was credentialed before the Board as a Certified Clinical Supervisor Intern ("CCS-I") (CCS-I No. 22837), which will expire on April 6, 2029, if the full CCS is not obtained prior.
5. On May 12, 2026, Colleen Balot ("Balot"), Founder and Executive Director of Haven at Blue Creek, submitted a formal ethics complaint before the Board against Respondent alleging Respondent engaged in a dual relationship with a client. The complaint was designated by the Board as Ethics Complaint ("EC") Case No. 935-26.
6. On May 28, 2026, Sarah Baker ("Baker") submitted a formal ethics complaint before the Board against Respondent alleging Respondent engaged in a dual relationship with a client. The complaint was designated by the Board as Ethics Complaint ("EC") Case No. 940-26.
7. Upon investigation into EC Case Nos. 935-26 and 940-26, the Board determined the following:
    a. During all times relevant to this matter, Respondent was employed by Haven at Blue Creek ("Haven"), a women's residential recovery program and sober living community located in Grimesland, North Carolina.
    b. From September 2023 to March 2026, Baker was serving as Respondent's supervisor.
    c. On February 25, 2026, Respondent disclosed counter-transference concerns relating to a client at Haven to Baker.

d. On May 13, 2026, and after the termination of the supervisory relationship with Balot, Respondent disclosed engaging in a dual relationship with a client at an inpatient women's treatment facility (sober living community) which was sexual in nature to Baker.

e. On May 12, 2026, Board Staff issued a Request for Response to EC-935-26.

f. On June 1, 2026, Board Staff issued a Request for Response to EC-940-26.

g. On June 2, 2026, Respondent submitted a written response to the request for additional information, in which Respondent admitted to the above-referenced dual relationship.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8. 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.

9. 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 the provisions of Chapter 90, Article 5C of the North Carolina General Statutes (the North Carolina Substance Use Disorder Professional Practice Act), or any of the rules adopted pursuant to it;

   b. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(7), for the commission of an act of malpractice, gross negligence, or incompetence while serving as a substance use disorder professional, intern, or registrant;

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. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(10), for entering into a dual relationship that impaired professional judgment and increased the risk of exploitation with a client;

e. 21 NCAC 68 .0509(b)-(d), for entering into a dual relationship with a client that was sexual in nature;

f. 21 NCAC 68 .0601(4)(b), for participating in or soliciting sexual activity or sexual contact with a current or former client or client of one's agency; and

g. 21 NCAC 68 .0601(6)(a), for failure to follow the standards of skill and competence possessed and applied by professional peers credentialed in this State acting in the same or similar circumstances.

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 he read this entire document and understands it;

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

Whereas Respondent acknowledges that he had full and adequate opportunity to confer with legal counsel in connection with this matter; 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. 28634) and CCS-I (CCS-I No. 22837) credentials before the Board are hereby VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED as of the execution of this Consent Order.
2. Within fifteen (15) days of the execution of this Consent Order, Respondent shall provide a copy of this fully executed Consent Order to any other professional credentialing bodies with whom Respondent is currently credentialed.
3. Respondent shall provide a copy of this fully executed Consent Order upon application for any subsequent professional credential.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Each party to this proceeding shall bear their own costs, and the Board shall bear its own costs of investigation.
9. 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:

LUIS ZUNIGA

Luis Zuniga _____ Date: 9/25/26
Respondent Signature *Respondent Signature Date*

By Order of the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board, this the 12th day of September, 2026.

By: Virginia S. Johnson
Virginia Johnson
NCASPPB EC Chair