

1 Consent Agreement.

2 4. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon signing this Consent
3 Agreement and returning it to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke her
4 acceptance of this Consent Agreement or make any modifications to it. Any modification of this
5 original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties in writing.

6 5. The findings contained in the Findings of Fact portion of this Consent Agreement
7 are conclusive evidence of the facts stated herein and may be used for purposes of determining
8 sanctions in any future disciplinary matter.

9 6. This Consent Agreement is subject to the Board's approval, and will be effective
10 only when the Board accepts it. In the event the Board in its discretion does not approve this
11 Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value,
12 nor shall it be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by any party hereto, except
13 that Respondent agrees that should the Board reject this Consent Agreement and this case
14 proceeds to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its
15 review and discussion of this document or of any records relating thereto.

16 7. Respondent understands that once the Board approves and signs this Consent
17 Agreement, it is a public record that may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the
18 Board, and that it shall be reported as required by law to the National Practitioner Data Bank
19 and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank.

20 The Board issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order:

21 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

22 1. Respondent is the holder of License No. LISAC-10185 for the practice of
23 substance abuse counseling in Arizona.

24 2. From 11/11 – 12/13 and 05/14 – 09/14, a client ("Client") participated in individual
25 counseling sessions with Respondent.

1 3. On 09/11/14, during a routine risk screening, Client confirmed having thoughts of
2 harming herself.

3 4. Client's positive screening required that Respondent complete a suicide risk
4 assessment.

5 5. Respondent had never completed a suicide risk assessment, so she asked Client
6 if it was acceptable to indicate on the suicide risk screening that Client did not currently have a
7 suicide plan.

8 6. Client replied yes, but wanted Respondent to be aware that she still has suicidal
9 ideations.

10 7. Respondent indicated on Client's chart that a suicide risk assessment was not
11 needed.

12 8. Following session, Respondent took Client to her nurse practitioner ("NP") for her
13 appointment.

14 9. Respondent failed to communicate Client's suicidal thoughts to NP.

15 10. Respondent failed to follow up with Client or schedule a next appointment which
16 was protocol by her employer ("Agency").

17 11. On 09/22/14, Client's husband ("Husband") and mother ("Mother") came to
18 Agency and spoke with NP indicating:

- 19 a. Client had attempted suicide.
- 20 b. Husband wanted all medical records to be released to the hospital where
21 Client was admitted.

22 12. While Husband and Mother were at Agency, Respondent discussed confidential
23 information about Client with Mother without a proper release of information
24 ("ROI").

25 13. When Agency questioned Respondent about Client's care, Respondent admitted

1 that she:

- 2 a. Completed the suicide screening incorrectly.
- 3 b. Failed to document Client's suicidal ideation on the 09/11/14 progress note.
- 4 c. Spoke with Mother regarding Client without an ROI on file.

5 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

6 1. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251 *et seq.*
7 and the rules promulgated by the Board relating to Respondent's professional practice as a
8 licensed behavioral health professional.

9 2. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a
10 violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(15)(l), any conduct, practice or condition that impairs the ability of
11 the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession.

12 3. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a
13 violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(15)(t), disclosing a professional confidence or privileged
14 communication except as may otherwise be required by law or permitted by a valid written
15 release.

16 **ORDER**

17 Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law, the parties agree to
18 the provision and penalties imposed as follows:

19 1. As of the effective date of the Consent Agreement, Respondent shall not practice
20 under her license.

21 2. Respondent's license, LISAC-10185, shall by rule, expire on 07/31/15.

22 3. When Respondent's license expires on 07/31/15, Respondent agrees not to
23 renew her license.

24 4. Respondent agrees not to submit any type of new license application to the
25 Board for a minimum of five (5) years.

1 5. This Consent Agreement is conclusive evidence of the matters described herein
2 and may be considered by the Board in determining appropriate sanctions in the event a
3 subsequent violation occurs.

4 6. This Consent Agreement shall be effective on the date of entry below.

5 **PROFESSIONAL ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT**

6
7 Sandra L. Billeter
Sandra L. Billeter

3-20-2015
Date

8 **BOARD ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT**

9
10 Dated this 25th day of March, 2015.

11 By:

Tobi Zavala
TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director
Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

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15 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed
This 25th day of March, 2015 with:

16 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners
17 3443 N. Central Ave., Suite 1700
18 Phoenix, AZ 85012

19 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed via Interagency Mail
This 25th day of March, 2015, to:

20 Marc Harris
21 Assistant Attorney General
22 1275 West Washington
23 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

24 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed via
25 Certified mail no. 104 28100001 8957 0209
This 25th day of March, 2015, to:

Sandra L. Billeter
Address of Record
Respondent