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BEFORE THE ARIZONA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS

In the Matter of:

Jacquelyn P. Battle, LMSW-18502, Licensed Master Social Worker, In the State of Arizona.

RESPONDENT

CASE NO. 2024-0130
CONSENT AGREEMENT

In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of the above captioned matter, consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements and responsibilities of the Arizona State Board of Behavioral Health Examiners ("Board"), and pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3281(F) and 41-1092.07(F)(5), Jacquelyn P. Battle ("Respondent") and the Board enter into this Consent Agreement, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Consent Agreement") as a final disposition of this matter.

RECITALS

Respondent understands and agrees that:

- Any record prepared in this matter, all investigative materials prepared or received by the Board concerning the allegations, and all related materials and exhibits may be retained in the Board's file pertaining to this matter.
- 2. Respondent has the right to a formal administrative hearing at which Respondent can present evidence and cross examine the State's witnesses. Respondent hereby irrevocably waives their right to such formal hearing concerning these allegations and irrevocably waives their right to any rehearing or judicial review relating to the allegations contained in this Consent Agreement.
- Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Consent Agreement.

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- 4. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon signing this Consent Agreement and returning it to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke their acceptance of this Consent Agreement or make any modifications to it. Any modification of this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties in writing.
- 5. The findings contained in the Findings of Fact portion of this Consent Agreement are conclusive evidence of the facts stated herein between only Respondent and the Board for the final disposition of this matter and may be used for purposes of determining sanctions in any future disciplinary matter.
- 6. This Consent Agreement is subject to the Board's approval, and will be effective only when the Board accepts it. In the event the Board in its discretion does not approve this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value, nor shall it be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by any party hereto, except that Respondent agrees that should the Board reject this Consent Agreement and this case proceeds to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this document or of any records relating thereto.
- 7. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that the acceptance of this Consent Agreement is solely to settle this Board matter and does not preclude the Board from instituting other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future. Furthermore, and notwithstanding any language in this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement does not preclude in any way any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate now or in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent, including but not limited to violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent acknowledges that, other than with respect to the Board, this Consent Agreement makes no representations, implied or

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24 25 otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of the state relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent.

- 8. Respondent understands that once the Board approves and signs this Consent Agreement, it is a public record that may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board, and that it shall be reported as required by law to the National Practitioner Data Bank.
- 9. Respondent further understands that any violation of this Consent Agreement constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and may result in disciplinary action pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3281.
- 10. The Board therefore retains jurisdiction over Respondent and may initiate disciplinary action against Respondent if it determines that they have failed to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement or of the practice act.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent is the holder of License No. LMSW-18502 for the practice of social work in Arizona.
 - 2. Since 03/01/20, Respondent has been licensed as an LMSW.
- 3. During her investigative interview, Respondent represented she worked at various clinics and group homes since obtaining her license.
- 4. This included at least six facilities, including two agencies ("Agency 1" and "Agency 2").
 - 5. Respondent represented the following in her written response:
 - a. Contrary to the claim, she received supervision from a clinical supervisor ("Supervisor") while working for Agency 1.
- 6. Respondent subsequently provided a 03/21 Outside Supervisor contract and clinical supervision notes ranging from 03/21 – 10/21.

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- 7. Clinical supervision notes included the following:
 - a. A 03/04/21 note where supervisees share information about their agency, the population, experience, and they processed a client.
 - b. A 04/12/21 individual supervision session note noting Respondent came
 prepared and presented several cases with needed details.
 - c. A 10/21/21 individual supervision session note indicating they discussed cases in depth and therapeutic approaches for them.
- 8. Agency 1 is owned by Respondent's husband ("Husband") and business partner ("Business Partner").
 - 9. Respondent represented the following during her investigative interview:
 - Respondent worked with Agency 1 for a few months, but does not recall the dates.
 - b. Her role was like that of a supervisor, in that she handled scheduling, day to day operations, and helped clients get what they needed.
 - c. Respondent did not really have any clients, but received clinical supervision.
 - d. She worked as a support for other therapists and completed intake assessments and treatment plans.
 - e. Respondent sent the clinical supervision notes as proof she was supervised because it was alleged she did not have supervision.
- 10. Despite Respondent representing she did not have a case load of clients, she was involved in the client's clinical care.
- 11. Respondent initially represented she received clinical supervision at Agency 1, supplying clinical supervision notes appearing to correspond with this employment, and later represented she did not provide therapy services while working for Agency 1 during her investigative interview.

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12. Respondent represented the following during her investigative inter-	view:
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- a. Respondent did not really have a direct supervisor at Agency 1.
- b. If she had questions, she would talk to Business Partner or Husband.
- c. Respondent did not have a direct supervisor at Agency 2.
- d. She was receiving supervision from Supervisor, and she did not know that direct and clinical supervision were different things.
- 13. Respondent worked at multiple facilities, one which was owned by Husband, without direct supervision as an associate level licensee.
- 14. Additionally, the clinical supervision contract Respondent and Supervisor utilized did not outline the behavioral health agency the supervision would be for.
 - 15. The contract was signed by Husband, as the CEO, Respondent, and Supervisor.
 - 16. Respondent represented the following:
 - a. The clinical supervision contract that was submitted was for Agency 1, as that is where their relationship started.
 - b. Respondent utilized this clinical supervision contract for work at approximately four other facilities, and she did not have other contracts for those facilities.
 - Husband did not have ownership of the other facilities where Respondent provided therapy services.
- 17. Respondent was utilizing a contract originally meant for Agency 1 and signed by Husband, for other facilities he did not own.
- 18. This would indicate Respondent did not have a valid outside clinical supervision contract for approximately four facilities she provided therapy services in.
 - 19. Respondent represents working with Agency 1 from 08/20 05/21.

- 20. Respondent did not have an outside clinical supervision contract at the beginning of her employment with Agency 1, between 08/20 02/21.
- 21. Furthermore, Respondent represented she was employed with Agency 2 between 04/20 07/20.
 - 22. Respondent represented the following during her investigative interview:
 - a. Respondent was the only licensed therapist at Agency 2, and the only one providing therapy services.
 - b. While she worked at Agency 2, she received clinical supervision from Supervisor.
- 23. Respondent either misrepresented her dates of employment or misrepresented having receiving clinical supervision from Supervisor at Agency 2.
- 24. Additionally, a review of Agency 1's consent forms showed they were missing six required elements.
- 25. Although Respondent represented she did not create the forms, she did review them and was unaware they were deficient.
- 26. Consent forms from an agency, owned by Respondent's husband and reviewed by Respondent, did not meet the minimum Board requirements.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251 *et seq.* and the rules promulgated by the Board relating to Respondent's professional practice as a licensed behavioral health professional.
- 2. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(ii), violating any federal or state law, rule or regulation applicable to the practice of behavioral health as it relates to:
 - A.A.C. R4-6-211 Direct Supervision: Supervised Work Experience:

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General

3. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(p), failing to conform to minimum practice standards as developed by the Board as it relates to:

A.A.C. R4-6-1101, Consent for Treatment

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties agree to the provisions and penalties imposed as follows:

- 1. Respondent's license, LMSW-18502, will be placed on probation for 12 months, effective from the date of entry as signed below.
- 2. Respondent shall not practice under their license, LMSW-18502, unless they are fully compliant with all terms and conditions in this Consent Agreement. If, for any reason, Respondent is unable to comply with the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement, they shall immediately notify the Board in writing and shall not practice under their license until they submit a written request to the Board to re-commence compliance with this Consent Agreement. All such requests shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee.
- 3. In the event that Respondent is unable to comply with the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement, all remaining time frames shall be tolled and remain tolled until such time as they are granted approval to re-commence compliance with the Consent Agreement.

Practice Restriction

4. While on probation, Respondent may not participate in supervised private practice.

Continuing Education

5. In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.R.S. § 32-3273, within 12 months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall complete 3 clock

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hours of continuing education addressing Arizona documentation. All required continuing education shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon completion, Respondent shall submit a certificate of completion of the required continuing education.

- 6. In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.R.S. § 32-3273, within 12 months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall complete 3 clock hours of continuing education addressing behavioral health ethics. All required continuing education shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon completion, Respondent shall submit a certificate of completion of the required continuing education.
- 7. In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.R.S. § 32-3273, within 12 months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall complete 12 clock hours of clinical supervision training specific to Arizona. All required continuing education shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon completion, Respondent shall submit a certificate of completion of the required continuing education.
- 8. In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.R.S. § 32-3273, within the first 12 months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall complete 5 clock hours in attendance of a Board meeting, or the equivalent time of the full Board meeting if less than 5 hours. All required continuing education shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon completion, Respondent shall submit a certificate of completion of the required continuing education. Upon completion, Respondent shall submit a certificate of attendance at the Board meetings.

Early Release

9. After completion of the continuing education requirements set forth in this Consent Agreement, Respondent may request early release from the Consent Agreement if all other terms of the Consent Agreement have been met.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Provision of Clinical Supervision

10. Respondent shall not provide clinical supervision to associate level licensees accruing and submitting hours towards independent licensure while subject to this Consent Agreement.

Civil Penalty

- 11. Subject to the provisions set forth in paragraph 12, the Board imposes a civil penalty against the Respondent in the amount of \$1,000.00.
- 12. Respondent's payment of the civil penalty shall be stayed so long as Respondent remains compliant with the terms of this Consent Agreement. If Board staff determines that Respondent is noncompliant with the terms of this Consent Agreement in any respect, with the exception of the tolling provision under paragraph 3, the stay of the civil penalty payment shall be automatically lifted and payment of the civil penalty shall be made by certified check or money order payable to the Board within 30 days after being notified in writing of the lifting of the stay.
- 13. Within 10 days of being notified of the lifting of the stay, Respondent may request that the matter be reviewed by the Board for the limited purpose of determining whether the automatic lifting of the stay was supported by clear and convincing evidence. If the Board receives the written request within 10 days or less of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, the request will not be heard at that meeting, but will be heard at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Board's decision on this matter shall not be subject to further review.
- 14. The Board reserves the right to take further disciplinary action against Respondent for noncompliance with this Consent Agreement after affording Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard. If a complaint is filed against Respondent for failure to comply

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with this Consent Agreement, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

- 15. If Respondent currently sees clients in their own private practice, and obtains any other type of behavioral health position, either as an employee or independent contractor, where they provide behavioral health services to clients of another individual or agency, they shall comply with requirements set forth in paragraphs 16 through 18 below.
- 16. Within 10 days of the effective date of this Order, if Respondent is working in a position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral health related services or works in a setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social services are provided, Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee with a signed statement from Respondent's employer(s) confirming Respondent provided the employer(s) with a copy of this Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to the Board within 10 days of the effective date, the Board will provide Respondent's employer(s) with a copy of the Consent Agreement.
- 17. If Respondent is not employed as of the effective date of this Order, within 10 days of accepting employment in a position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral health related services or in a setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social services are provided, Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee with a written statement providing the contact information of their new employer and a signed statement from Respondent's new employer confirming Respondent provided the employer with a copy of this Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to the Board within 10 days, as required, Respondent's failure to provide the required statement to the Board shall be deemed a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and the Board will provide Respondent's employer(s) with a copy of the Consent Agreement.

- 18. If, during the period of Respondent's probation, Respondent changes employment, resigns, is involuntarily terminated, resigns in lieu of termination, or goes on extended leave of absence for whatever reason that may impact their ability to timely comply with the terms of probation, Respondent shall, within 10 days of the aforementioned acts, inform the Board of their change of employment status. After the change and within 10 days of accepting employment in a position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral health related services or in a setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social services are provided, Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee a written statement providing the contact information of their new employer(s) and a signed statement from Respondent's new employer(s) confirming Respondent provided the employer(s) with a copy of this Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to the Board within 10 days, as required, Respondent's failure to provide the required statement to the Board shall be deemed a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and the Board will provide Respondent's employer(s) with a copy of the Consent Agreement.
- 19. Respondent shall practice behavioral health using the name under which they are licensed. If Respondent changes their name, they shall advise the Board of the name change as prescribed under the Board's regulations and rules.
- 20. Prior to the release of Respondent from probation, Respondent must submit a written request to the Board for release from the terms of this Consent Agreement at least 30 days prior to the date they would like to have this matter appear before the Board. Respondent may appear before the Board, either in person or telephonically. Respondent must provide evidence that they have successfully satisfied all terms and conditions in this Consent Agreement. The Board has the sole discretion to determine whether all terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement have been met and whether Respondent has adequately demonstrated that they have addressed the issues contained in this Consent Agreement. In the event that the

1	Board determines that any or all terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement have not bee			
2	met, the Board may conduct such further proceedings as it determines are appropriate to			
3	address those matters.			
4	21.	Respondent shall bear all costs relating	g to probation terms required in this	
5	Consent Agreement.			
6	22.	Respondent shall be responsible for ensu	uring that all documentation required in	
7	this Consent Agreement is provided to the Board in a timely manner.			
8	23. This Consent Agreement shall be effective on the date of entry below.			
9	24. This Consent Agreement is conclusive evidence of the matters described herein			
10	and may be considered by the Board in determining appropriate sanctions in the event a			
11	subsequent violation occurs.			
12	PROFESSIONAL ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT			
13	No constitution of the con	2024 10-47 PDT)	Jun 28, 2024	
14	Jacquelyn P. Battle Jacquelyn P. Battle		Date	
15	В	OARD ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES TH	IS CONSENT AGREEMENT	
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17	By:	- Landa	Jun 29, 2024	
18	TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director Date Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners		Date	
19		I 20, 2024		
20	ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed with: Jun 29, 2024			
21	Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners			
22	1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3600 Phoenix, AZ 85007			
23	EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing sent electronically Jun 29, 2024 to:			
24				
25				

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4	Jacquelyn P. Battle Address of Record Respondent
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8	Attorney for Respondent
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