

1 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS**

2 **In the Matter of:**

**CASE NO. 2019-0016**

3 **Betti-jo Townsend, LMSW-15180,**  
4 **Licensed Master Social Worker,**  
5 **In the State of Arizona.**

**RELEASE FROM CONSENT AGREEMENT  
AND ORDER**


**RESPONDENT**

6  
7 The Board received a request from Respondent to release them from the terms and  
8 conditions of the Consent Agreement and Order dated November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. After consideration,  
9 the Board voted to release Respondent from the terms and conditions of the Consent  
10 Agreement and Order dated November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

11 **ORDER**

12 **GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

13 Respondent is hereby released from all terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement  
14 and Order dated November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

15 By: 

Dec 17, 2019

16 TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director  
17 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

Date

18 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed Dec 17, 2019  
19 with:

20 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners  
21 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3600  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

22 **EXECUTED COPY** of the foregoing sent electronically Dec 17, 2019  
23 to:

24 Betti-jo Townsend  
Address of Record  
Respondent

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

**BEFORE THE ARIZONA BOARD  
OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS**

**In the Matter of:**

**Betti-jo Townsend, LMSW-15180,  
Licensed Master's Social Worker,  
In the State of Arizona.**

**CASE NO. 2019-0016  
CONSENT AGREEMENT**

**RESPONDENT**

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), Betti-jo Townsend ("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:

1. 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.

3. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Consent Agreement.

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

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

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

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

18           8.       Respondent further understands that any violation of this Consent Agreement  
19 constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and may result in  
20 disciplinary action pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3281.

21           9.       The Board therefore retains jurisdiction over Respondent and may initiate  
22 disciplinary action against Respondent if it determines that they have failed to comply with the  
23 terms of this Consent Agreement or of the practice act.

24 ...

25 ...

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

2 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

3 1. Respondent is the holder of License No. LMSW-15180 for the practice of social  
4 work in Arizona.

5 2. On 11/25/17, Respondent was arrested for driving under the influence.

6 3. Respondent's blood alcohol content was measured at .171% approximately one  
7 hour after being pulled over.

8 4. Respondent acknowledges consuming alcohol prior to drinking.

9 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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

13 2. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a  
14 violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(l), engaging in any conduct, practice or condition that impairs  
15 the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession.

16 **ORDER**

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

19 1. Respondent's license, LMSW-15180, will be placed on probation for 12 months,  
20 effective from the date of entry as signed below.

21 2. Respondent shall not practice under their license, LMSW-15180, unless they are  
22 fully compliant with all terms and conditions in this Consent Agreement. If, for any reason,  
23 Respondent is unable to comply with the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement; they  
24 shall immediately notify the Board in writing and shall not practice under their license until they  
25 submit a written request to the Board to re-commence compliance with this Consent

1 Agreement. All such requests shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee.

2 3. In the event that Respondent is unable to comply with the terms and conditions  
3 of this Consent Agreement, all remaining time frames shall be tolled and remain tolled until  
4 such time as they are granted approval to re-commence compliance with the Consent  
5 Agreement.

#### 6 Continuing Education

7 4. In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.R.S. § 32-3273, within  
8 12 months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall take and pass a  
9 three semester credit hour graduate level course in substance use disorders from a regionally  
10 accredited college or university, pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon  
11 completion, Respondent shall submit to the Board an official transcript establishing completion  
12 of the required course.

#### 13 Recovery Program

14 5. While on probation, Respondent shall attend a minimum of 6 Mothers Against  
15 Drunk Driving ("M.A.D.D.") meetings in person or an equivalent program within 12 months.  
16 Respondent shall provide a report to the Board Chair or designee substantiating their  
17 attendance at M.A.D.D. meetings or an equivalent program.

#### 18 Early Release

19 6. After completion of the continuing education requirements set forth in this  
20 Consent Agreement, and upon the completion of all other stipulations set forth in this Consent  
21 Agreement, Respondent may request early release.

#### 22 GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### 23 Provision of Clinical Supervision

24 7. Respondent shall not provide clinical supervision while subject to this Consent  
25 Agreement.

1 Civil Penalty

2 8. Subject to the provisions set forth in paragraph 9, the Board imposes a civil  
3 penalty against the Respondent in the amount of \$1,000.00.

4 9. Respondent's payment of the civil penalty shall be stayed so long as Respondent  
5 remains compliant with the terms of this Consent Agreement. If Board staff determines that  
6 Respondent is noncompliant with the terms of this Consent Agreement in any respect, with the  
7 exception of the tolling provision under paragraph 3, the stay of the civil penalty payment shall  
8 be automatically lifted and payment of the civil penalty shall be made by certified check or  
9 money order payable to the Board within 30 days after being notified in writing of the lifting of  
10 the stay.

11 10. Within 10 days of being notified of the lifting of the stay, Respondent may request  
12 that the matter be reviewed by the Board for the limited purpose of determining whether the  
13 automatic lifting of the stay was supported by clear and convincing evidence. If the Board  
14 receives the written request within 10 days or less of the next regularly scheduled Board  
15 meeting, the request will not be heard at that meeting, but will be heard at the next regularly  
16 scheduled Board meeting. The Board's decision on this matter shall not be subject to further  
17 review.

18 11. The Board reserves the right to take further disciplinary action against  
19 Respondent for noncompliance with this Consent Agreement after affording Respondent notice  
20 and an opportunity to be heard. If a complaint is filed against Respondent for failure to comply  
21 with this Consent Agreement, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final  
22 and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

23 12. Within 10 days of the effective date of this Order, if Respondent is working in a  
24 position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral health related services or works in a  
25 setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social services are provided,

1 Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee with a signed statement from  
2 Respondent's employer(s) confirming Respondent provided the employer(s) with a copy of this  
3 Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to the Board  
4 within 10 days of the effective date, the Board will provide Respondent's employer(s) with a  
5 copy of the Consent Agreement.

6 13. If Respondent is not employed as of the effective date of this Order, within 10  
7 days of accepting employment in a position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral  
8 health related services or in a setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social  
9 services are provided, Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee with a written  
10 statement providing the contact information of their new employer and a signed statement from  
11 Respondent's new employer confirming Respondent provided the employer with a copy of this  
12 Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to the Board  
13 within 10 days, as required, Respondent's failure to provide the required statement to the Board  
14 shall be deemed a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and the Board will provide Respondent's  
15 employer(s) with a copy of the Consent Agreement.

16 14. If, during the period of Respondent's probation, Respondent changes  
17 employment, resigns, is involuntarily terminated, resigns in lieu of termination, or goes on  
18 extended leave of absence for whatever reason that may impact their ability to timely comply  
19 with the terms of probation, Respondent shall, within 10 days of the aforementioned acts, inform  
20 the Board of their change of employment status. After the change and within 10 days of  
21 accepting employment in a position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral health  
22 related services or in a setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social  
23 services are provided, Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee a written  
24 statement providing the contact information of their new employer(s) and a signed statement  
25 from Respondent's new employer(s) confirming Respondent provided the employer(s) with a

1 copy of this Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to  
2 the Board within 10 days, as required, Respondent's failure to provide the required statement to  
3 the Board shall be deemed a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and the Board will provide  
4 Respondent's employer(s) with a copy of the Consent Agreement.

5 15. Respondent shall practice behavioral health using the name under which they  
6 are licensed. If Respondent changes their name, they shall advise the Board of the name  
7 change as prescribed under the Board's regulations and rules.

8 16. Prior to the release of Respondent from probation, Respondent must submit a  
9 written request to the Board for release from the terms of this Consent Agreement at least 30  
10 days prior to the date they would like to have this matter appear before the Board. Respondent  
11 may appear before the Board, either in person or telephonically. Respondent must provide  
12 evidence that they have successfully satisfied all terms and conditions in this Consent  
13 Agreement. The Board has the sole discretion to determine whether all terms and conditions of  
14 this Consent Agreement have been met and whether Respondent has adequately demonstrated  
15 that they have addressed the issues contained in this Consent Agreement. In the event that the  
16 Board determines that any or all terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement have not been  
17 met, the Board may conduct such further proceedings as it determines are appropriate to  
18 address those matters.

19 17. Respondent shall bear all costs relating to probation terms required in this  
20 Consent Agreement.

21 18. Respondent shall be responsible for ensuring that all documentation required in  
22 this Consent Agreement is provided to the Board in a timely manner.

23 19. This Consent Agreement shall be effective on the date of entry below.

24 20. This Consent Agreement is conclusive evidence of the matters described herein  
25 and may be considered by the Board in determining appropriate sanctions in the event a



1 subsequent violation occurs.

2  
3 **PROFESSIONAL ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT**

4 Betti-jo Townsend  
5 Betti-jo Townsend

10/26/18  
Date

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

7 Dated this 2nd day of November, 2018.

8  
9 By: M. Zavala  
10 TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director  
11 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

12 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed

13 This 2nd day of November, 2018 with:

14 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners  
15 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3600  
16 Phoenix, AZ 85007

17 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed via Interagency Mail

18 This 2nd day of November, 2018, to:

19 Marc Harris  
20 Assistant Attorney General  
21 2005 North Central Avenue  
22 Phoenix, AZ 85004

23 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed via

24 Certified mail, no. 94890091000276060239721  
25 This 2nd day of November, 2018, to:

Betti-jo Townsend  
Address of Record  
Respondent