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BEFORE THE ARIZONA BOARD

OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS

In the Matter of:

Tracey L. Frederiksen, LPC-14298, Licensed Professional Counselor, In the State of Arizona.

RESPONDENT

CASE NO. 2024-0129 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), Tracey L. Frederiksen ("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.

- 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 In the event the Board in its discretion does not approve this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value, nor shall it be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by any party hereto, except that Respondent agrees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

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

- Respondent is the holder of License No. LPC-14298 for the practice of counseling in the State of Arizona.
- 2. From 04/19 05/23, Respondent provided behavioral health services to Client 1 at her private practice.
- From 01/23 10/23, Respondent provided behavioral health services to Client 2 at her private practice.
 - 4. A 02/10/22 Commercial Lease Agreement indicated the following:
 - a. The Tenant has negotiated with the Landlord for commercial lease for the Premises located at an address, with suite next to each other.
 - b. The renters are Mother and another individual.

- c. The lease was signed by Mother and this other individual as well as another individual, who is identified as "Manager" after his name within the lease agreement.
 5. This second individual is Respondent's husband.
 6. Respondent's private practice is located at the same exact address but in a
 - 6. Respondent's private practice is located at the same exact address but in a different neighboring suite.
 - 7. This means that after Respondent initiated services with Client 1 and prior to initiating services with Client 2, Respondent's husband and Mother signed a lease agreement for an office space two suites away from Respondent's private practice location.
 - 8. Nowhere within Client 1's or Client 2's clinical records is it documented that Respondent's husband and Mother have a legal agreement in place to rent an office space.
- 9. Respondent acknowledged that the building where Mother rented an office space, Respondent and her husband are partial owners of the LLC.
- 10. Respondent was indirectly involved in a secondary role with Mother by engaging in this professional relationship with Mother outside of the therapeutic relationship simultaneously.
- 11. Respondent represents she would only see this as a conflict if Mother was her actual client, yet Mother was fully involved in both clients' therapy.
- 12. A 01/13/22 informed consent for telepsychology for Client 1 failed to include the manner of identifying the client when using electronic communication that does not involve video.
 - 13. Client 1's clinical records failed to include any treatment plan.
 - 14. Client 1's billing records included the following deficiencies:
 - a. There were progress notes for 05/29/19, 01/14/22, 11/30/22, and 02/23/23 without corroborating billing records.

- b. There were billing records for 11/14/21 and 02/26/23 without corroborating progress notes.
- 15. A 01/04/23 informed consent for telepsychology for Client 2 failed to include the manner of identifying the client when using electronic communication that does not involve video.
 - 16. Client 2's clinical records failed to include any treatment plan.
 - 17. Client 2's billing records included the following deficiencies:
 - a. There were progress notes for 01/26/23 and 06/22/23 without corroborating billing records.
 - b. There was a billing record for 06/24/23 without a corroborating progress note.
- 18. Due to concerns with Respondent failing to devise treatment plans for Client 1 and Client 2, Board staff subpoenaed a client list and randomly subpoenaed two clinical records to determine whether Respondent was doing treatment plans for other clients.
- 19. Upon review of the two randomly subpoenaed clinical records, the following was noted:
 - a. A.H. began services with Respondent on 09/07/23 and had 7 sessions until Respondent completed a treatment plan on 02/13/24.
 - b. L.L. began services with Respondent on 08/25/23 and had 8 sessions until
 Respondent completed a treatment plan on 03/05/24.
- 20. It appears only after notice of this Board complaint, Respondent began developing treatment plans as evidenced by the two randomly subpoenaed clinical records showing treatment plans were only developed after her written response to the complaint and several sessions with these clients.
- 21. Respondent represents she is aware of the Board's rules regarding documentation yet failed to develop treatment plans which is a Board requirement.

22. In 07/19, 07/21, and 07/23, Respondent completed license renewal applications which required her to complete the Board's Tutorial regarding statutes and regulations, which specifically provided education and training on clinical documentation standards.

23. Since being notified of the deficiencies in her clinical documentation, Respondent provided Board staff updated practice templates that meet all 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)(k), engaging in any conduct or practice that is contrary to recognized standards of ethics in the behavioral health profession or that constitutes a danger to the health, welfare or safety of a client, as it relates to the ACA Code of Ethics:

A.6.a. Previous Relationships

Counselors consider the risks and benefits of accepting as clients those with whom they have had a previous relationship. These potential clients may include individuals with whom the counselor has had a casual, distant, or past relationship. Examples include mutual or past membership in a professional association, organization, or community. When counselors accept these clients, they take appropriate professional precautions such as informed consent, consultation, supervision, and documentation to ensure that judgment is not impaired and no exploitation occurs.

A.6.e. Nonprofessional Interactions or Relationships (Other Than Sexual or Romantic Interactions or Relationships)

...

Counselors consider the risks and benefits of accepting as clients those with whom they have had a previous relationship. These potential clients may include individuals with whom the counselor has had a casual, distant, or past relationship. Examples include mutual or past membership in a professional association, organization, or community. When counselors accept these clients, they take appropriate professional precautions such as informed consent, consultation, supervision, and documentation to ensure that judgment is not impaired and no exploitation occurs.

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. R4-6-1102. Treatment Plan

A.A.C. R4-6-1106. Tele-practice

ORDER

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

- Respondent's license, LPC-14298, 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, LPC-14298, 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.

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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.

Continuing Education

- 4. 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 6 clock hours of continuing education addressing current Arizona documentation standards. 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.
- 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 take and pass an in- person CACREP or Board approved three semester credit hour graduate level behavioral health ethics course from a regionally accredited college or university, pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon completion, Respondent shall submit to the Board an official transcript establishing completion of the required course.

Clinical Supervision

6. While on probation, Respondent shall submit to clinical supervision for 12 months by a masters or higher-level behavioral health professional licensed by the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners at the independent level. Within 30 days of the date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall submit the name of a clinical supervisor for pre-approval by the Board Chair or designee. Also, within 30 days of the date of this Consent Agreement, the clinical supervisor shall submit a letter disclosing their prior relationship to Respondent. In that letter, the clinical supervisor must address why they should be approved, acknowledge that they

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have reviewed the Consent Agreement and include the results of an initial assessment and a supervision plan regarding the proposed supervision of Respondent. The letter from the supervisor shall be submitted to the Board.

Focus and Frequency of Clinical Supervision

7. The focus of the supervision shall relate to the decision-making model, Arizona Statutes and Rules, conflict of interest, boundaries, behavioral health ethics, clinical documentation, and review of clinical documentation. Respondent shall meet individually with the supervisor for a minimum of once monthly.

Reports

- 8. Once approved, the supervisor shall submit quarterly reports for review and approval by the Board Chair or designee. The quarterly reports shall include issues presented in this Consent Agreement that need to be reported and the supervisor shall notify the Board if more frequent supervision is needed. Quarterly reports shall include the following:
 - a. Dates of each clinical supervision session.
 - A comprehensive description of issues discussed during supervision sessions.
 - c. The results of each clinical documentation review by the supervisor.
- All quarterly supervision reports shall include a copy of clinical supervision documentation maintained for that quarter. All clinical supervision documentation maintained by the supervisor shall comply with requirements set forth in A.A.C. R4-6-212(C).
- 10. After Respondent's probationary period, the supervisor shall submit a final summary report for review and approval by the Board Chair or designee. The final report shall also contain a recommendation as to whether the Respondent should be released from this Consent Agreement.

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Change of Clinical Supervisor During Probation

11. If, during the period of Respondent's probation, the clinical supervisor determines that they cannot continue as the clinical supervisor, they shall notify the Board within 10 days of the end of supervision and provide the Board with an interim final report. Respondent shall advise the Board Chair or designee within 30 days of cessation of clinical supervision by the approved clinical supervisor and provide the name of a new proposed clinical supervisor. The proposed clinical supervisor shall provide the same documentation to the Board as was required of the initial clinical supervisor.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Provision of Clinical Supervision

12. 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

- 13. Subject to the provisions set forth in paragraph 14, the Board imposes a civil penalty against the Respondent in the amount of \$1,000.00.
- 14. 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.

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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

Within 10 days of being notified of the lifting of the stay, Respondent may request

- 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.
- 16. 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 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.
- 17. 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 18 through 20 below.
- 18. 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.

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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.

If Respondent is not employed as of the effective date of this Order, within 10

20. 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.

Tracey L. Frederiksen

Tracey L. Frederiksen

21. 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.

22. 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 Board determines that any or all terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement have not been met, the Board may conduct such further proceedings as it determines are appropriate to address those matters.

- Respondent shall bear all costs relating to probation terms required in this Consent Agreement.
- 24. Respondent shall be responsible for ensuring that all documentation required in this Consent Agreement is provided to the Board in a timely manner.
 - 25. This Consent Agreement shall be effective on the date of entry below.
- 26. This Consent Agreement is conclusive evidence of the matters described herein and may be considered by the Board in determining appropriate sanctions in the event a subsequent violation occurs.

PROFESSIONAL ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Jul 26, 2024

Date

BOARD ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT 1 2 Jul 27, 2024 Ву: 3 TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director Date Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners 4 5 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed Jul 27, 2024 6 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners 7 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3600 Phoenix, AZ 85007 8 **EXECUTED COPY** of the foregoing sent electronically Jul 27, 2024 9 10 Mona Baskin **Assistant Attorney General** 11 2005 North Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85004 12 Tracey L. Frederiksen 13 Address of Record Respondent 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24