



STATE OF ARIZONA
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS
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DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
Governor

TOBI ZAVALA
Executive Director

October 22, 2018

Deanaha Romero
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Romero:

On August 3, 2018, the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners ("Board") reviewed your application for licensure as a licensed professional counselor and determined that you are not eligible for licensure pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3275(6). Specifically, the Board found that you engaged in conduct that had you been licensed would have constituted grounds for disciplinary action. The Board determined that the disciplinary action invoked the following violations that were based upon the conduct referenced thereafter:

1. A.R.S § 32-3251(16)(l), engaging in any conduct, practice or condition that impairs the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession.
2. A.R.S § 32-3251(16)(c)(i), making any oral or written misrepresentation of a fact to secure or attempt to secure the issuance or renewal of a license.

These violations were based on the following findings:

1. In 08/17, Deanaha Romero ("Applicant") submitted her LPC application to the Board.
2. Following a review of Applicant and her clinical supervisor's ("CS") verification forms, which revealed several issues, the Board requested the clinical supervision records that Applicant and CS relied upon when verifying their hours.
3. Upon review of their supervision records, numerous issues were identified including photocopied and backdated documents.
4. Specific concerns include the following:
 - a. One set of photocopied supervision records, identified as Set A, included 157 photocopied individual supervision notes:
 - These photocopied notes were visibly altered where the date of the session was changed, as well as the dates of Applicant and CS's photocopied signatures.
 - The content of these 157 individual supervision notes is completely photocopied.
 - b. Another set of photocopied records, identified as Set B, included 27 photocopied individual supervision notes:
 - Again, the content of these 27 supervision notes are entirely photocopied, with the exception of alterations to the session date and signature dates.
 - c. Another issue pertained to Direct Observation notes:
 - The Board requires a minimum of 10 direct observation hours.

- All 10 of the direct observation notes are entirely photocopied with the exception of the session date and signature dates.
 - All 10 of the direct observation notes were submitted on the Board's supervision sample form, which was made available on the Board's website for use on 11/22/16.
 - However, 7 of the 10 direct observation notes were dated and signed prior to 11/22/16, which was before the creation date of the Board's sample form.
- d. With regard to the group supervision notes, the same issues are present as those of the individual supervision notes.
 - e. There were at least 3 different sets of group supervision notes that were entirely photocopied, which totaled over 150 duplicated group notes.
 - f. There were also numerous group notes where the content was exactly identical to the individual notes.
5. In her written response to the allegations, Applicant indicated the following:
 - a. Applicant used the Board's new template, added her notes, and made several copies in order to update her outdated forms.
 - b. Applicant and CS then went back and dated all of the photocopies with the dates from the previous forms.
 - c. Applicant and CS discarded the outdated forms so that they would not get confused about which forms were correct.
 6. Issues with Applicant's statements include the following:
 - a. Hundreds of individual and group notes were entirely photocopied with the exception of alterations to the date of session and signature dates.
 - b. Applicant stated that she and CS discarded their outdated forms; however, CS has no record of any previous or original supervision forms.
 7. Aside from the aforementioned issues, during the Board's 02/02/18 meeting, when the Board was determining whether or not to open a complaint, Applicant indicated the following in response to the Board Chair's question if Applicant had any of her original supervision documentation, "I do. All of it, unfortunately, I didn't bring it with me."
 8. When questioned later by Board staff about her previous comment made during the Board's 0/02/18 meeting and the whereabouts of her original notes, Applicant responded, "Just shredded them so that I didn't mix up what needed to be sent to the Board and what was old stuff."
 9. It appears evident now that Applicant's 02/02/18 statement to the Board was false.
 10. Due to the numerous discrepancies, the fabrication of backdated records and the inability to fully account for the hundreds of photocopied individual and group supervision sessions, there appears to be no viable way to verify that clinical supervision actually occurred on the dates and times presented to the Board.

In addition, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3301(G), the Counseling Academic Review Committee determined that you did not establish qualifications for licensure based on the following:

1. You did not establish that you meet the supervised work experience as set forth in A.A.C. R4-6-503.
2. You did not establish that you meet the clinical supervision requirements as set forth in A.A.C. R4-6-504.

Per A.R.S. §41.1092.03.B, you may request a Formal Hearing by notifying the agency in writing within thirty-five (35) days from the date of this letter. If you do request a Formal Hearing, you also have the right, pursuant to A.R.S. §41-1092.06, to request a settlement conference. If you do not request a Formal Hearing by the close of business on November 26, 2018, your file will be closed without further recourse to appeal and the licensure denial will be reported to the federal data banks that record this information. If you desire licensure at a later date, you must submit a new application and fee.

PLEASE BE FURTHER ADVISED that, pursuant to the Board's licensure statute, as of July 1, 2004, only persons holding licenses to practice counseling may do so unless they are exempt from licensure pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3271.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (602) 542-1617.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tobi Zavala". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tobi Zavala
Executive Director