

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA  
BOARD OF LICENSED  
CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH  
COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 )  
LAUREN MYERS, LCMHCA )  
 )  
Respondent. )  
 )  
Case No. 1804 )

**CONSENT ORDER**

THIS CAUSE, coming on to be heard and being heard before the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors (“the Board”), at its meeting on 23-24 July 2020, pursuant to a charge letter issued by the Board on 29 October 2019 which is now pending; and

IT APPEARING to the Board that the Respondent has stipulated to certain facts and to the entry of a Consent Order in conformity therewith;

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by the undersigned Respondent and the Board that:

1. Respondent was at all times relevant to this cause a licensed clinical mental health counselor associate<sup>1</sup> (“LCMHCA”) and is subject to the Board’s jurisdiction pursuant to the North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act, Chapter 90, Article 24, of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. On or about 19 June 2019, Respondent submitted a self-reported ethical violation to the Board. Respondent admitted that during the month of March 2019, she engaged in a sexual/romantic relationship with a client, while providing substance abuse counseling services as a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist Associate (“LCAS-A”) at a recovery center in North Carolina. Respondent admitted that the sexual/romantic relationship with her client was brief. After Respondent’s actions were reported to the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board, Respondent signed a Consent Order with that Board in June 2019, which is currently in effect.
3. Respondent admits that her conduct described in Paragraph 2 above constitutes violations of Sections A.1.a., A.4.a., A.5.a., C.2.g., and C.6.d of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014) and violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-340 (a)(7), (a)(9), (a)(10), and (a)(13) of the North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act.
4. Respondent reported to the Board that she has not practiced counseling or engaged in any

<sup>1</sup> On 1 January 2020, the name “licensed professional counselor associate” was changed to “licensed clinical mental health counselor associate.” See Act of Nov. 6, 2019, 2019 N.C. Ch. 240, 2019 N.C. SB 537.

other activities that meet the definition of the practice of counseling in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-330(a)(3) since 11 April 2019.

5. The Board and Respondent wish to avoid the time and the costs associated with full litigation of this matter and, *in lieu* of any proceedings, enter into this Consent Order.

6. Respondent expressly waives notice of hearing, a hearing, the making of findings of fact and conclusions of law, and all further proceedings before the Board to which the Respondent may be entitled by law. Respondent further agrees that presentation of this Consent Order to the Board for approval shall not constitute improper *ex parte* communication between the Board and its counsel, or the Board and its staff, nor require the recusal of the members of the Board from consideration of this matter before the full Board, should a hearing be required in this case.

7. Respondent forever releases the State of North Carolina, the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors, and all its members, officials, agents, representatives and employees, both past and present, in their individual or official capacities from any and all liability, suits, claims, and causes of action, arising prior to or as a result of the execution of this Consent Order.

8. Respondent waives the right to seek judicial review or to otherwise challenge the validity of this Consent Order in any court. Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order shall be effective only after approval by the full Board and signature of its Chairperson.

9. This Consent Order contains the entire agreement between the undersigned, there being no agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies, alters, or adds to this Consent Order.

10. This Consent Order shall constitute disciplinary action against the license of Respondent, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §90-340(a).

Based upon the record and the foregoing stipulations,

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

- I. The license of the Respondent, Lauren Myers, is hereby REVOKED, effective 29 October 2019.
- II. Respondent shall turn in her license to practice counseling in North Carolina to the Board no later than 10 August 2020. She shall mail her original license to: Stefon Plummer, North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Post Office Box 77819, Greensboro, North Carolina 27417.
- III. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. Sec. 90-340(g), Respondent may re-apply for licensure on or after 29 October 2020.

- IV. If Respondent re-applies for licensure with the Board, she shall undergo a mental health assessment with a mental health professional approved by the Board. The Respondent may undergo a mental health assessment prior to applying for licensure with the Board, as long as the assessment is completed within a month or less prior to the date Respondent's application for licensure is complete.
- V. The Board will review the assessment report, determine whether the report is current, and, if the evaluator determined that Respondent is fit to practice, she will be approved for licensure as an LCMHCA and will be required to practice under supervision for one year after her application is approved by the Board. If the evaluator does not determine that Respondent is fit to practice as an LCMHCA or makes other recommendations, the Board may deny her licensure or impose conditions on her licensure as an LCMHCA.
- VI. Respondent will be required to take the online continuing education program (total of 14 courses and 58 CE Credits) entitled, "Certificate Program in Boundaries in Psychotherapy: Ethical, Clinical and Standard of Care Considerations" available at: <https://www.zurinstitute.com/course/certificate-in-boundaries-in-psychotherapy2/>
- VII. The failure of Respondent to abide by any provisions of this Consent Order shall result in further action by the Board, including seeking an injunction in Superior Court, in the discretion of the Board.
- VIII. The Board shall maintain this Consent Order as a public record pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§132-1 and 90-340(f) and shall provide copies to the American Counseling Association and the National Board of Certified Counselors, and to other agencies or individuals as required by law.

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This the 14 day of July, 2020.

CONSENTED TO BY:

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF  
LICENSED CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

BY: Denarvo Robinson  
Denarvo Robinson, Ed. D., LCMHCS date  
Board Chairperson 7/24/2020

Lauren Myers 07-14-20  
Lauren Myers, LCMHCA date  
Respondent

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Vicki Goldstein 7/14/20  
Vicki Goldstein date  
Attorney for Respondent