

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF LICENSED
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
KENT GRAHAM, LPC)
)
Respondent.)
)
No. 1762)

CONSENT ORDER

THIS CAUSE, coming on to be heard and being heard before the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors (“the Board”), at its meeting on June 7, 2019, pursuant to a charge letter issued by the Board on March 19, 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 professional counselor and is subject to the Board’s jurisdiction pursuant to the North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselors Act, Chapter 90, Article 24, of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. On or about May 17, 2018, Respondent provided counseling services as a Licensed Professional Counselor and conducted a clinical assessment of an 18 year old male, Patient X, who was brought in a hospital by law enforcement under involuntary commitment for high risk suicidal ideation. In a clinical note, Respondent documented that Patient X was in crisis and was suicidal with plan and intent.
3. Following Respondent’s clinical evaluation of the patient’s suicidal ideation, Respondent consulted with his clinical supervisor regarding the management and care of the patient. Respondent’s supervisor instructed him to keep the patient in the hospital if the patient did not agree to a warm hand-off with the mobile crisis unit. Although the patient declined further clinical services and a referral, Respondent discharged the patient, despite direct instructions from his clinical supervisor. Within 48 hours of leaving the hospital, Patient X committed suicide.
4. Respondent appeared to have failed to provide appropriate assessment of the patient’s suicidal ideations when he recommended Patient X for discharge. Further, Respondent did not follow his clinical supervisor’s direct instructions regarding the patient’s aftercare plans. Respondent also did not document a safety plan for Patient X. In addition, Respondent’s clinical

notes were inappropriate.

5. Respondent admits that his conduct as set forth above in paragraphs number 3 and 4 violates Sections A.1.a., A.1.b., A.4.a., A.11.c., A.12., B.2.a., E.1.a., and E.5.a. of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014) and violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-340 (a)(9), and (a)(10) of the North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselors Act.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Respondent forever releases the State of North Carolina, the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

Based upon the record and the foregoing stipulations,

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

- I. Respondent shall be REPRIMANDED by the Board.
- II. Respondent shall RELINQUISH his license on or before 1 July 2019 and shall not seek to reinstate his license at any time in the future.
- III. No later than 7 June 2019, Respondent shall cease to engage in any activities that meet the definition of the practice of counseling under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-330(a)(3), or falls under the prohibitions set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-331.
- IV. No later than 1 July 2019, Respondent shall turn in his license to practice counseling in

North Carolina to the Board. In the event Respondent is unable to find his license to practice counseling in North Carolina, he shall submit an Affidavit to the Board stating that despite his diligent search, he was unable to locate his original license and that in the event he finds it in the future, he will promptly turn it to the Board. Respondent shall mail his license or an Affidavit to: North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Post Office Box 77819, Greensboro, North Carolina 27417.


- V. 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.
- VI. 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.

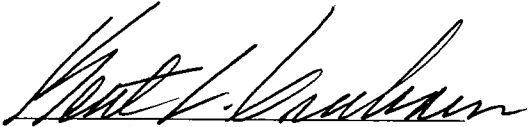
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This the 7 day of JUNE, 2019.

CONSENTED TO BY:

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

BY: 
Denauvo Robinson, Ed.D., LPCS date
Board Vice Chairperson


Kent Graham, LPC date
Respondent 3 JUNE 2019