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BEFORE THE ARIZONA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS

In the Matter of:

Amanda M. Curry, LPC-18917, Licensed Professional Counselor, In the State of Arizona.

RESPONDENT

CASE NO. 2023-0162

CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

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 In the event the Board in its discretion does not approve this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value, nor shall it be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by any party hereto, except that Respondent agrees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

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

- Respondent is the holder of License No. LPC-18917 for the practice of counseling in the State of Arizona.
 - 2. From 01/23 03/23, Respondent was employed at Agency as a therapist.
- 3. On 03/07/23, Respondent emailed her notice of resignation with a two weeks' notice with 03/21/23 being her last day.
- 4. One 03/07/23, roughly two hours after Respondent submitted her resignation, Complainant emailed Respondent informing her that they would need to meet one or two times weekly until her departure to plan for the continuity of care for her clients.
- 5. On 03/07/23, several hours later, Respondent emailed Complainant again informing him of her immediate resignation.
- 6. Respondent in fact resigned immediately while she had 37 clients on her caseload, without making any efforts to ensure clients had continuity of care in place or provide any sort of appropriate referral.
 - 7. Respondent represented the following during Board staff's investigative interview:
 - a. Respondent resigned abruptly because she was so ill.
 - Respondent did not inform any of her clients if her departure because it was the supervisor's responsibility.

- c. If Respondent is physically unable to work it is not her responsibility to ensure continuity of care for her clients.
- d. Respondent believes she appropriately terminated clients by giving the responsibility to Complainant.
- 8. Respondent in fact took no steps to contact clients regarding her departure or ensure continuity of care was place prior to her immediate departure.
- On 10/10/23, Board staff received an email from another licensee employed at a separate agency indicating Respondent resigned effective immediately from this job without any notice.
- 10. Upon review it was observed that Board staff was never aware of this employment where Respondent had been employed for roughly three months.
- 11. Respondent in fact failed to update her employment with the Board within 30 days of a change in employment as required by Board rules.

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)(s), terminating behavioral health services to a client without making an appropriate referral for continuation of care for the client if continuing behavioral health services are indicated.
- 3. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(ii), violating any federal or state law rule or regulation applicable to the practice of behavioral health, as it relates to:
 - A.A.C. R4-6-05. Change of Contact Information

1 ORDER 2 Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law, the parties agree to 3 the provision and penalties imposed as follows: 4 1. Respondent's license, LPC-18917, shall be surrendered to the Board, effective 5 from the date of entry as signed below. 6 2. The surrender shall be considered a revocation of Respondent's license. 7 PROFESSIONAL ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT 8 Oct 18, 2023 nda Curry (Oct 18, 2023 13:23 PDT) 9 Amanda M. Curry Date 10 11 **BOARD ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT** 12 Nov 13, 2023 By: 13 TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director Date Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners 14 15 Nov 13, 2023 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed 16 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners 17 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3600 Phoenix, AZ 85007 18 Nov 13, 2023 **EXECUTED COPY** of the foregoing sent electronically 19 to: 20 Mona Baskin **Assistant Attorney General** 21 2005 North Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85004 22 Amanda M. Curry 23 Address of Record Respondent 24

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