



NORTH CAROLINA BOARD
of **LICENSED CLINICAL**
MENTAL HEALTH
COUNSELORS

PHONE: 844-622-3572
FAX: 336-217-9450
WEB: ncblcmhc.org
EMAIL: LCMHInfo@ncblcmhc.org

February 16, 2024

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Sara Mooring, LCMHCS
5812 Woodduck Circle
Wilmington, NC 28409

RE: *North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors, Case No. 1833*

Dear Ms. Mooring:

I am the Investigator for the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors (the Board). The Ethics Review Committee of the Board (the Committee) has reviewed the information pertinent to the above-referenced matter. The Committee has reached its conclusion and has instructed me to inform you of its findings.

The Committee found probable cause to believe that you had violated provisions of the North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act and the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014).

Specifically, the Committee alleges the following:

During the period on or about January 6, 2020, through on or about April 22, 2020, you were employed as a licensed clinical mental health counselor at a counseling practice in NC. During this time, you engaged in the following unethical behavior:

- (1) You repeatedly contacted the office to cancel all of your daily appointments due to various health reasons;
- (2) You overslept on several occasions which resulted in you being absent from client sessions and having to reschedule;
- (3) You took a leave of absence and checked yourself into an inpatient treatment facility which resulted in clients having to be rescheduled or transferred;
- (4) You continued to engage in counseling and clinical supervision during your leave of absence;

In addition, you displayed behavior that raised competency and impairment concerns among the staff counselors and owner of the counseling practice.

If true, the above-referenced conduct constitutes violations of Sections A.1.a., A.12., C.2.d., C.2.g., C.2.h., F.4.b., and F.5.b. 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)(14) of the North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act.

The aforementioned allegations relate to your conduct as a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor, and if proven, could provide cause for sanctions to be taken against your license. The information which the Board has received does not in itself provide sufficient evidence that these alleged acts have occurred. Consequently, the Board does not consider that any determination regarding possible sanctions against your license can be made without first providing you the opportunity to exercise your due process rights.

If you would prefer to resolve this matter through a Consent Order, please contact the Board's counsel, Alesia M. Balshakova, at abalshakova@ncdoj.gov. You may decline to do so and request a hearing before the Board regarding these allegations. You are entitled to request a hearing on these allegations by responding in writing within thirty (30) days of the receipt of this letter and requesting a formal hearing. If the Board does not receive a written response requesting a hearing within thirty (30) days of the receipt of this letter, the Board will hold a hearing, whether you are present or not. In either case, you will receive Notice of Hearing no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the hearing notifying you of the specific time, date, and location of the hearing. You are entitled, with or without requesting a formal hearing, to present any additional statements or materials you may wish.

The above proceeding is a quasi-judicial evidentiary hearing conducted by the Board pursuant to Chapter 150B of the General Statutes of North Carolina as required by G.S. § 90-340(e). You are entitled to present witnesses and introduce evidence on your own behalf and to cross-examine witnesses and examine evidence introduced on behalf of the Board. At the hearing, the Board will hear evidence regarding the charges set forth in this letter and will determine what, if any, disciplinary action should be taken against your license to practice counseling. You are entitled to be represented by an attorney of your choosing and at your expense, or you may represent yourself. The Board will be represented by counsel at such a hearing. Following the hearing, the Board will issue a final decision, pursuant to G.S. § 150B-42.

Should you have any questions about the procedure in such matters, or if you wish to discuss an informal resolution of this matter, you may direct them to the Board's counsel, Alesia M. Balshakova at abalshakova@ncdoj.gov.

Sincerely,



Nick DeJesus | LCMHCS

Ethics Consultant & Board Investigator

NC Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors

2-C Terrace Way | Greensboro, NC 27403

Phone: 336.268.6760 | Fax: 336.217.9450

dejesus@ncblcmhc.org

www.ncblcmhc.org

Cc: Melonie Davis, Executive Director