

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF LICENSED
CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH
COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
CHARISE COLEMAN, LCMHC,)
)
Respondent.)
)
Case No. 1796)

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 20 May 2020, 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 counselor¹ 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. During the time period beginning on or about 5 February 2019 through on or about 7 May 2019, Respondent provided counseling services as a licensed professional counselor to Client AM. While providing counseling services to Client AM, Respondent engaged in the following conduct without taking appropriate professional precautions and without Client AM’s consent: (a) hugged Client AM at the end of a session, (b) touched Client AM’s arm, temple, and the back of the head during a counseling session, in what Respondent claims was an intervention, (c) gave Client AM a brief kiss on the cheek as Client AM departed a counseling session, and (d) contacted Client AM after she had terminated counseling services with Respondent and despite the Client’s request not to contact her.
3. Respondent failed to properly document any of the above-referenced boundary extensions in her counseling notes.

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

4. Client AM has alleged that Respondent's actions caused her emotional distress. Respondent does not admit that Respondent's actions caused Client AM emotional distress or harmed the client.

5. Respondent admits that her conduct described in Paragraphs 2 through 5 above constitutes violations of Sections A.1.a., A.6.b., and A.6.c. of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014) and violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-340 (a)(7) and (a)(10) of the North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health 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 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.

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.

11. This Consent Order constitutes 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. Respondent is hereby REPRIMANDED by the Board.
- II. Respondent shall complete a total of nine (9) hours of continuing education coursework from a Board approved continuing education sponsor, as set forth in 21 NCAC 53.0603(c), in the following areas: six (6) hours in the area of ethics, which shall include three (3) hours in the

area of professional boundaries; and three (3) hours in the area of documentation/record keeping.

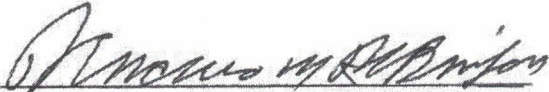
- III. Upon successful completion of this continuing education coursework, Respondent shall submit a certificate of completion provided by the continuing education sponsor to the Board. This requirement shall be in addition to the continuing education coursework required for all licensees under 21 NCAC 53.0603. All costs associated with this continuing education shall be borne by Respondent. Respondent shall complete this continuing education within one year from the date the Board executes this Consent Order.
- IV. The failure of Respondent to abide by any provisions of this Consent Order, if proven true by a preponderance of the evidence following notice and an opportunity for hearing, may result in the suspension, revocation, or other disciplinary action against Respondent's license, in the Board's discretion.
- V. The Board will maintain this Consent Order as a public record pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§132-1 and 90-340(f) and will provide copies to the American Counseling Association and the National Board of Certified Counselors, and to other agencies or individuals as required by law.
- VI. The Board will not assess costs against Respondent under N.C. Gen. Stat. §90-340(c) as a result of this disciplinary action.
- VII. The Board will not, as a result of this disciplinary action, initiate any action against Respondent under N.C. Gen. Stat. §90-341.

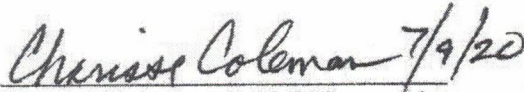
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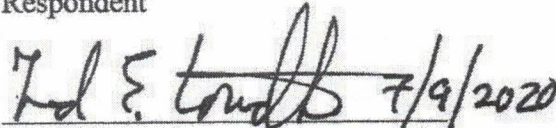
This the 24 day of JULY, 2020.

CONSENTED TO BY:

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF
LICENSED CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

BY: 
Denauvo Robinson, Ed. D., LCMHCS date
Board Chairperson

 7/9/20
Charise Coleman, LCMHC date
Respondent

 7/9/2020
Ted E. Corvette date
Law Offices of Ted E. Corvette
Attorney for Respondent