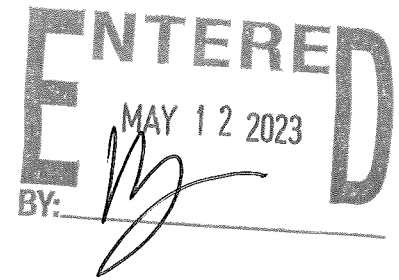


Commonwealth of Kentucky
Board of Social Work
Case Nos. 2021-25 and 2022-11



In Re: The License to Practice Social Work in the Commonwealth of Kentucky held by
Christa Della Bella, LCSW, License No. 4030

Amended Agreed Order

Come now the Kentucky Board of Social Work ("the Board"), and Christa Della Bella, LCSW, ("the Respondent"), and, based upon their mutual desire to fully and finally resolve this pending matters in an expeditious manner, without the need for an evidentiary hearing regarding a Formal Complaint filed January 10, 2023, in Agency Case No. 2022-11, Administrative Action No. 2023-KBSW-0023, and notice of evidentiary hearing pursuant to KRS 335.155, **hereby enter into** the following **Amended Agreed Order**:

Stipulation of Facts in Agency Case No. 2021-25

The parties stipulate to the following facts in Agency Case No. 2021-25, which serve as the factual bases for this Amended Agreed Order:

1. The Respondent was duly licensed by the Board to practice clinical social work within the Commonwealth of Kentucky upon issuance of Respondent's license on March 30, 2015.
2. On or about April 20, 2021, the Board received a written initiating complaint filed by Laura Doll ("Ms. Doll"), stating Ms. Doll was a client of the Respondent and that the Respondent had cancelled one session and Ms. Doll was unable to reach the Respondent for a period of time without formal termination or referrals made pursuant to 201 KAR 23:080 Section 12.

3. On or about April 23, 2021, the Board received a response from the Respondent in which the Respondent stated Ms. Doll was a client beginning on February 12, 2021, when the Respondent completed an intake session with Ms. Doll. The Respondent stated the Respondent had experienced a personal mental health emergency and was unable to work effectively. The Respondent outlined the steps the Respondent had taken to resolve the matter but did admit the Respondent did not make contact with Ms. Doll for approximately one month, and that the Respondent had not offered Ms. Doll appropriate referrals to other providers while the Respondent was unable to work.

4. On May 11, 2021, the Board's complaint committee reviewed the case file and recommended an agreed order to resolve this matter, in lieu of the issuance of a formal complaint and notice of evidentiary hearing. The Board approved the terms of the agreed order by unanimous vote.

Stipulation of Facts in Agency Case No. 2022-11

The parties further stipulate to the following facts in Agency Case No. 2022-11, which also serve as the factual basis for this Amended Agreed Order:

5. On or about July 27, 2021, the parties entered into an Agreed Order resolving the allegations contained in Agency Case No. 2022-11.

6. On or about May 6, 2022, the Respondent obtained a favorable letter opinion by a Licensed Psychologist after a psychotherapy intake; the Respondent has also been under the regular care of a Psychiatric Mental Health Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner ("PMH-APRN) for psychiatric medication management and has

maintained emotional stability; however, that documentation was not presented to the Board.

7. Therefore, upon further follow up with the Respondent's alleged non-compliance with the terms and conditions of that Agreed Order, the Board filed its own Initiating Complaint per 201 KAR 23:150 § 3(1)(d) in writing dated on or about March 9, 2022;

8. On or about March 23, 2022, the Respondent timely filed a Response to the Initiating Complaint;

9. Thereafter, the Board filed another Notice of Administrative Hearing and Administrative Complaint dated on or about January 10, 2023;

Stipulated Conclusions of Law in Agency Case No. 2021-25

The parties stipulate the following Conclusions of Law, which serve as the legal bases for this Amended Agreed Order:

1. During the period from February 12, 2021, to the present, the Respondent's Kentucky social work license was active and subject to regulation and discipline by the Board.

2. Pursuant to 201 KAR 23:080 § 3 and § 12, a social worker has a duty to promote the well-being of their clients and to make a timely and appropriate referral of a client for a social work service if the social worker is unable to provide that service themselves.

3. Based upon the Stipulation of Facts in Agency Case No. 2021-25, the Respondent has engaged in conduct that violates the provisions of KRS 335.150 and

201 KAR 23:080, §§ 3 and 12. Accordingly, there are legal grounds for the parties to enter into this Amended Agreed Order.

4. Pursuant to KRS 335.150(4), the parties may fully and finally resolve this pending matter without the filing of a formal complaint and an evidentiary hearing by entering into informal resolution such as this Amended Agreed Order.

Stipulated Conclusions of Law in Agency Case No. 2022-11

The parties stipulate the following Conclusions of Law, which serve as the legal bases for this Amended Agreed Order:

5. During the period from February 12, 2021, to the present, the Respondent's Kentucky social work license was active and subject to regulation and discipline by the Board.

6. Based upon the Stipulation of Facts in Agency Case No. 2022-11 and the provision of the favorable letter opinion by a Licensed Psychologist, the Board makes no finding of any subsequent or additional violation of KRS Chapter 335 *et. seq.*, or the administrative regulations thereunder.

Amended Agreed Order

Based upon the foregoing Stipulations of Facts and Stipulated Conclusions of Law, and based upon the parties' mutual desire to fully and finally resolve this pending matter without an evidentiary hearing, the parties enter into the following **Amended Agreed Order**:

1. The Board hereby supersedes the Agreed Order entered July 21, 2021, and all its terms and conditions, and replaces that document with this Amended Agreed Order.

2. The Respondent agrees to maintain mental health treatment and psychiatric medication under an appropriate plan of care with the Respondent's PMH-APRN and so long as such treatment is recommended and in accord with the plan of care.

3. The Respondent shall not further violate any provision of KRS 335.010-335.160 or 201 KAR 23:080.

4. The Respondent shall cooperate with Board in determining compliance with the provisions of this Amended Agreed Order, specifically including ¶ 2, immediately above, and ¶ 5, immediately below, and upon written request shall sign an appropriate Release or Authorization for the Board or its employees and agents to obtain a written summary of the state of the Respondent's compliance with ¶ 2, immediately above, directly from the Respondent's PMH-APRN.

5. In addition, the Respondent shall, on or before May 31, 2023, submit to and complete a hair follicle screen for both alcohol and drug use (including an extended opiate panel), at the cost of the Board; the Board shall designate at least one facility in Jefferson County, Kentucky, for the Respondent to complete this hair follicle screen, and the Respondent shall sign a release or authorization to allow the results to be provided to the Board, and for which the Respondent shall in addition provide a true and accurate copy of the results of the hair follicle screen to the Board within five three (3) days of receipt by the Respondent;

6. The Respondent freely and voluntarily enters into this Amended Agreed Order, motivated only by a desire to resolve the issues addressed herein, and has executed this Amended Agreed Order only after a careful reading of it, and consultation with an

attorney of the Respondent's own choosing should the Respondent so desire, and a full understanding of all of its terms; that the Respondent is fully aware of and expressly waives the right to contest charges in a formal hearing pursuant to KRS 335.155, the right to obtain judicial review of the Board's decision, and the right to appeal any final order of the Board to the Franklin Circuit Court as otherwise allowed by KRS 335.155(3).

7. The Respondent acknowledges the Board has jurisdiction over the Respondent and the conduct that precipitated this Amended Agreed Order; that the Board has the legal power to take disciplinary action up to and including revocation of the Respondent's license to practice social work in Kentucky; and the Respondent further acknowledges the Board shall retain jurisdiction over this matter until all terms and conditions set forth in this Amended Agreed Order have been met to the satisfaction of the Board.

8. This Amended Agreed Order is considered a public document, available for inspection at any time by any member of the public under the Kentucky Open Records Act.

9. This matter shall not constitute additional disciplinary action or a subsequent disciplinary action that may be reportable under state or federal law, but shall constitute a replacement of the prior Agreed Order with new terms and conditions.

10. The Respondent expressly understands that any violation of the terms of this Amended Agreed Order shall provide the legal basis for additional disciplinary action and shall constitute failure to comply with an order of the Board under

KRS 335.150(1)(f), and for which the Board may impose additional penalties available under law after notice and an opportunity to be heard.

11. This Amended Agreed Order shall be governed in all respects, whether as to validity, construction, capacity, performance or otherwise, in accord with the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Furthermore:

a. Any dispute arising hereunder shall be settled by a state court of appropriate jurisdiction in Franklin County, Kentucky. The parties irrevocably consent to the personal jurisdiction and venue of such court.

b. This Amended Agreed Order may not be modified except by a written agreement signed by the parties.

12. In consideration of execution of this Amended Agreed Order, Respondent, the Respondent's executors, administrators, successors and assigns, hereby release and forever discharge the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Board of Social Work, and each of its members, agents, attorneys, and employees in their individual and representative capacities, from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, known and unknown, that the Respondent ever had, now has, may have, or claim to have against any or all of the persons or entities named in this paragraph arising out of, or by reason of this investigation, this disciplinary action this Amended Agreed Order, or its administration.

Upon consideration of this Amended Agreed Order by the Board, it is hereby
ordered the terms of this Amended Agreed Order are approved and adopted.

So ordered this the 12th day of May, 2023.

The Respondent:

Christa Della Bella, LCSW

Christa Della Bella, LCSW

The Respondent

5/12/23

Date:

For the Board of Social Work:

Whitney Cassidy-Caywood

Whitney Cassidy-Caywood, Ph.D., LCSW
Chair, Kentucky Board of Social Work

Date:

5/11/23

Mark R. Brengelman, Attorney at Law
Board Counsel

Date:

May 12, 2023

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify a copy of the Amended Agreed Order was mailed by regular first class mail
on this 12th day of May, 2023, to:

Christa Della Bella, LCSW
1387 Lexington Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40205
The Respondent

Upon consideration of this Amended Agreed Order by the Board, it is hereby
ordered the terms of this Amended Agreed Order are approved and adopted.

So ordered this the 12th day of May, 2023.

The Respondent:

Christa Della Bella, LCSW
The Respondent

Date: _____

For the Board of Social Work:

Whitney Cassity-Caywood
Whitney Cassity-Caywood, Ph.D., LCSW
Chair, Kentucky Board of Social Work

Date: 5/11/23

Mark R. Brengelman
Mark R. Brengelman, Attorney at Law
Board Counsel

Date: _____

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify a copy of the Amended Agreed Order was mailed by regular first class mail
on this 12th day of May, 2023, to:

Christa Della Bella, LCSW
1387 Lexington Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40205
The Respondent

Mark R. Brengelman, Attorney at Law
306 West Main Street
The McClure Building, Suite 503
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Board Counsel

[Signature]
Board Administrator