



Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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ADJUDICATION ORDER in the Matter of:

Christina Guzzo
661 Manchester Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44509

IN THE MATTER OF CHRISTINA GUZZO TO PRACTICE AS A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR IN THE STATE OF OHIO.

THE MATTER OF CHRISTINA GUZZO CAME BEFORE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE COUNSELOR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF THE OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD ON JANUARY 17, 2019: DR. MATHEW PAYLO, DR. RAYMOND LOSEY, DR. CHRISTIN JUNGERS, AND SUE POHLER.

FINDINGS, ORDER, AND JOURNAL ENTRY

This matter came for consideration after a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was issued to Ms. Guzzo by the Counselor Professional Standards Committee on September 14, 2018.

Pursuant to R.C. 119.07 licensees are entitled to a hearing before the Board if such a hearing is requested within thirty days of the mailing of the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. In this case, Ms. Guzzo failed to make a timely request for such a hearing, therefore pursuant to *Goldman v. State Medical Board of Ohio*, 110 Ohio App.3d 124, 673 N.E.2d 677 (1996) the case was presented to the Counselor Professional Standards Committee on January 17, 2019.

Summary of Evidence

State's Exhibits

1. Affidavit prepared by William L. Hegarty, Deputy Director, State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.
2. Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Ms. Guzzo dated September 14, 2018.

3. E-mail between the Board's investigator and Ms. Guzzo

Conclusions of Law

Ohio Revised Code Sections 4757.36(C) (1) provides that the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board may take disciplinary action against a licensee who has violated any provision of the Board's statute or rules. Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-11-01C(18) states that the Board can discipline a licensee who fails to cooperate in an investigation into their license.

Discussion and Findings

As required in the case of *Goldman v. State Medical Board of Ohio*, 110 Ohio App3d 124, 673 N.E.2d 677 (1996) all cases where a Board issues a Notice for Opportunity for Hearing and the individual does not request a hearing, the Board still must review evidence presented to it and make specific findings of fact. In this case, Christina Guzzo did not request a hearing after receipt of her Notice for Opportunity for Hearing.

The Counselor Professional Standards Committee has reviewed the evidence prepared in this case. The Committee finds Ms. Guzzo failed to cooperate in an investigation into her license after a meeting was scheduled on two separate occasions and she failed to appear. She never followed up with the Board to ascertain the status of the complaint. Based on this, the Committee orders that Ms. Guzzo's license to practice as a licensed professional counselor (C.1300290) is **REVOKED**. As Ordered by the Counselor Professional Standards Committee of the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board. This decision was by a unanimous vote of the Board members who reviewed and voted on the case.

It is hereby certified by this Board that the above language is incorporated into the Board's journal in this matter.

APPEAL RIGHTS

Ohio Revised Code Section 119.12 may authorize an appeal from this Order. Such an appeal must be commenced by the filing of a Notice of Appeal with the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board and in the court of common pleas of the county in which the licensee is a resident. If the party appealing from the order is not a resident of any County, the party may appeal to the court of common pleas of Franklin County. The Notice of Appeal must set forth the order appealed from and state that the agency's order is not supported by reliable, probative, and substantial evidence and is not in accordance with the law. The Notice of Appeal may, but need not, set forth the specific grounds of the party's appeal beyond the statement that the agency's order is not supported by reliable, probative, and substantial evidence and is not in

accordance with law. Both Notices of Appeal must be received at the office of the Board and filed with the applicable court within fifteen (15) days after mailing of this notice of the agency's order, and in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 119.12.

By Order of the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.



Brian Carnahan
Executive Director

January 18, 2019

Date

Certified Mail Receipt #7003 0500 0002 4316 3846 and by certificate of mailing

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
CHRISTINA GUZZO
AND THE
STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD**

REC'D CSWMFT BOARD
MAR 2 '18 AM 10:05

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between **CHRISTINA GUZZO**, hereinafter, "**GUZZO**," and the STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD, hereinafter "**BOARD**," the state agency charged with enforcing Chapter 4757 of the Ohio Revised Code and all rules promulgated thereunder.

GUZZO hereby acknowledges that she has read and understands this CONSENT AGREEMENT and has voluntarily entered into it without threat or promise by the **BOARD** or any of its members, employees or agents.

GUZZO is fully aware of her rights, including her right to be advised by counsel and her right to a hearing pursuant to Chapter 119 of the Ohio Revised Code on the issues which are the subject of this CONSENT AGREEMENT.

This CONSENT AGREEMENT contains the entire agreement between the parties, based on the Board's investigation, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies the terms of this CONSENT AGREEMENT.

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into on the basis of the following stipulations, admissions and understandings:

1. **GUZZO** is a licensed professional counselor (C.1300290) licensed to practice counseling in the State of Ohio, and is subject to the laws and rules of Ohio regulating the practice of counseling as outlined in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4757 and Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4757. **GUZZO** received her professional counselor license on July 2, 2015.
2. In 2015 and 2016, while employed at a mental health agency in Warren, Ohio **GUZZO** overly shared aspects of her personal life with co-workers which made these co-workers very uncomfortable. **GUZZO'S** actions constitute a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-02(F).
3. In 2015 and 2016, while employed at a mental health agency in Warren, Ohio **GUZZO** blurred her professional boundaries with a client of an agency by showing the client a picture from her personal Facebook account. This would not have benefitted the

client. GUZZO'S actions constitutes a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-03(A).

4. GUZZO admits the allegations referenced in paragraphs 2-3 above.

Wherefore, in consideration of the foregoing and mutual promises hereinafter set forth, and in lieu of any other formal disciplinary proceedings, GUZZO knowingly and voluntarily agrees with the BOARD to the following terms and conditions:

1. GUZZO must be supervised in all aspects of her counseling practice and receive face to face supervision at the rate of one hour every 20 hours worked, based on a 40 hour work week, for a one-year period. If GUZZO is not working full time, this supervision requirement will be extended indefinitely until GUZZO completes the equivalent of one year of full time employment. GUZZO'S supervisor must be pre-approved by the Board. GUZZO'S supervisor must be an on-site supervisor at the agency where GUZZO is employed. All costs, if any, associated with the supervision are at GUZZO'S expense. The request for supervisor approval must be made in writing and include a copy of the supervisor's *curriculum vitae*. Supervision should focus on, but not limited to, ethical decision making, personal accountability, record keeping, professional boundaries and treatment issues.

Supervision should be considered training in nature and should not be limited to simply approving or denying case plans. GUZZO'S supervisor must submit reports every other month to the BOARD for the entire supervision period detailing topics discussed in supervision sessions, areas of concern, and areas of improvement and make a recommendation with regards to GUZZO'S suitability to practice.

It is GUZZO'S responsibility to ensure that the BOARD receives all supervision reports. If at any time GUZZO'S supervisor believes that GUZZO'S ability to practice as professional counselor is compromised, she/he must report this to the BOARD immediately. GUZZO'S failure to obtain the mandatory supervision at the required rate shall be considered non-compliant with this requirement.

2. GUZZO must take three (3) hours of continuing counselor education in the area of professional boundaries. These hours must be pre-approved in writing in advance by the Board's Deputy Director or his designee. After GUZZO completes these hours, she must submit a copy of her attendance certificate(s) to verify her attendance for these hours. These hours must be completed and verification submitted no later than September 16, 2018. The credit earned from these hours may not be used toward the thirty (30) hours of continuing education for license renewal. All costs associated with the CEUs are at the expense of GUZZO.

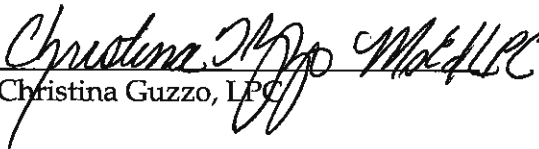
It is hereby agreed by and between both parties that this CONSENT AGREEMENT hereby settles all issues concerning this matter.

By her signature on this CONSENT AGREEMENT, GUZZO acknowledges that in the event the BOARD, in its discretion, does not approve this CONSENT AGREEMENT, this settlement offer is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action or appeal by either party. MOORE agrees that should the BOARD reject this CONSENT AGREEMENT and if this case proceeds to hearing, she will assert no claim that the BOARD was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this CONSENT AGREEMENT or of any information relating thereto.


GUZZO hereby releases the members of the BOARD, its officers and employees, jointly and severally, from any and all liability arising from the matter within.

This CONSENT AGREEMENT shall be considered a public record as that term is used in Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code. All parties to this Consent Agreement understand that this information will be sent to the United States Department of Health and Human Services' National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB), pursuant to Title IV of Public Law 99-660, the Healthcare Quality Improvement Act of 1986, as amended; Section 1921 of the Social Security Act; and Section 1128E of the Social Security Act, as amended by Section 221(a) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The BOARD shall incorporate this CONSENT AGREEMENT into a formal journal entry at its March 2018, meeting.

This CONSENT AGREEMENT shall take effect upon the date of the BOARD Chair's signature below:


Christina Guzzo, LPC

2-26-18
Date


Erin Michel, MSW, LSW
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

3/15/18
Date