

Before The  
N.H. Board of Mental Health Practice  
Concord, N.H. 03301

In The Matter of:

Joanne Groetzinger, LCMHC  
(Adjudicatory/Disciplinary Proceeding)

Docket No. 14-004

**Decision and Order**

*Introduction*

This proceeding was commenced on June 20, 2014, to determine whether Joanne Groetzinger, LCMHC (“the Respondent”) has engaged in professional misconduct by failing to ensure that quarterly reports were sent by her supervisor, in violation of Paragraph 8 C of the Settlement Agreement issued by the Board on September 28, 2012. On June 20, 2014, the board held a hearing at which the Licensee appeared and participated. The Presiding Officer was Board Chairperson Jane Power Kilcoyne, Ed.D., public member. Board Members participating were Shawn J. Hassell, MS, licensed marriage and family member, Joseph P. Nadeau, public member, Richard Phelps, MSW, licensed independent clinical social worker and substitute Board members, as allowed by RSA 330-A:9, Joni Staigers Haley, MS, licensed marriage and family therapist and David Renouf, M.Ed., licensed clinical mental health counselor.

*Background*

On September 28, 2012 Ms. Groetzinger entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve an allegation of unethical conduct with regard to dual relationships and fees and bartering. The Settlement Agreement required the Respondent to participate in two years of supervision commencing on September 28, 2012. The Agreement also required Ms. Grotzinger

to ensure the Respondent's supervisor at Riverbend Community Mental Health, Thomas Peters, Ph.D. provided the Board with reports every three months to the Board for two years beginning September 28, 2012.

The specific issues to be determined at the hearing included:

- 1) Whether the Respondent engaged in professional misconduct by failing to ensure that quarterly reports were sent by her supervisor, in violation of Paragraph 8 C of the Settlement Agreement; and
- 2) Whether in light of the evidence presented in this proceeding, the Respondent should be subjected to one or more of the disciplinary sanctions authorized by RSA 330-A:27, II.

Discussion

The Board heard testimony from Ms. Groetzinger, LCMHC. Ms. Groetzinger testified that she did not dispute the following:

1. On September 28, 2012, the Respondent entered into a formal Settlement Agreement with the Board. As relevant to this disciplinary proceeding the 2012 Settlement Agreement required the Respondent ensure her supervisor at Riverbend Community Mental Health (or such other entity for which Respondent should become employed should she leave the employ of Riverbend Community Mental Health) provide quarterly reports to the Board discussing topics including, but not limited to, Respondent's professional performance, competence and judgment.
2. On November 20, 2012 the Board notified the Respondent that it had not received the first quarterly report from her supervisor at Riverbend and that the Board will allow ten days to come into compliance. The Board received a report from Thomas Peters, Ph.D., Supervisor, on December 5, 2012.
3. On February 19, 2013 the Board received a second report from Dr. Peters. The report was received on time.
4. On October 24, 2013 the Board notified the Respondent that it had not received a report from Dr. Peters since February 2013 and that The Board will allow fourteen days to come into compliance.

5. On November 7, 2013 the Board received a letter from Dr. Peters with quarterly reports attached for the period of February 19, 2013 to April 30, 2013 and May 1, 2013 to July 31, 2013.
6. The Board has not received any reports for supervision taking place after July 31, 2013.

Ms. Groetzinger also testified that she thought the agreement was for one year. Dr. Thomas Peters testified that he did provide supervision to Ms. Groetzinger, however, he misunderstood his requirements in writing the reports.

Findings and Conclusion

The Board finds the Respondent to be in violation of her Settlement Agreement by failing to ensure that quarterly reports were sent by her supervisor. Due to this professional misconduct, the Board voted to impose the following discipline, pursuant to RSA 330-A:27, II.

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED that Respondent is **reprimanded**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall pay a fine of \$175, which is the cost of the stenographer for the hearing; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall ensure that all reports, past due, and yet to be due, are filed by the following dates.

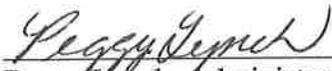
1. Report for the period August 1, 2013 to October 31, 2013 shall be filed by July 17, 2014
2. Report for the period of November 1, 2013 to January 31, 2014 shall be filed by July 17, 2014
3. Report for the period of February 1, 2014 to April 30, 2014 shall be filed by July 17, 2014
4. Report for the period of May 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014 shall be filed by August 14, 2014
5. Report for the period of August 1, 2014 to September 28, 2014 by October 14, 2014.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall become a permanent part of the Respondent's file, which is maintained by the Board as a public document.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall take effect as an Order of the Board on the date it is signed by an authorized representative of the New Hampshire Board of Mental Health Practice.

By Order of the Board\_\*/

Dated: May 26, 2014

  
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Peggy Lynch, Administrator  
Authorized Representative of the  
Board of Mental Health Practice

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\*/The following Board members did not participate: Howard A. Goodman, Ph.D., LCMHC, Dayl H. Hufford, D.Min., LPP and Kathleen Skinner Shulman, Ed.D., public member.