

**NORTH CAROLINA PSYCHOLOGY BOARD**  
**Board Action**  
**Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023**

For the fiscal year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023, the following are summaries of actions taken or confirmed by the North Carolina Psychology Board pursuant to G.S. §90-270.148 and G.S. §90-270.149:

**Byassee, James, Ph.D.** - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on November 4, 2022. The Board evidence would show that in December 2020, Client X, a 13-year-old child, was referred to Respondent by Client X's mother for psychological services regarding mental health issues. After meeting with Client X for 11 sessions of individual psychotherapy and parent collateral therapy, in April, 2021, Respondent began a psychological evaluation including the administration of psychological testing. Client X's mother has at no point in time received the psychological evaluation report for Client X. This resulted in harm to Client X because the appropriate recommendations were not received by the school until the next school year and Client X continued to experience difficulties in school during this period of delay. Respondent denies the Board evidence. The Board concludes that this conduct, if proven at a hearing, would constitute a violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.148(a)(15) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act.

This Consent Order shall constitute a **CONDITION** on Respondent's license. Respondent will not provide psychological testing administration and interpretation or conduct psychological evaluations of any kind. Respondent may continue to engage in the following:

- a. conducting assessments and determining diagnoses and treatment plans;
- b. using, administering, and interpreting checklists, screening tests, questionnaires, or rating scales; and
- c. using, administering, and interpreting follow-up checklists, screening tests, questionnaires, and rating scales to measure and/or track patient progress.

If Respondent determines that a client needs psychological testing administration and interpretation, or a psychological evaluation, he shall refer the client to another psychologist to conduct the psychological evaluation.

**Cochran, Robert, Psy.D.** - At its meeting on November 4, 2022, the Board determined Respondent was not fit to practice psychology at that time and decided to revoke his license, pursuant to Paragraph III. of his Consent Order with the Board, dated May 11, 2022. No later than December 10, 2022, Respondent shall terminate psychological services to all of your patients/clients and shall make provisions for the appropriate transition of his patients/clients to another mental health provider, as appropriate.

**Giarmo, Christine, Psy.D.** - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on May 19, 2023. Respondent was appointed by the Court to conduct a child custody evaluation, which she did not

complete until 2 years and 4 months after the child custody evaluation was ordered by the Court. Respondent explained that a number of personal issues contributed to the delay in completing the child custody evaluation report, but Respondent did not contact the Court, the attorneys, or the clients in this case to inform them of the delays in order to allow the Court to make alternative plans regarding having the evaluation completed. Respondent was aware of the increasing severity of the two minor sons' behavior throughout the over two-year evaluation process. Respondent understands now the potential negative effects a delay in completing the evaluation could potentially have caused for the family, which could have put the minor children at increased risk. Respondent's therapy services were never questioned or deemed problematic in any way. As a result of a conflict of interest, Respondent's child custody evaluation report was disqualified by the Court and could not be used, which was harmful for the clients. The Board concludes that the conduct, if proven at a hearing, would constitute violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(11), (a)(14), and (a)(15) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and constitutes violations of Standards 3.05, 3.06, and 3.09 of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (*American Psychological Association, 2017*).

This Consent Order shall constitute a CONDITION on Respondent's license. Respondent shall permanently cease to conduct forensic psychological evaluations of any kind, including child custody evaluations, parental capacity or parental fitness evaluations, or any evaluation in a court involved matter. If Respondent learns that a case she is already involved in requires a forensic evaluation, she shall immediately refer the matter to another psychologist to conduct the forensic evaluation. Respondent's website or other advertisement of her psychological services needs to remove any statements that she provides any of the above set forth services. The previous Consent Order that Respondent entered into with the Board, dated August 6, 2021, shall remain in effect in all respects except Respondent is no longer required to complete a graduate level course in psychological assessment, as required by the previous Consent Order, because Respondent shall permanently cease to conduct all forensic evaluations.

**Judd, Terrence D., M.A.** - FINAL DECISION denying application for licensure was approved and signed on May 19, 2023. On February 9, 2023, the Board held a hearing regarding Mr. Judd's application for licensure. Mr. Judd (Petitioner) did not appear at the hearing and it was held in his absence. The denial was based on a determination that Petitioner's master's program from Fielding Graduate University did not fully meet the educational criteria for licensure at the Licensed Psychological Associate level, as set forth in G.S. § 90-270.145(b), and Board Rule 21 NCAC 54 .1802, for several reasons. Petitioner's master's program did not have a body of students in residence at the physical campus of the institution who are matriculated in that program for a degree, as required by 21 NCAC 54 .1802(a)(3). Petitioner's master's program did not have a full-time psychology faculty employed in residence at the physical campus of the institution, sufficient in size and breadth to carry out its responsibilities, employed by and providing instruction at the physical campus of the institution, as required by 21 NCAC 54 .1802(a)(4). Petitioner's master's program did not encompass the equivalent of a minimum of one academic year of graduate study in student residence at the institution from which the degree is granted, as required by 21 NCAC 54 .1802(a)(7).

**Muhammad, Malik, Ph.D.** - FINAL DECISION was approved and signed on July 29, 2022. On February 2, 2022, Respondent was convicted of felony conspiracy to commit health care fraud and felony aggravated identity theft and he was sentenced to 52 months imprisonment. Once released from imprisonment, Respondent shall be on supervised release for three years and is required to pay restitution. Respondent defrauded the Virginia Medicaid program of at least \$544,067, and the North Carolina Medicaid Program of at least \$73,386, by creating false diagnoses and medical records and falsely representing to the Medicaid program that he was providing mental health services. Respondent's conduct violates N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(4), (a)(10) & (a)(11) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act and Standards 3.04(a), 6.04 (b) & (c), and 6.06(a) of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (2017). Respondent's license to practice psychology is REVOKED. He shall transfer all of this patient/client records to another psychologist licensed in North Carolina and he shall turn in his license, HSP-P certificate, renewal certificate, and wallet card to the Board office.

**Mathis, William, M.A.** - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on February 9, 2023. In January 2022, Respondent completed a psychological evaluation for Client X, a 3 year-old female, at a preschool due to social and emotional concerns and concerns regarding autistic tendencies. Respondent administered two outdated testing instruments. Respondent's psychological evaluation report for Client X did not include any statement that these instruments were out-of-date or of any potential limitations to the findings rendered from these instruments. When the complainant contacted Respondent by phone and attempted to informally resolve the observed issue of Respondent's use of the out-of-date instruments, among other concerns, Respondent did not cooperate with the complainant. When the Board, as part of the investigation into the complaint against Respondent, issued Respondent an Order for all records for Client X, Respondent did not produce these records, despite repeated requests to obtain them from Respondent. In addition, at the time of Client X's psychological evaluation, Respondent was not receiving supervision, despite this psychological evaluation being an activity that requires supervision, according to Board rules. Based on Board records, Respondent has not received supervision since at least December 1998, when Respondent's last supervision contract was filed with the Board indicating that Respondent would not be performing activities requiring supervision. Since that time, based upon Respondent's report, his primary practice activities have been completing psychological evaluations similar to Client X's evaluation in a preschool setting, which requires supervision. The conduct described above constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(10), (a)(15), (a)(17), (a)(18), & (a)(19) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act and constitutes violations of Standards 3.09, 6.01, 9.01(a) & (b), 9.02(a), and 9.08(a) & (b) of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (*American Psychological Association, 2017*). Respondent explains that none of the above described conduct was done with the intent to violate the above set forth provisions of the NC Psychology Practice Act or Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct.

In the Consent Order, Respondent VOLUNTARILY RELINQUISHES his license to practice psychology in North Carolina and the Board accepted his relinquishment. Respondent shall turn in his license to practice psychology in North Carolina to the Board office no later than March 10, 2023. Respondent shall not practice psychology, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.136(8),

after he relinquishes his license and Respondent agrees not to apply for re-licensure by this Board at any time in the future. This Consent Order constitute action by the Board against Respondent's license, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.148.

**Pulley, Carol, M.A.** - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on July 29, 2022. It was agreed to by the Board and Respondent that there were issues with Respondent's administration and interpretation of psychological testing that she conducted and with her psychological evaluation report. Some of the issues with Respondent's conduct included Respondent's psychological evaluation report did not specify the modifications that she made to the administration of psychological testing to accommodate for the remote administration or any potential limitations of the remote administration on the psychological testing results. In addition, there was no discussion in the psychological evaluation report regarding how Respondent determined Client X's diagnoses and the psychological tests administered were not sufficient to address the referral question. Respondent produced three additional psychological evaluation reports for other clients which were also administered remotely. None of these three reports included any statements regarding the potential limitations of the remote administration of the psychological testing measures. In addition, Respondent did not provide information about how she obtained the diagnoses given to each of the clients.

The conduct set forth in the Consent Order, constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(10), (a)(11), (a)(14), (a)(15), (a)(17) & (a)(18) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and constitutes violations of Standards 6.01 & 9.01 of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (*American Psychological Association, 2017*). Respondent's license shall be on PROBATION for at least one year during which Respondent shall meet the following conditions: Respondent shall successfully complete a minimum of eight to ten hours of tutorials. For a period of one year consisting of the completion of at least 50 psychological evaluations, whichever takes longer to occur, Respondent's Board designated supervisor shall submit quarterly reports to the Board, together with written narrative descriptions of Respondent's practice and response to supervision. For the first three months of this supervision, Respondent shall receive a minimum of one hour of individual face to face supervision during any week in which she practices psychology. For the remainder of the supervision, Respondent shall receive one hour of individual face to face supervision every two weeks.

**Sullivan, Brian Patrick, Ph.D.** - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on November 4, 2022. In September 2020, Respondent received a referral for Client X, a 6 year-old male, and conducted a psychological evaluation. Respondent administered the Weschler Intelligence Scale for Children-Third Edition (WISC-III) to assess intelligence, the Conners Parent Rating Scale-Third Edition (Conners-3) to assess behavioral functioning, and the Multidimensional Anxiety Scale for Children-Second Edition (MASC-2) to assess personality functioning. Based on the results of the psychological evaluation, Respondent reported that Client X met criteria for oppositional defiant disorder. The WISC-III was originally released in 1998, and is no longer supported by Pearson, which is the assessment publisher. The Weschler Intelligence Scale for Children-Fifth Edition (WISC-V), the current version of the WISC, was released in 2014. Respondent's psychological evaluation report does not specify the limitations of using the WISC-

III because of it being an outdated instrument or of any concerns about the validity of the testing results. Respondent does not provide any explanation of his decision to use the WISC-III instead of the current WISC-V. Respondent does not provide any reason consistent with current research or data as to why the WISC-III should be used instead of up to date and supported measures. Respondent used the MASC-2 with his 6 year-old client, when the client age range for use of the MASC-2 is 8-19 years old. Respondent's psychological evaluation report does not specify the limitations of the results, since it was administered to the parent of a child who was outside of the age range for use of the measure.

In the Consent Order, the Board orders and Respondent agrees that Respondent shall VOLUNTARILY RELINQUISH his license to practice psychology in North Carolina and the Board shall accept his relinquishment. Respondent shall turn in his license to practice psychology in North Carolina no later than December 1, 2022. No later than November 25, 2022, Respondent shall terminate psychological services to all of his patients/clients, and cease to engage in any other activities that meet the definition of the practice of psychology, and shall make provisions for the appropriate transition of his patients/clients to another mental health professional, as appropriate. Respondent shall not practice psychology, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.136(8), after he relinquishes his license unless he is relicensed by this Board. Should Respondent apply for relicensure in the future, he shall comply with certain conditions in order to be considered for relicensure, which include the completion of tutorials, and if he is relicensed his practice of psychology will be under supervision for a period of one year or the period of time it takes to complete 50 psychological evaluation reports, whichever takes longer to occur. The supervisor shall review all of Respondent's psychological evaluation reports to ensure that he is using current testing instruments.

**Stewart, Angela C., Ph.D.** - FINAL DECISION denying applications for licensure and for certification as a health services provider was approved and signed on May 19, 2023. On February 9, 2023, the Board held a hearing regarding Dr. Stewart's applications for licensure and for certification as a health services provider. Dr. Stewart (Petitioner) did not appear at the hearing and it was held in her absence. Following the hearing, the Board denied Dr. Stewart's applications for licensure and for certification as a health service provider. The denial was based upon a determination that Petitioner's doctoral program from Capella University did not fully meet the educational criteria for licensure at the Licensed Psychologist level, as set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.145(a)(3) and Board Rule 21 NCAC 54 .1803, for several reasons. Petitioner's doctoral program in psychology at Capella University did not "have a body of students in residence at the physical campus of the institution who are matriculated in that program for a degree," as required by 21 NCAC 54 .1803(a)(3). Petitioner's doctoral program did not have "a full-time psychology faculty employed in residence at the physical campus of the institution, sufficient in size and breadth to carry out its responsibilities, employed by and providing instruction at the physical campus of the institution," as required by 21 NCAC 54 .1803(a)(4). Petitioner's doctoral program did not "encompass the equivalent of a minimum of three academic years of full-time graduate study, two years of which are at the institution from which the degree is granted, and one year of which is in residence at the institution from which the degree is granted," as required by 21 NCAC

54 .1803(a)(7). Finally, Petitioner’s doctoral program did not include “practicum, internship, field experiences, or laboratory training related to the area of specialty and the practice of psychology. This experience shall be supervised by a licensed psychologist,” as required by 21 NCAC 54 .1803(a)(8).

**Watson, Nancy, Ph.D.** - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on February 9, 2023. Respondent has requested to RELINQUISH her license to practice psychology in North Carolina and the Board has agreed to accept her relinquishment. Respondent shall turn in her license to practice psychology in North Carolina and her Health Services Provider-Psychologist (HSP-P) certificate to the Board office no later than February 28, 2023. Respondent is no longer practicing psychology in North Carolina and has not practiced psychology in North Carolina since June 1, 2022. She has submitted documentation to the Board on a monthly basis reporting that she has not practiced psychology since that date. Respondent shall submit documentation establishing that all of her patient/client records are maintained by her previous hospital practice and that the hospital practice will continue to maintain the records in a secure and confidential manner. Respondent’s prior disciplinary action and conditions set forth in the May 7, 2021 Consent Order shall remain in effect, but any conditions in that Consent Order are placed on hold during the relinquishment of Respondent’s license unless Respondent is relicensed by the Board at a later date. Should Respondent apply for relicensure, her license shall be placed under the conditions set forth in the Consent Order dated May 7, 2021.

**Whitehead, Shenae, Ph.D.** - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on February 9, 2023. In January 2017, Respondent began providing individual psychotherapy to Client A, a minor, and provided family therapy to Client A, her siblings, and her parents. Approximately one month before Respondent terminated Client A’s psychological services in January 2020, after Client A turned 18 years old, Respondent considered adopting Client A. After a trial placement in Respondent’s home, Respondent decided not to adopt Client A.

In another matter in February 2019, Respondent provided a psychosexual assessment of Client B and C, both minors. Based on Respondent’s psychological evaluation report, Respondent’s purpose was to gather information in order to assess whether Client B and C had been exposed to sexual behaviors and to provide recommendations for their mental health treatment. During the course of the evaluation, Respondent administered psychological assessment tools to both parents. There was no documentation of informed consent by the parents regarding their own psychological testing and no indication that this testing was warranted to address the referral question. Respondent made clinical statements in her psychological evaluation report regarding the children’s mother, despite not completing a thorough psychological evaluation of the mother. Respondent made statement to law enforcement regarding the mother, despite not having sufficient information to reach the conclusions that she provided.

In another matter in August 2020, Respondent began providing individual psychotherapy to Client D, a minor, which was related to a custody dispute between her parents. In a letter written by Respondent, dated April 3, 2021, which was sent to DSS and provided to the court, Respondent made statements to suggest that Client D’s mother could meet criteria for a diagnosis of

Munchausen's syndrome by proxy, despite not having conducted a psychological evaluation of the mother. In the letter, Respondent also made specific recommendations regarding both Client D's and her brother's custody and visitation by their mother, despite not having completed a child custody evaluation, and despite not providing any psychological services to Client D's brother. This letter was used in court along with Respondent's testimony regarding the custody dispute between Client D's parents and negatively impacted the mother in the custody case. The conduct described above constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(10), (a)(11), (a)(14) & (a)(15) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and constitutes violations of Standards 3.04, 3.05, 3.06, 3.10(a), 9.01(a) &(b), 9.02(a), 9.03(a) & 9.06 of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (*American Psychological Association, 2017*).

In the Consent Order, Respondent's license was CENSURED. The supervision set forth in this Consent Order shall take place after completion of the supervision set forth in the Consent Order, dated November 4, 2021. For a period of two year consisting of at least 3000 hours of practice by Respondent in psychology, whichever takes longer to occur, Respondent's Board designated supervisor shall submit quarterly reports to the Board on the Board's Supervision Report form, together with written narrative descriptions of Respondent's practice and response to supervision. The focus of the supervision shall be on: appropriate assessment procedures and testimony practices; making statements within one's own experiences, knowledge base, and scope of practice; defining and staying within one's role; dual relationships; when it is inappropriate to make diagnostic statements; and how Respondent's conduct resulted in this action taken by the Board. Once Respondent has completed the supervision, Respondent shall submit an essay to the Board regarding what she has learned from supervision in order to avoid these issues from occurring in her practice in the future. After the passage of one year consisting of 1500 hours in the practice of psychology, whichever takes longer to occur, Respondent may petition the Board to be released from the supervision requirements set forth above. In addition, Respondent may reapply for licensure at the LP level once she has successfully complied with all of the terms of this Consent Order and the Consent Order, dated November 4, 2021. Once her application for licensed at the LP level is approved, she may take the national exam (EPPP).