

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

**IN THE MATTER OF
LAGATHA GERMINA TRAVERS
LICENSE NO. 9941**

**LABSWE COMPLAINT
NUMBER 2010-59(A)**

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Lagatha Germina Travers is a credentialed social worker subject to the jurisdiction and rules and regulations of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners (the Board); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a complaint and an administrative investigation, the social worker, Lagatha Travers, has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order as provided for in Rule No. 907 of the Board's Rules, Standards and Procedures and La. R.S. 49:955(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act; and

WHEREAS, the social worker, Lagatha Travers, has admitted the following:

- 1. Respondent, Lagatha Travers, (Ms. Travers) is and at all times pertinent to the facts and matters alleged herein, a Provisional Graduate Social Worker (Provisional GSW), credentialed by the Board to engage in the practice of social work in the State of Louisiana pursuant to the Social Work Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:2701 et seq., as evidenced by License No. 9941.**
- 2. At all times pertinent hereto, Ms. Travers was actively engaged in the practice of social work.**

3. Ms. Travers worked in the Department of Mental Health at Rayburn Correctional Center as a Provisional Graduate Social Worker from July 2, 2008 to September 24, 2009, at which time she resigned.
4. All inmates at the correctional facility are assigned a social worker near the time of their admission. If the social worker's services are required, an inmate may request to see his social worker in writing. If the inmate's assigned social worker is not available, another social worker will provide services to that client. In other words, all social workers at the correctional facility may potentially be required to provide clinical services to any given inmate, even if the inmate was not officially assigned to the social worker.
5. Ms. Travers sent Father's Day cards to an inmate. The hand-written portion of the note states, "To Daddy Pat, We can't wait to meet you and spend time with you. We look forward to you being our Dad." Ms. Travers' children have never met "Pat" and "Pat" is not their father.
6. Ms. Travers sent a Belated Father's Day card to the inmate. The hand written portion states, "Daddy Pat, We are going to give you a big smooch & a bear hug as soon as we see you. We love you already."
7. Ms. Travers sent a greeting card to the same inmate.
8. Ms. Travers sent two typed letters, dated September 7, 2009 and September 10, 2009, to the same inmate. Both letters revealed personal information about Ms. Travers. The September 7, 2009 letter included the statement, "I can't wait until you can begin to spend the many different holidays with us." The September 10, 2009 letter included the statement, "I love you...we love

you, and we are patiently waiting for you to come home to your family. You are my dear heart, now and forever!!! With love and devotion from your fiancée [sic].”

WHEREAS, by developing a personal relationship with an inmate at the correctional facility at which she was employed as a social worker, as evidenced by the several greeting cards and letters sent to the inmate, Ms. Travers has engaged in unprofessional or unethical conduct in violation of La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(11). The actions described above violate Rule 113(A) of the Board’s Rules, Standards and Procedures, which prohibits a social worker to use the professional relationship to advance the social worker’s emotional or personal needs. These actions further violate Rule 113(B)(1) regarding personal relationships with clinical/therapeutic clients.

WHEREAS, by sending greeting cards and typed letters to the inmate, Ms. Travers has violated Rule 113(A)(7) of the Board’s Rules, Standards and Procedures, which prohibits the giving or exchanging of inappropriate gifts or personal items between the social worker and the client, supervisee, or student.

WHEREAS, the credentialed social worker has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

WHEREAS, the undersigned Assistant Attorney General has conducted an interview with the respondent who has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

WHEREAS, the credentialed social worker agrees not to repeat the misconduct mentioned in this Consent Agreement and Order, and such repeated misconduct will be considered a violation of the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 49:955(D), the Board orders and Ms. Travers accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:958:

1. Ms. Travers agrees to voluntarily relinquish her social work license (no. 9941) and cease the practice of social work beginning from the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. If Ms. Travers wishes to become a licensed social worker again, she must reapply and pay the application fee. If granted a new license, the license will be subject to the conditions set forth in paragraphs 2-8.
2. Ms. Travers' social work license shall be placed on probation for a period of two years, commencing from the date she is granted a new license.
3. Ms. Travers shall complete one (1) hour of supervision of her social work practice every other week for a period of two (2) years by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) pre-approved by the Board. The supervision shall have an emphasis on appropriate boundaries with clients. Ms. Travers shall submit to the Board the name of the potential supervisor and his/her resume within fifteen (15) days of the date she is issued a new social work license. The potential supervisor

shall submit a letter to the Board stating his/her acceptance of the provision of said supervision and stating he/she is not, or previously has not been, professionally or personally affiliated with Ms. Travers prior to this request for supervision. The supervisor shall submit quarterly supervision reports to the Board documenting dates met for supervision, topics addressed and progress made in supervision. Ms. Travers is responsible for all costs associated with supervision.

4. Ms. Travers shall complete a total of nine (9) hours of continuing education on the subjects of boundaries, dual relationships and exploitation. This continuing education is in addition to the annual twenty (20) hours of continuing education required to maintain her social work license. Ms. Travers shall provide the Board with evidence of attendance within one (1) year of the date on which she is issued a new social work license.
5. Ms. Travers shall pass the Board's Open Book Examination on the Social Work Practice Act and Rules, Standards & Procedures within ninety (90) days of the date on which she is issued a new social work license.
6. Ms. Travers shall pay the investigative and legal costs associated with Complaint 2010-59(A) in the amount of \$841.88 (Eight Hundred Forty One Dollars and 88/100) within ninety (90) days of the date on which she is issued a new social work license. There shall be no pre-payment penalty.
7. Ms. Travers specifically acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order may result in a suspension or revocation of her

license. The admissions contained herein will be considered proven and the only issue will be failure to follow the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order.

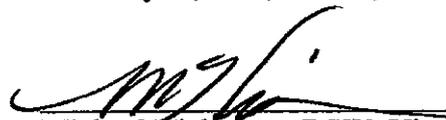
8. By agreeing to the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, Ms. Travers waives all rights to appeal this adjudication.

THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER is a matter of public record for violation of the above referenced sections of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and the Rules, Standards and Procedures. The terms of this Consent Agreement and Order may be published and reported, including but not limited to, the LABSWE Newsletter, the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), and the National Practitioner Data Bank-Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (NPDB-HIPDB).

THE ADMISSIONS AND FINDINGS CONTAINED HEREIN are intended solely for the purpose of resolving the case at hand or in connection with other matters before the Board involving Respondent.

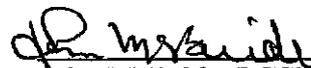
IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners has entered into this Consent Agreement and Order and executed same at Baton Rouge, Louisiana on this the 16th day of April, 2010.

Wade Tyler, PhD, LCSW, Chair

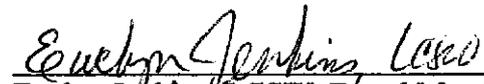


Michael Hickerson, RSW, Vice-Chair

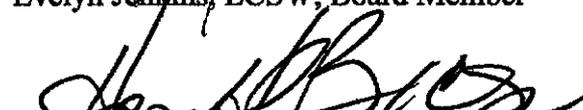
Roslyn Richardson, PhD, GSW, Secretary/Treasurer



John McBride, LCSW, Board Member

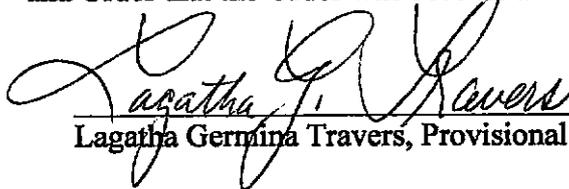


Evelyn Jenkins, LCSW, Board Member

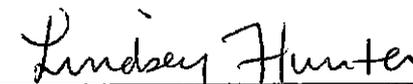


Hope Himmel-Benson, LCSW, Board Member

I, Lagatha Germina Travers, Provisional GSW, make these acknowledgments and waivers in support of a final disposition of the pending investigation of Complaint No. 2010-59(A) by Consent Agreement and Order (Order) pursuant to La. R.S. 49:955(D), in lieu of the institution and prosecution of formal administrative proceedings, and accordingly consent to the entirety of the Order set forth hereinbefore and further waive any right to which I may be entitled under the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act or any other law to contest, in any court, my agreement to this Order. By my subscription hereto, I also hereby authorize Evelyn Jenkins designated by the Board with respect hereto, as well as the legal counsel assisting her, to present this Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation of this matter. I herein waive any objection to such disclosure based on due process of law under either the State or Federal Constitution or under State statutory law, including La. R.S. 49:960. I expressly acknowledge that the disclosure of such information to the Board by Evelyn Jenkins or her legal counsel shall be without prejudice to the Assistant Attorney General's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint, or the Board's capacity to adjudicate such Administrative Complaint, should the Board decline to approve this Consent Agreement and Order. I further acknowledge my awareness that should the Board approve this Consent Agreement and Order that the Order will become a matter of public record.


Lagatha Germina Travers, Provisional GSW 4-16-10
Date

I do hereby acknowledge negotiation and preparation of this Consent Agreement and Order in order to resolve, with prejudice, all matters for which the social worker, Lagatha Germina Travers, Provisional GSW, could be charged under Complaint No. 2010-59(A), and further certify that this Consent Agreement and Order is consistent with the evidence, adequately addresses the complaint and represents a true and correct statement of that which could be proven at a hearing of this matter.


Emalie Boyce 4/16/10
Lindsey Hunter Date
Prosecutors