LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF

COMPLAINT NUMBER 2021-84

AMANDA LALLY

LICENSE NO. 15182

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Amanda Lally ("Ms. Lally") 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, Ms. Lally 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, Ms. Lally has admitted the following:

- 1. Ms. Lally is a Licensed Master's Social Worker ("LMSW"), licensed 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. 15182.
- 2. From June 17, 2020 to November 28, 2020, Ms. Lally contracted as a 1099 employee with Brandon P. Romano, Pys. D. and Associates located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to provide social work services/clinical services to clients.
- 3. Brandon P. Romano, Fys. D. and Associates is an agency as defined by La. R.S. 2703(1).

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- 4. From June 17, 2020 to November 28, 2020, Brandon P. Romano, Pys. D. and Associates did not provide direct remuneration to Ms. Lally or withhold taxes and other employee-paid benefits from wages paid to Ms. Lally.
- 5. From June 17, 2020 to November 28, 2020, while working for Brandon P. Romano, Pys. D. and Associates, Ms. Lally did not work as his employee in an agency setting.

WHEREAS, by contracting as a 1099 employee with Brandon P. Romano, Pys. D. and Associates to provide social work services/clinical services to clients from June 17, 2020 to November 28, 2020, Ms. Lally violated La. R.S. 37:2707(B) which is cause for disciplinary action pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(4);

WHEREAS, Ms. Lally has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

WHEREAS, the undersigned Assistant Attorney General has confirmed the respondent's desire to resolve this matter through a 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. Lally accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:958:

- 1. Ms. Lally shall pass the Board's Open Book Examination on the Social Work Practice Act and Rules, Standards & Procedures within ninety (90) days after the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. This exam is available on the Board's website at www.labswe.org.
- 2. Any supervision provided to Ms. Lally from June 17, 2020 to November 28, 2020, shall not count towards supervision required for licensing as a LCSW.

- The professional experience completed by Ms. Lally from June 17, 2020 to November 28, 2020 shall not count towards professional experience required for licensing as an LCSW.
- 4. Ms. Lally shall pay all legal costs associated with this complaint in the amount of FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$450.00) within one (1) year from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. The payments shall be made on a quarterly basis with the first payment due within ninety (90) days from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. Payments shall be made by credit card, certified check or money order. There shall be no prepayment penalty.
- 5. Ms. Lally specifically acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order may result in a denial, revocation, or suspension of any license, certificate, or registration issued by, or applied for, in accordance with La. R.S. 37:2717.

Waiver of Rights. Licensee is aware that she has the right to consult with an attorney of her choice and understands she has the right to an administrative hearing on the facts in this case. She understands and agrees that by signing this agreement, she is waiving her rights to a hearing. Further, she understands and agrees that she is relieving the prosecutor of any burden it has of proving the facts admitted above. Licensee further understands and agrees that by signing this agreement she is voluntarily and knowingly giving up her right to present oral and documentary evidence, to present rebuttal evidence, to cross-examine witnesses against her, and to appeal the Board's decision.

<u>Effect of Non Acceptance of Agreement</u>. Licensee and the prosecutor agree that this Consent Agreement and Order is subject to the approval of the Board. They agree that, if the Board rejects this agreement, it will be void, and an Administrative Complaint may be filed. If

this agreement is rejected by the Board it will not constitute a waiver of licensee's right to a hearing on the matters alleged in an administrative complaint and the admissions contained herein will have no effect. Licensee agrees that, if the Board rejects this agreement, the Board may decide the matter after a hearing, and its consideration of this agreement shall not alone be grounds for claiming that the Board is biased against him/her, that it cannot fairly decide the case, or that it has received ex parte communication.

Address of Board. All payments ordered and any reports required by this Consent Agreement and Order shall be addressed to: Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Agreement and Order shall take effect from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order, and is a public record of the Board. 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).

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The prosecutor acknowledges negotiation and preparation of this Consent Agreement and Order in order to resolve, with prejudice, all matters for which the social worker could be charged under Complaint 2021-84 and further certifies 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.

Jadeline Carlonette Assistant Attorney General

I, Amanda Lally, have read the Consent Agreement and Order, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions. I specifically acknowledge that failure to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order may result in revocation or suspension of my 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.

Prosecutor

DATED: 2 1 22

Amanda Lally Amanda Lally

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ORDER

The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, having examined the Consent Agreement and Order, Case No. 2021-84, adopted the Consent Agreement and Order in this matter.

DATED this 25 th day of March, 2022 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS
Ruth Weinzettle, LQSW-BACS
Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS
Carla Moore, LMSW
Ada Nelson, RSW LAC, MSW
Jan
Evan Bergeron, Consumer Member