Commonwealth of Kentucky
Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology
Agency Case No. 10-27
Administrative Action No. 11-KBEP-0049

Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology

v.

Larissa D. Roark, M.A.
(Temporary Licensed Psychological Associate No. 2010-53)

* * * * *

The Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology having met on November 10, 2011, hereby affirms, adopts, and incorporates the Settlement Agreement attached hereto.

It is so Ordered.

Dated this 10th day of November, 2011.

Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology

By: [Signature]
Thomas W. Miller, Ph.D., Chair
Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology

Certificate of Service

Copies mailed this 11th day of November, 2011, to:

Larissa D. Roark, M.A.
160 Greenfield Lane
Corbin, Kentucky 40701
Respondent

Mark Brengelman, Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
700 Capitol Avenue, Room 118
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-3449
Counsel, Board of Examiners of Psychology

Stuart W. Cobb, Hearing Officer
Office of the Attorney General -- East Office
Division of Administrative Hearings
1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 200
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-8204
Hearing Officer

Susan G. Leavenworth, J.D., Ph.D.
6450 Dutchman’s Parkway
Louisville, Kentucky 40205
Attorney for Respondent

Julie Jackson, Board Administrator
Commonwealth of Kentucky
Board of Examiners of Psychology
Agency Case No. 10-27
Administrative Action No. 11-KBEP-0049

Complainant

Commonwealth of Kentucky,
Board of Examiners of Psychology

v.

Settlement Agreement

Larissa D. Roark, M.A.
(Temporary Licensed Psychological Associate No. 2010-53)

Respondent

* * * * * * * * * * *

Whereas, the Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology (hereafter "Board") having investigated its own initiating complaint and having filed a Notice of Administrative Hearing and Order dated February 10, 2011, under KRS Chapters 319 and 13B (hereafter "Notice of Hearing") against Larissa D. Roark, M.A., 160 Greenfield Lane, Corbin, Kentucky 40701 (hereafter "Respondent"), and;

Whereas, for the purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the Respondent acknowledges the Board would prove by a preponderance of the evidence at a hearing before the Board as follows:

1) the Respondent violated KRS 319.082(1)(f) by violating KRS 319.005 by practicing psychology without a license. This violation involved the Respondent's providing mental health services to residents of Appalachian Children's Home and otherwise practicing psychology without a license before applying for a license from the Board.

Whereas, the Board acknowledges the Respondent acted in good faith and the violation admitted above was a result of having insufficient information by the Respondent; this violation does not imply any actual harm has been done to clients or patients by Respondent.

-1-
Whereas, the parties mutually desire to settle the matter in an expeditious manner without resorting to a disciplinary hearing; and

It is hereby stipulated and agreed between the undersigned parties that this matter shall be settled and resolved as follows:

**Jurisdiction**

The Respondent acknowledges the Board has jurisdiction over the Respondent and the conduct which has precipitated this Settlement Agreement.

The Respondent acknowledges the Board has the legal power and authority to take disciplinary action up to and including revocation of the Respondent’s credential.

The Respondent acknowledges the Board will retain jurisdiction over this matter until all terms and conditions set forth in this Settlement Agreement have been met to the satisfaction of the Board. The Respondent expressly indemnifies the Board for any costs incurred, including reasonable attorney fees, in enforcing any provision of this Settlement Agreement should the Board determine the Respondent has not met any term of this Settlement Agreement after notice and opportunity to be heard.

**Voluntary Waiver of Rights**

The Respondent has had the opportunity at all times to seek the advice from competent counsel of choice. No coercion has been exerted upon the Respondent, nor have any promises been made other than those reflected in this Settlement Agreement. The Respondent has freely and voluntarily entered into this Settlement Agreement, motivated only by a desire to resolve the issues addressed herein. The Respondent has executed this Settlement Agreement only after a careful reading of it and a full understanding of all of its terms. The Respondent waives the right
to challenge any agreed upon term or condition of this Settlement Agreement as set forth in “Effect Upon Credential Status” notwithstanding any other statutory provision of KRS Chapter 319, and the Respondent expressly agrees those agreed upon terms and conditions contained therein are exclusively a matter of private right.

The Respondent is fully aware of the Respondent’s rights to contest charges in a formal hearing. These rights include: representation by an attorney at the Respondent’s own expense, the right to a public hearing on any charges or allegations filed, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses called to testify against the Respondent, the right to present evidence on the Respondent’s own behalf, the right to compulsory process to secure the attendance of such witnesses, the right to testify on the Respondent’s own behalf, the right to receive written findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting the decision on the merits of the Formal Complaint, the right to obtain judicial review of the Board’s decision, and the right to appeal any final order of the Board to the Franklin Circuit Court as otherwise allowed by KRS 319.092(7). All of these rights are being voluntarily waived by the Respondent in exchange for the Board’s acceptance of this Settlement Agreement.

Costs

The Board and the Respondent shall each bear their own costs incurred in this matter, except as provided below.

Effect Upon Credential Status: Reprimand; Supervision meeting; Costs

The Respondent hereby agrees to the following disciplinary action:

1) The Respondent’s credential to practice psychology in the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall be reprimanded, with this Settlement Agreement constituting the reprimand;
2) The Respondent shall be assessed the amount of $500.00 as reimbursement for investigative and legal costs and $250.00 as a fine (total amount: $750.00), as well as the amount designated in ¶ 3(c), below when due, said amounts to the Board by certified check or money order made payable to "Kentucky State Treasurer" and mailed or tendered to the Board at Post Office Box 1360, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-1360, however, due to the undue financial hardship of the Respondent, the Board waives the Respondent's payment of the amount of $750.00 so long as the Respondent complies fully with all terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement, and;

3) The Respondent shall complete by December 15, 2012, the following continuing education, in lieu of supervision of the Respondent's practice as otherwise allowed by KRS 319.092 and 201 KAR 26:171 §§ 13 and 14:

a) a continuing education course(s) to be preapproved by the Board of a total of eight (8.0) clock hours covering KRS Chapter 319, 201 KAR Chapter 26, the Board's Code of Conduct at 201 KAR 26:145, Kentucky mental health law, ethical principles, and professional practice for the behavioral professional, at the cost of the Respondent; the parties hereby agree the following are preapproved by the Board -- the course "Kentucky Ethics: Guidelines, Regulations, and Cases" sponsored by Heisel and Associates, (6.0 hours) and at least two (2.0) hours of ethics continuing education or the oral examination preparation workshop, either of which is to be sponsored by the Kentucky Psychological Association to be held in approximately the month of November 2012, and;

b) this continuing education course shall not count for the continuing education hours already separately mandated by KRS Chapter 319 as a condition of licensure renewal for this renewal cycle, and;

c) the Respondent shall schedule a meeting to be held in person (to occur within thirty (30) days after completion of the above continuing education) of not less than two (2.0) clock hours with a licensed psychologist appointed in writing by the Board, at the cost of the Respondent of $150.00, in order to discuss with the licensed psychologist the Respondent's past and present practices and understanding of the ethics of the behavioral professional, and for the purpose of demonstrating that the Respondent's practice does not pose a risk to the public as a result of the violations admitted, above, and;

d) submit to the licensed psychologist appointed by the Board a written summary of at least five (5.0) typed pages the above continuing education course(s) prior to the scheduled meeting, sufficient to allow the examples in the course, as well as the Respondent's own experiences, to provide an informative structure to this review process, and;
e) the Respondent shall request the preapproval of the board in writing at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the course(s) to be taken by the Respondent to satisfy ¶ 3(a), above so the Board may approve the course and appoint a psychologist in accord with ¶ 3(c) and (d), above.

The Respondent shall cooperate at all times with the Board, Board members, the Board’s staff, and its agents who are engaged in the supervision and investigation of compliance with this Settlement Agreement.

The Respondent expressly understands failure to comply with and complete all terms of this Settlement Agreement shall constitute failure to comply with an Order of the Board under KRS 319.082(1)(h) for which the Board may impose additional penalties available under law after notice and opportunity to be heard as well as imposition of the fines and costs in the amount of $750.00 otherwise waived as provided in ¶ 2, above.

This action shall constitute disciplinary action against the credential of the Respondent.

Resolution of Pending Charges

The Board’s Notice of Administrative Hearing filed February 10, 2011, is hereby resolved.

Release of Liability

In consideration of execution of this Settlement Agreement, the Respondent, for the Respondent individually, the Respondent’s executors, administrators, successors and assigns, hereby releases and forever discharges the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Kentucky Board of Psychology, Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology, and the Kentucky Attorney General, and each of their members, agents and employees in their individual and representative capacities, from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, known and unknown, in law or equity, that
Respondent ever had, now has, may have or claim to have against any or all of the persons or entities named in this paragraph arising out of or by reason of this investigation, this Settlement Agreement, or its administration.

Acceptance by the Board

This Settlement Agreement, when executed by the Respondent, shall be presented to the Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board following receipt of the executed Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Agreement shall not become effective until it has been approved by a majority of the Board and endorsed by the Chair of the Board.

The Respondent understands the Board is free to accept or reject this Settlement Agreement. The Respondent hereby agrees to waive any right the Respondent might have to challenge, based solely on the presentation of this Settlement Agreement to the Board, the impartiality of the Board to hear this administrative action if, after review by the Board, this Settlement Agreement is rejected.

If the Settlement Agreement is not accepted by the Board, it shall be regarded as null and void. Representations and/or admissions by the Respondent in the Settlement Agreement, or other settlement proposals, will not be regarded as evidence against the Respondent at any subsequent disciplinary hearing. The Respondent will be free to defend and no inferences against the Respondent will be made from the willingness to have entered into this Settlement Agreement.
Open Records

The Respondent acknowledges this Settlement Agreement is subject to disclosure under the Kentucky Open Records Act, may be shared with any professional organization or licensing Board as the Board deems appropriate in its discretion, and shall be made public according to KRS 319.092(6) and 201 KAR 26:140 §12, and may be reported in accord with federal law as well as available via the Board’s website.

Complete Agreement

This Settlement Agreement and Order consists of eight (8) pages and embodies the entire agreement between the Board and the Respondent. This Settlement Agreement shall constitute a binding contract between the Respondent and the Board, subject only to approval by the Board as set forth above. The Respondent shall not rescind, revoke, or withdraw this Settlement Agreement prior to its presentation to the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. It may not be altered, amended or modified without the express written consent of both parties.

Have Seen, Understood and Approved:

Larissa D. Roark, M.A.
160 Greenfield Lane
Corbin, Kentucky 40701
Respondent
Date: 10/17/11

Susan G. Leavenworth, J.D., Ph.D., Attorney at Law
6450 Dutchman’s Parkway
Louisville, Kentucky 40205
Attorney for Respondent
Date: 10/17/11

Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology
By: [Signature]
Mark Brengelman, Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Capitol Avenue, Suite 118
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-3449
Phone: (502) 696-5627; Fax: (502) 564-6801
Counsel for the Board
Date: Nov. 10, 2011