

**BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO COUNSELING & THERAPY BOARD
FOR THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Case No. CT-17-27-COM

**JENNIFER CHAVEZ,
License No. CCMH0204851**

Respondent.

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board ("Board") received a complaint alleging that Jennifer Chavez ("Respondent") violated NMRA 16-27-18-16 as outlined in the Notice of Contemplated Action; and

WHEREAS, the Board found sufficient reason to vote to issue a Notice of Contemplated Action ("NCA") in Case No. CT-17-27-COM against Respondent; and

WHEREAS, the Board did issue an NCA against Respondent in Case No. CT-17-27-COM; and

WHEREAS, Respondent is willing to resolve this matter in an amicable fashion and without the need for a formal hearing as required pursuant to the Uniform Licensing Act ("ULA"); and

WHEREAS, Respondent and the Board agree that this is a compromise settlement of a disputed claim; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes this Stipulated Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is appropriate and in the best interests of the Board and Respondent;

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. **Jurisdiction.** Respondent is licensed under the Counseling and Therapy Practice Act, NMSA 1978, Section 61-9A-1 *et seq.* ("Act"), and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter.
2. **Violations.** Respondent acknowledges that this disciplinary action is based on allegations of violations of NMAC 16-27-18-16.
3. **Discipline.** This Agreement constitutes disciplinary action by the Board against Respondent.

4. **Requirements.** The Board shall take no further action against Respondent with respect to the matters alleged in the complaint, provided that Respondent complies fully with the following:

A. Respondent will complete a Board approved 6-hour continuing education course, and provide evidence of such completion to the Board, within one year from the date Respondent receives a copy of this Agreement and the Order validating the terms of the Agreement signed by the Board Chairperson as specified in Paragraph 9 below;

B. Respondent may provide evidence of the completion of the 6-hour continuing education she completed in anticipation of this settlement agreement on the condition those credits were not previously applied to Respondent's continuing education responsibilities for maintaining her license;

C. The continuing education courses specified in this Paragraph 4 shall not count towards Respondent's continuing education responsibilities for purposes of maintaining her license;

D. Respondent shall also undergo six months of supervision with a treatment supervisor approved by the Board, addressing issues raised in the complaint as well as ongoing treatment issues related to any of Respondent's clients, with a report to be provided to the Board on a monthly basis, to be completed no later than one year after the Board's approval of this proposed settlement agreement.

E. If the Board accepts this settlement agreement, and finds the attached evidence of the 6-hour continuing education course completed in anticipation of this agreement sufficient, completion of such continuing education course(s) will satisfy the requirements in paragraphs (A) through (C) above.

5. **Waivers.** Respondent acknowledges, agrees, and stipulates that by signing this Agreement he is waiving the following rights as they pertain to the alleged misconduct described herein:

A. Respondent enters into this Agreement voluntarily and waives her right to have these matters heard in the manner described in the ULA, including the right to a full evidentiary hearing on the charges made in the complaint against her, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, and the right to appeal any decision of the Board following such a hearing.

B. Respondent waives any and all time limitations set forth in the Act and the ULA, including all rights to have this matter heard within the time frame established by the Act and the ULA, in order for the Board to consider this Agreement.

C. Respondent waives his right to assert a claim of bias or move to excuse any Board member based upon the Board member's consideration of this Agreement.

D. Respondent's waiver of the rights contained herein is made knowingly, intentionally, intelligently, and voluntarily.

6. Respondent acknowledges that the Board has the statutory, administrative, and regulatory authority and thereby jurisdiction, to investigate and adjudicate allegations of professional misconduct committed by licensees. Upon execution of this Agreement, Respondent releases the Board from any and all claims arising out of the Board's decision to investigate the complaint, refer the matter for issuance of a Notice of Contemplated Action, and take the actions described herein.

7. This Agreement is subject to approval by the Board. If the Board rejects this Agreement, the Board may proceed with formal hearing. If the Board rejects this Agreement, the terms of this Agreement or statements made by Respondent in support of this Agreement shall not be used against Respondent in a subsequent proceeding if such concerns the claims alleged in the underlying complaint.

8. This Agreement is binding upon Respondent when it is signed by Respondent and upon the Board when the attending Order validating the terms of the Agreement is signed by the Board Chairperson.

9. Upon the Board Chairperson affixing his signature to the Order indicating the Board's approval of this Agreement, copies of both documents shall be mailed to Respondent by Certified Mail to Respondent's mailing address currently on record with the Board. Mailing shall fulfill the Board's obligation to notify Respondent of the Board's acceptance of the Agreement. The time limitations for Respondent's compliance with the requirements of this agreement shall commence five (5) days after said mailing by the Board as such date shall be deemed receipt by Respondent of this Agreement and the signed Order.

10. Upon fulfillment of the above requirements, the Board will consider this matter closed and resolved and will contemplate no further action against Respondent's license for the conduct made the subject matter of this Agreement. However, the Board may consider this misconduct as evidence of a pattern of conduct in the event that similar or other misconduct is proven against Respondent in the future. Additionally, the Board may consider the fact that discipline was imposed through this Agreement and the accompanying Order as a factor in determining appropriate discipline should any further misconduct be proven against Respondent in the future.

11. This Agreement is a settlement of Board case number CT-17-27-COM only and for the specific allegations contained therein. The Board reserves the right to initiate proceedings for any other violations of the Act and/or the Rules and Regulations adopted by the Board pursuant to the Act. Respondent understands and acknowledges that his action in entering this Agreement is a final act not subject to reconsideration, judicial review, or appeal.

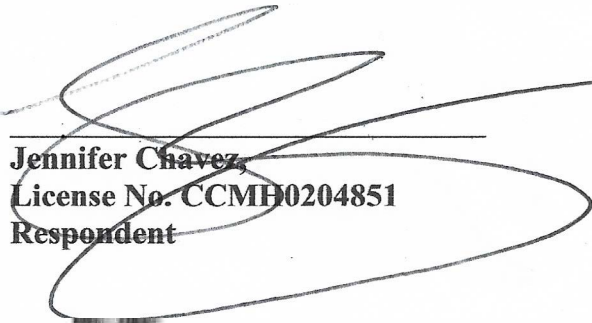
12. Respondent understands, acknowledges, and stipulates that any violation(s) by Respondent of this Agreement and/or failure to timely comply with the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be a separate and independent ground for disciplinary action by the Board against Respondent and, at the discretion of the Board, shall constitute a violation of the Act. Such failure will immediately result in the filing of an Order to Show Cause as to why the Board should not find Respondent in violation of the Agreement and why the Board should not impose any and all lawful

sanctions at its disposal including, but not limited to, revocation, suspension, or denial of a license, restrictions on scope of practice, imposition of fines, penalties, and costs and/or taking any other disciplinary action authorized by the Act and the ULA.

13. Respondent acknowledges that she has the right to be represented by an attorney and has been given the opportunity to have counsel of her choice review this Agreement.

14. The underlying complaint and this Agreement are public records within the meaning of the Inspection of Public Records Act, NMSA 1978, § 14-2-6(E). Other data, communications, and information acquired by the Board relating to this matter shall be public as provided by the New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Act. This document may be posted on the Board's website.

15. Respondent affirmatively states that she has read this entire document and understands his responsibilities and duties in reference to settlement of this matter. Respondent knowingly, intentionally, intelligently, and voluntarily enters into and executes this Agreement and affirms that no representations have been made to him other than the terms and conditions expressly stated herein.



Jennifer Chavez,
License No. CCMH0204851
Respondent

8-20-20
Date

/s/Bentley Oliver
Bentley Oliver, Board Chair
Counseling and Therapy Practice Board

10/5/2020
Date

Prepared by:

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