

BEFORE THE IOWA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

IN THE MATTER OF:)	CASE NUMBER: 04-055
)	
SCOTT D. COX,)	SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
)	AND FINAL ORDER
Respondent.)	

COME NOW the Iowa Board of Social Work ("Board") and Scott D. Cox ("Respondent"), and pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.10 and 272C.3(4), enter into the following Settlement Agreement and Final Order of the contested case currently on file against the Respondent:

1. The Board licensed Respondent to practice as a licensed master level social worker in the state of Iowa on March 30, 2000, and as a licensed independent level social worker on March 1, 2004, and Respondent holds license number 304 05794.

2. The Board filed a Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges against the Respondent on March 12, 2008. A contested case hearing in this matter is scheduled for April 20, 2009.

3. The Board has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter of the Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges.

4. Execution of this Settlement Agreement and Final Order constitutes the resolution of this contested case. Respondent has a right to a hearing on the charges, but waives Respondent's right to hearing and all attendant rights, including the right to appeal, by freely and voluntarily agreeing to this Settlement Agreement and Final Order. Once entered, this Order shall have the force and effect of a disciplinary order entered following

contested case hearing.

5. Respondent is freely and voluntarily entering into this Settlement Agreement and Final Order. Respondent agrees that the State's counsel may present this agreement to the Board and may have ex parte communication with the Board for the limited purpose of presenting it.

6. This agreement is subject to approval of the Board. If the Board approves this agreement, it becomes the final disposition of this matter. If the Board fails to approve this agreement, it shall be of no force or effect to either party.

7. This agreement shall be part of the Respondent's permanent record and may be considered by the Board in determining the nature and severity of any disciplinary action to be imposed in the event of any future violations.

8. In the event Respondent violates or fails to comply with any of the terms of this Settlement Agreement and Final Order, the Board may initiate appropriate action to revoke or suspend Respondent's license or to impose other licensee discipline in accordance with Iowa Code section 272C.3(2)(a).

9. The Board's approval of this Settlement Agreement and Final Order shall constitute a FINAL ORDER of the Board.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Respondent's license shall be placed on probation for a period of two (2) years subject to the following terms and conditions:

a. Respondent shall attend nine (9) hours of continuing education in the area of record keeping and nine (9) hours of continuing education in the area of ethics by December 31, 2010. Such hours shall be in addition to the standard continuing education

renewal requirements. Prior to attending the continuing education, the Respondent shall submit the name of the course(s), the course instructors, and the course content to the Board for its approval.

b. Respondent shall, within thirty (30) days of the date of this agreement, submit the name and curriculum vitae of a proposed practice mentor to the Board for its approval. The proposed practice mentor shall be a licensed independent social worker. The approved practice mentor will be provided a copy of the Statement of Charges, the investigative file, and this agreement. The Respondent shall meet in a face-to-face setting with the mentor on a quarterly basis for two years from the date of this agreement to review and discuss the following issues: (1) record keeping, (2) informed consent, (3) dual relationships, (4) boundaries and appropriate interactions with clients, (5) patient confidentiality, and (6) any other relevant ethical and practice issues which arise in Respondent's practice. All costs associated with the practice mentor shall be the responsibility of Respondent. The practice mentor shall submit quarterly reports to the Board which include the following:

- i. The time period covered by the report.
- ii. The dates of meetings held with Respondent and a brief summary of the discussion held at each of these meetings.
- iii. Any other information the practice mentor deems relevant for the Board's review.

c. Respondent shall make a personal appearance before the Board upon request. The Respondent shall be given reasonable notice of the date, time, and place for appearance.

d. Respondent shall obey all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations governing the practice of social work.

e. Respondent shall notify the Board of any change in address within one week of said change.

f. There is no other limitation on Respondent's license than what is provided for in this Agreement.

This settlement agreement and final order is approved by the board on May 28, 2009.