BEFORE THE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK OF THE STATE OF IOWA

IN THE MATTER OF)	NO. 11-014
KAREN COMBS,)	COMBINED STATEMENT OF CHARGES, SETTLEMENT
RESPONDENT.)	AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

COME NOW the Iowa Board of Social Work (Board) and Karen Combs (Respondent) and enter into this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order (Agreement) pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.10(2), 272C.3(4) and 645 Iowa Administrative Code 12.1.

- Respondent was issued Iowa license 00497 on June 24, 1987.
 Respondent's license to practice social work at the independent level is currently active and expires on December 31, 2012.
- 2. Respondent's address as reported to the Board is 66684 110th Street, McCallsburg, Iowa 50154.
- 3. The Board has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147, 154C and 272C.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

COUNT I

Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code 645—283.2(22), Respondent is charged with submission of a false report of continuing education or failure to submit the biennial report of continuing education.

COUNT II

Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code 645—283.2(12), Respondent is charged with violation of a regulation, rule, or law of this state or another state, or the United States, which relates to the practice of social work, including, but not limited to, the rules of conduct found in 645—282.2.

FACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 1. Respondent reported at the time of her 2010 renewal of her social work license that she had completed the required continuing education according to Board guidelines, when she had not.
- Respondent failed to respond to the Board during an audit of her continuing education within the timelines outlined by the Board. Respondent has submitted proof of completion for 17 of the required 27 hours of continuing education.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

3. Respondent shall complete the remaining ten (10) hours of continuing education she needs to renew her license and provide the Board with certification of completion thereof within six (6) months of Board approval of this Agreement. One (1) of these ten hours must be in ethics, and no more than nine (9) of these hours may be obtained through independent study. The continuing education hours accomplished to satisfy this requirement may not be used for future license renewal.

- 4. Respondent shall remit to the Board a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) made payable to "Treasurer, State of Iowa," within ninety (90) days of the date of this agreement.
- 5. Execution of this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order constitutes the resolution of a 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 seek judicial review, 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 a contested case hearing.
- 6. Respondent is freely and voluntarily entering into this Combined
 Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order. Respondent agrees that
 State's counsel may present this agreement to the Board and may have *ex parte*communications with the Board while presenting it.
- 7. This Agreement is subject to approval by the Board. If the Board does not approve this Agreement, it shall be of no force or effect on either party and it shall not be admissible for any purpose in further proceedings in this matter.
- 8. This Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order shall be part of Respondent's permanent record and shall 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.
- 9. In the event Respondent violates or fails to comply with any of the terms of this Combined Statement of Charges, 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).

- 10. This Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order is a public record available for inspection and copying upon execution, in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code chapters 22 and 272C.
- 11. The Board's approval of this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order shall constitute a FINAL ORDER of the Board.

This Final Order is approved by the Board November 14, 2011.