

BEFORE THE IOWA BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:)	CASE NUMBERS: 01-017, 03-008
)	
ROBIN PATRICIA HARRIS,)	STATEMENT OF CHARGES
)	
Respondent.)	

TO THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENT:

The Iowa Board of Social Work Examiners has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 17A, 154C, and 272C (2003).

Licenses issued by the Board are subject to the laws of the state of Iowa and to the administrative rules of the Board.

Respondent Robin Patricia Harris was at all times during the following events a licensed bachelor social worker. Respondent was issued license number 04594 to practice as a social worker in the state of Iowa on September 8, 1998.

Respondent's current address as reported to the Board is 207 8th Avenue, South Sioux City, NE, 68776.

COUNT I

Respondent is charged pursuant to 645 Iowa Administrative Code 282.2(5) with failing to maintain sufficient, timely, and accurate documentation in client records and with maintaining records which fail to reflect services provided, fail to facilitate the delivery of services, and fail to ensure continuity of services in the future.

COUNT II

Respondent is charged pursuant to 645 Iowa Administrative Code 282.2(7)"a" with billing for services which were not provided.

COUNT III

Respondent is charged pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.55(3) and 645 Iowa Administrative Code 283.2(3) with engaging in unethical conduct in the practice of social work.

COUNT IV

Respondent is charged pursuant to 645 Iowa Administrative Code 283.2(11) with violating a regulation, rule, or law of this state which relates to the practice of social work.

COUNT V

Respondent is charged pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.55(2) and 645 Iowa Administrative Code 283.2(2) with professional incompetency in the practice of social work in the area of record keeping.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF COUNTS I - V

1. Respondent provided Rehabilitative Treatment and Supportive Services (RTSS) through a contract with the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS performed an audit of Respondent's billing and client records for the time period from January 1, 2001, to January 31, 2003. Respondent's record keeping was found to be in noncompliance with RTSS program requirements in several areas, including but not limited to: case notes for several clients failed to include required components; case notes were missing for many of the cases reviewed; and treatment plans were missing for many of the cases reviewed. DHS found that Respondent received payment in the sum of \$ 99,346.12 to which she was not entitled and that she practiced in a manner inconsistent with RTSS program requirements and regulations. DHS issued a final report on February 10, 2004, which suspended Respondent from providing RTSS services for a period of two years and ordered repayment of the amount overpaid.

2. The Board's investigator conducted a random audit of Respondent's billing and client records for the time period from January 1, 2001, to January 31, 2003, which indicated that several of Respondent's client records failed to include sufficient, timely, and accurate documentation and that several of Respondent's client records failed to reflect services provided, failed to facilitate the delivery of services, and failed to ensure continuity of services in the future. In addition, several cases included no documentation whatsoever.

3. From January 1, 2001, to January 31, 2003, Respondent in several cases billed for services which were not provided.

4. In May of 2003, Respondent directed staff to hide files from DHS which were relevant to DHS's audit. In February and March of 2004, Respondent tampered with several files in the possession of DHS in an attempt to make it appear that she had completed and maintained accurate and sufficient records when she had not in fact done so.

COUNT VI

Respondent is charged pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.55(3) and 645 Iowa Administrative Code 283.2(3) with engaging in unethical conduct in the practice of social work.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF COUNT VI

Respondent frequently used profanity, racial epithets, derogatory language, and other inappropriate and unprofessional language to and around clients and co-workers.

COUNT VII

Respondent is charged pursuant to 645 Iowa Administrative Code 282.2(2) with failing to provide services and failing to represent herself as competent only within the boundaries of the licensee's education, training, license, certification, consultation received, supervised experience, or other relevant professional experience.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF COUNT VII

Respondent's business card represented that Respondent provided therapy and psychological evaluations. Respondent is licensed at the bachelor level and the provision of therapy and psychological evaluations are not within the scope of practice of an LBSW pursuant to Iowa Code section 154C. 1.

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On August 9, 2004, the Iowa Board of Social Work Examiners found probable cause to file this Statement of Charges and to order that a hearing be set in this case.

This Statement of Charges is approved by the board on August 9, 2004.