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Daniel Collins
NC Psychology Board
895 State Farm Road, Suite 101
Boone, NC 28607

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Dear Mr. Collins,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Licensed Psychological Associate (LPA) supervision re-adoptions (21 NCAC 54 .2008). I began my behavioral health career in 1997, obtaining my LPA / HSP-PA in May 1998, while working for the Department of Public Safety. For the eight years I was employed with NC DPS, I received weekly, one-hour supervision sessions. Following the disbandment of community mental health services in NC, I transitioned to a solo private practice where I was able to provide psychotherapy and psychological assessment services to the citizens in rural Gates County. I have since joined Albemarle Counseling Group, which serves Pasquotank and the surrounding counties. For the past 14 years, I have received monthly, one-hour supervision sessions.

I have been pro-active in expanding my knowledge base. I graduated from the first training cohort offered by the NC Child Treatment Program in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. My ACG colleagues and I were able to become Intensively Trained in Dialectical Behavior Therapy through Behavioral Tech, LLC. Upon recognizing a need in my community, I attended the training: Introduction to the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition and graduated from the learning collaborative Project ECHO Autism Mental Health Group, both offered through TEACCH, in order to provide comprehensive Psychological Evaluations and offer families treatment recommendations supported by the most current research.

The career-long supervision requirement for LPAs has restricted my ability to enroll in many insurance panels (e.g. Medicare, Tricare, Cigna, etc.) which I believe is a disservice to the members of my community, as there is only one other clinician providing psychological evaluations (which does not include the ADOS-2) in our area. LPs and LPAs are equally responsible for upholding the APA Ethics Code. Regardless of enforced supervision, when faced with an ethical or clinical dilemma, I will staff the issue with a colleague and / or seek a consultation with my trainers at Behavioral Tech, the NC Child Treatment Program, TEACCH, or the NC Psychology Board, etc. I strongly believe that the proposed rule re-adoptions (21 NCAC 54 .2008) which creates a pathway for independent licensure for LPAs in NC will foster a more robust and diverse behavioral health care system for our state and its citizens.

Thank you for your consideration and the time you have invested in the important matter of LPA supervision re-adoptions.

Sincerely,

Kristin N. Kaul
NC LPA / HSP-PA #2172

Cc: File