STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

In re: Aydrien L. Schroer Petition No. 2019-27

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Aydrien L. Schroer (formerly known as Aydrien Cathcart) of Tolland, Connecticut (hereinafter "respondent") has been issued license number 000582 to practice as a behavior analyst by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") pursuant to Chapter 382a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, the Department alleges, and respondent denies, that:

related to feeding intervention; and/or

- 1. At various times, from approximately September 2015 to on or about December 14, 2018, respondent provided and/or oversaw the provision of behavior analysis services to minor patient #1, who had diagnoses that included autism spectrum disorder, anxiety and eating disorders. In connection with said services, respondent's care for minor patient #1 failed to meet the standard of care, in one or more of the following ways, in that respondent:
- a. failed to completely, properly and/or accurately document treatment records;
- b. failed to develop, implement and/or maintain appropriate procedures or protocols, including, without limitation, protocol(s) regarding parent training objectives specifically
- c. inappropriately co-signed a discharge report terminating services in or about December 2018, without addressing, and/or ensuring staff address, one or more of the following: (i)

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service needs with patient #1's parents; (ii) suggesting alternative service providers prior to discontinuing services; and/or (iii) otherwise coordinating continuing care for patient #1.

- 2. The above-described facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §20-185m, including, but not limited to:
 - a. $\S 20-185m(1)$; and/or
 - b. §20-185m(5).

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, has chosen not to contest the above allegations of wrongdoing but, while admitting no guilt or wrongdoing, agrees that for purposes of this or any future proceedings before the Department, this Consent Order shall have the same effect as if proven and ordered after a full hearing held pursuant to §§19a-10, 19a-14 and 20-185m of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to §§19a-14, 19a-17 and 20-185m of the General Statutes of Connecticut, respondent hereby stipulates and agrees to the following:

- 1. Respondent waives respondent's right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
- 2. Respondent's license number 000582 to practice as a behavior analyst in the State of Connecticut is hereby reprimanded.
- 3. Respondent's license shall be placed on probation for a period of six (6) months under the following terms and conditions:
 - a. Respondent shall obtain at respondent's own expense, the services of a licensed behavior analyst, pre-approved by the Department (hereinafter "supervisor"), to conduct a monthly random review of twenty percent (20.0 %) or twenty (20) of respondent's patient records, whichever is the larger number. In the event respondent has twenty (20) or fewer patients, the supervisor shall review all of respondent's patient records.

- (1) Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to respondent's practice supervisor. Respondent's supervisor shall furnish written confirmation to the Department of the supervisor's engagement in that capacity and receipt of a copy of this Consent Order within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Consent Order.
- (2) Respondent's supervisor shall conduct such review and meet with respondent not less than bi-monthly during the entire probationary period.
- (3) The supervisor shall have the right to monitor respondent's practice by any other reasonable means which the supervisor deems appropriate. Respondent shall fully cooperate with the supervisor in providing such monitoring.
- (4) Respondent shall be responsible for providing written supervisor reports directly to the Department bi-monthly for the entire probationary period. Such supervisor's reports shall include documentation of dates and duration of meetings with respondent, number and a general description of the patient records reviewed, additional monitoring techniques utilized, and statement as to whether respondent is practicing with reasonable skill and safety. A supervisor report indicating that respondent is not practicing with reasonable skill and safety shall be deemed to be a violation of this Consent Order.
- (5) Respondent further agrees that if the probationary period terminates prior to completion of the six (6) month practice monitoring period, the probationary period shall be extended to ensure that the six (6) month practice monitoring period is fully completed. If the probationary period is extended to comply with this provision, no other terms of probation shall be extended.
- b. Within the first three (3) months of the probationary period, respondent shall attend and successfully complete courses tailored to board certified behavioral analysts in

documentation standards and discharge planning, pre-approved by the Department. Within fifteen (15) days of the completion of such coursework, respondent shall provide the Department with proof, to the Department's satisfaction, of the successful completion of such courses.

4. All correspondence and reports are to be addressed to:

Practitioner Compliance and Monitoring Unit Department of Public Health 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12HSR P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134-0308

- 5. All reports required by the terms of this Consent Order shall be due according to a schedule to be established by the Department of Public Health.
- 6. Respondent shall comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations applicable to respondent's licensure.
- 7. Respondent shall pay all costs necessary to comply with this Consent Order.
- 8. Any alleged violation of any provision of this Consent Order may result in the following procedures at the discretion of the Department:
 - a. The Department shall notify respondent in writing by first-class mail that the term(s) of this Consent Order have been violated, provided that no prior written consent for deviation from said term(s) has been granted.
 - b. Said notification shall include the acts or omission(s) which violate the term(s) of this Consent Order.
 - c. Respondent shall be allowed fifteen (15) days from the date of the mailing of notification required in paragraph 8a above to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that respondent has complied with the terms of this Consent Order or, in the alternative, that respondent has cured the violation in question.

- d. If respondent does not demonstrate compliance or cure the violation within the fifteen (15) days specified in the notification of violation to the satisfaction of the Department, respondent shall be entitled to a hearing before the Commissioner of the Department or her designee who shall make a final determination of the disciplinary action to be taken.
- e. Evidence presented to the Commissioner of the Department or her designee by either the Department or respondent in any such hearing shall be limited to the alleged violation(s) of the term(s) of this Consent Order.
- 9. In the event respondent does not practice as a behavior analyst for periods of thirty (30) consecutive days or longer, respondent shall notify the Department in writing. Such periods of times shall not be counted in reducing the probationary period covered by this Consent Order and such terms shall be held in abeyance. During such time period, respondent shall not be responsible for complying with the terms of probation of this Consent Order. In the event respondent resumes the practice of a behavior analyst, respondent shall provide the Department with thirty (30) days prior written notice.

 Respondent shall not return to the practice of a behavior analyst without written preapproval from the Department. Respondent agrees that the Department, in its complete discretion, may require additional documentation from respondent and/or require respondent to satisfy other conditions or terms as a condition precedent to respondent's return to practice. Respondent agrees that any return to the practice of a behavior analyst without pre-approval from the Department shall constitute a violation of this Consent Order and may subject the respondent to further disciplinary action.
- 10. If, during the period of probation, respondent practices as a behavior analyst outside

Connecticut, respondent shall provide written notice to the Department concerning such practice.

During such time period, respondent shall not be responsible for complying with the terms of probation of this Consent Order, and such time period shall not be counted in reducing the probationary period covered by this Consent Order. Respondent may comply with the terms of probation while practicing outside Connecticut if pre-approved by the Department. In the event respondent intends to return to the practice of a behavioral analyst in Connecticut, respondent shall provide the Department with thirty (30) days prior written notice and agrees to comply with all probationary terms and conditions contained in paragraph 3 above.

- 11. In the event respondent violates any term of this Consent Order, said violation may also constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license before the Commissioner of the Department or her designee.
- 12. Legal notice shall be sufficient if sent to respondent's last known address of record reported to the Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section of the Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch of the Department.
- 13. This Consent Order is effective on the first day of the month immediately following the date this Consent Order is accepted by the Department.
- 14. Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order is a public record.
- 15. Respondent understands and agrees that the Department's allegations as contained in this Consent Order shall be deemed true in any subsequent proceeding before the Commissioner of the Department or her designee in which respondent's compliance with this Consent Order or with §20-185m of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, is at issue. Further, respondent understands that any discipline imposed by this Consent Order shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank maintained by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

- 16. In the event respondent violates a term of this Consent Order, respondent agrees immediately to refrain from practicing as a behavioral analyst, upon request by the Department, for a period not to exceed forty-five (45) days. During that time period, respondent further agrees to cooperate with the Department in its investigation of the violation, and to submit to and complete a medical, psychiatric or psychological evaluation, if requested to do so by the Department; and, that the results of the evaluation shall be submitted directly to the Department. Respondent further agrees that failure to cooperate with the Department in its investigation during said forty-five (45) day period shall constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license. In any such summary action, respondent stipulates that failure to cooperate with the Department's investigation shall be considered by the Commissioner of the Department or her designee and shall, as a matter of law, constitute a clear and immediate danger as required pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, §§4-182(c) and 19a-17(c). The Department and respondent understand that the Commissioner of the Department or her designee has complete and final discretion as to whether a summary suspension is ordered.
- 17. Any extension of time or grace period for reporting granted by the Department shall not be a waiver or preclude the Department from acting at a later time. The Department shall not be required to grant future extensions of time or grace periods.
- 18. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review under any form or in any forum. Respondent agrees that this Consent Order shall not be subject to modification as a result of any claim that the terms contained herein may result in action by third parties, including, but not limited to, healthcare facilities and/or credentialing or licensure boards and respondent waives any right to seek reconsideration or modification of this Consent Order pursuant to §4-181a of the General Statutes of Connecticut without the express consent and agreement of the

Department. Respondent assumes all responsibility for assessing such actions prior to the execution of this document. Further, this Consent Order is not subject to appeal or review under the provisions of Chapters 54 or 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, provided that this stipulation shall not deprive respondent of any rights that respondent may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.

- 19. This Consent Order is a revocable offer of settlement which may be modified by mutual agreement or withdrawn by the Department at any time prior to its being executed by the last signatory.
- 20. Respondent permits a representative of the Department to present this Consent Order and the factual basis for this Consent Order to the Department. Respondent understands that the Department has complete and final discretion as to whether this executed Consent Order is approved or accepted.
- 21. Respondent has consulted with her attorney prior to signing this document.
- 22. The execution of this document has no bearing on any criminal liability without the written consent of the Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit or the State's Attorney's Office where the allegation occurred or Bureau Chief of the applicable unit in the Chief State's Attorney's Office. The purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve the pending administrative license disciplinary petition only and is not intended to affect any civil or criminal liability or defense.
- 23. This Consent Order embodies the entire agreement of the parties with respect to this case.

 All previous communications or agreements regarding the subject matter of this consent order, whether oral or written, between the parties are superseded unless expressly incorporated herein or made a part hereof.

I, Aydrien L. Shroer, have read the above Consent Order, and I stipulate and agree to the terms
as set forth therein. I further declare the execution of this Consent Order to be my free act and
deed. Aydrien L. Shroet
Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of 1995 2022 Notary Public or person authorized Peyandra Nicole by law to administer an oath or affirmation ALEXANDRA NICOLE GARNELIS NOTARY PUBLIC - CT 183146 My Commission Expires Feb. 28, 2026
The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the
Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the day of
August 2020, it is hereby accepted.
Churtian Olndusen

Christian D. Andresen, MPH, Section Chief Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch