BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

In The Matter Of:

NORA E. WATSON, R.D.H. (Applicant for Licensure)

CONSENT ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners (Board) as authorized by G.S. § 90-231 for consideration of a Consent Order in lieu of a formal administrative hearing. The parties hereby consent to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set out herein and to the entry of the Order of Discipline.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Dental Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding pursuant to the authority granted to it in Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes, including the Dental Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations of the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners.

2. The Respondent, Nora E. Watson, is a May 2014 graduate from the dental hygiene program at Central Piedmont Community College.

3. On July 12, 2014, the Respondent applied for licensure as a dental hygienist in North Carolina.

4. On her application for licensure, the Respondent revealed that she had been treated for alcohol dependence at Fellowship Hall in 2006.
5. In a letter dated September 15, 2014, the Board asked the Respondent to undergo a four day evaluation at Pavillon.

6. Respondent was evaluated at Pavillon beginning on October 16, 2014 and was diagnosed with mild alcohol use disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, major depressive disorder and histrionic personality traits.

7. Upon the recommendation of Pavillon, the Respondent underwent a three month residential treatment program from which she was discharged on December 30, 2014.

8. On January 5, 2015, the Respondent signed a five year monitoring agreement with the North Carolina Caring Dental Professionals (CDP).

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and with the consent of the parties hereto, the Hearing Panel enters the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners has jurisdiction over the Respondent and over the subject matter of this proceeding.

2. The Respondent can safely engage in the practice of dental hygiene in North Carolina, provided that she complies with all terms of her monitoring agreement with the CDP.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and with the consent of the parties hereto, the Hearing Panel enters the following:
ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

1. The Respondent’s application for licensure as a dental hygienist in North Carolina is hereby granted. Respondent’s license shall be issued, but immediately suspended for one (1) year.

2. With Respondent’s consent, her license shall be conditionally restored, with no active suspension, provided that for a period of five (5) years she adheres to the following probationary terms and conditions:

   (a) Respondent shall violate no provision of the Dental Hygiene Act or the Board’s Rules;

   (b) Respondent shall submit to interviews by the Board or its authorized agent during regular office hours or at such other times as are mutually convenient. Respondent shall also arrange for the Board or its agent to interview her employer and co-employees during regular office hours;

   (c) Respondent shall give written notice to the Board of the street and mailing addresses of her places of employment and residence. Respondent shall notify the Board of any changes of either address within ten (10) days of the change;

   (d) Respondent shall comply with all terms and conditions of her Caring Dental Professionals contract. Respondent shall sign a release with the CDP permitting them to submit monthly reports to the Board regarding her progress in the program;
(e) Respondent shall not possess or use any controlled substances, alcohol or any other mood altering substance unless prescribed for her in the usual course of professional treatment. Respondent shall immediately notify the CDP of any medications prescribed, along with the name of the physician issuing the prescription. This must be accomplished prior to Respondent consuming the medication;

(f) Respondent shall inform all employers, in writing, of her recovery status and provide each employer with a copy of this Consent Order.

3. If Respondent fails to comply with any provision of this Order or breaches any term or condition thereof, the Board shall promptly schedule a public Show Cause Hearing to permit Respondent to show cause why her dental hygiene license should not be suspended. If, as a result of the Show Cause hearing, the Board is satisfied that Respondent failed to comply with or breached any term or condition of this Order, Respondent’s license shall be rescinded and, upon written demand, Respondent shall immediately surrender her license and current renewal certificate to the Board for a period of one (1) year. This sanction shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any sanction the Board may impose as a result of future violations of the Dental Practice Act or the Board’s Rules.
This the 20 day of March, 2015.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

By: [Signature]
Terry W. Friddle
Deputy Operations Officer
STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, NORA E. WATSON, R.D.H., do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety and that I do freely and voluntarily consent to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order of Discipline and the terms and conditions set forth herein. By signing this Statement of Consent I hereby express my understanding that the Board will report the contents of this Consent Order to the National Practitioner Data Bank and that this Consent Order shall become a part of the permanent public record of the Board.

This the 5th day of March, 2015.

NORA E. WATSON, R.D.H.