BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF: CATHERINE VUKODER, R.D.H. (License No. 11389)	)	**CONSENT ORDER OF INDEFINITE SUSPENSION**

THIS MATTER is before the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners [the "Board"] as authorized by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-231 for consideration of a Consent Order in lieu of a formal administrative hearing. Catherine Vukoder, R.D.H. ["Respondent"] acknowledges that the Board has sufficient evidence to prove and establish the findings of fact and conclusions of law to warrant the order of discipline. Crystal Carlisle and Douglas Brocker represented the Investigative Panel ["the "IP"]. Respondent was not represented by Counsel. The parties freely and voluntarily consent to the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The 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 Hygiene Act in Article 16 and the rules and regulations of the Board.

2. Respondent was licensed to practice dental hygiene on July 8, 2016 and was subject to the Dental Hygiene Act and the Board's regulations at all times since her licensure.

3. Respondent practiced dental hygiene at a dental practice located in Charlotte, North Carolina.

4. On or about October 2, 2025, Respondent returned to work after her lunch break appearing to be impaired and was instructed to leave for the day.

5. Upon further investigation, the Board's Investigative Panel determined that Respondent plead guilty to three (3) alcohol-related offenses, which she failed to disclose on her renewal applications for licensure, and was charged with two (2) additional alcohol-related offenses in 2025.

6. Respondent desires to enter into this Consent Order for the purpose of resolving the foregoing issues in lieu of a formal, contested case hearing.

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 Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over Respondent.

2. Respondent was properly notified of this matter and has consented to the entry of this Consent Order.

3. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was subject to the Dental Hygiene Act and the Board's rules and regulations.

4. Respondent's conduct indicates that she may be a chronic or persistent user of intoxicants to the extent that it impairs her ability to practice dental hygiene in violation of G.S. 90-229(a)(4).

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. Dental hygiene license number 11389 issued to Respondent is hereby **INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED**.

2. Respondent may petition the Board to lift the indefinite suspension of her North Carolina dental hygiene license by demonstrating, by clear and convincing evidence, that she has:

   a. presented to North Carolina Caring Dental Professionals ["CDP"] for an assessment;

   b. complied with all CDP recommendations, including provisions of any potential CDP Monitoring Agreement and Addenda, including all recommendations of treatment providers; and

   c. obtained the support and advocacy of CDP to safely return to practice.

3. If the Board lifts the indefinite suspension of Respondent's North Carolina dental hygiene license in the future, the Board may impose probationary terms and conditions of reinstatement deemed necessary for the protection of the public, including, but not limited to, requirement(s) that Respondent shall:

   a. continue participation in CDP, remain in the program, and fully comply with all terms of her participation agreement with CDP, including any addenda proposed by CDP after the date of this Order;

   b. not possess or use any controlled substances, alcohol, or any other mood-altering substance unless it is both (i) prescribed for her in

the usual course of professional treatment and (ii) approved by CDP in advance of its use;

c. sign a release with CDP permitting it to release information to the Board, including reports, either monthly or upon its request, regarding her progress in the program, treatment information, and authorizing it to report any substance screens to the Board immediately upon notification to CDP (revoking or withdrawing a release or authorization for the Board would constitute a violation of this Consent Order and her conditional reinstatement);

d. submit to interviews by the Board or its authorized agent at the dental office where she is employed, during regular office hours, unless a mutually convenient alternative time can be arranged;

e. provide each employer with a copy of this Consent Order prior to beginning any employment and arrange for the Board or its agent to interview her employer and co-employees during regular office hours;

f. give written notice to the Board of the street and mailing addresses of both her place(s) of employment and residence and notify the Board of any change in either address within ten days of the change; and

g. violate no provision of the Dental Hygiene Act or the Board's rules and regulations.

4. Respondent recognizes that the conditions, limitations, or requirements set forth in this Consent Order may present her with certain practical difficulties. The Board concludes that each one is necessary to ensure public protection, and it does not intend to modify or eliminate any of the conditions, limitations, or requirements set forth herein based on such potential difficulties.

5. This Consent Order and the provisions contained herein shall be effective upon entry.

6. The Board shall retain jurisdiction of this matter and Respondent to enforce the provisions herein or enter orders as necessary in the future.

This the 13th day of November 2025.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

Casie S. Goode

Casie S. Goode
Director of Investigations

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, Catherine Vukoder, R.D.H., do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety. I assent to its terms and conditions set out herein freely, voluntarily, and without coercion or duress. I acknowledge that there is sufficient evidence to form a factual basis for the findings of fact herein, that the findings of fact support the conclusions of law, and that I will not contest the findings of fact, the conclusions of law, or the order in any future proceedings before or involving the Board. I knowingly waive any right to seek judicial review, appeal, or otherwise later challenge this Consent Order once entered. Respondent forever releases the Board, and all its members, officials, agents, counsel, representatives, and employees, both past and present, in their individual or official capacities, from any and all liability, suits, claims, and causes of action arising prior to or as a result of the execution of this Consent Order. I agree to service of the Consent Order to the email or mailing address of record with the Board and waive service by any other method. I understand that the Board will report the contents of this Consent Order to the National Practitioner Data Bank and that this Consent Order will become part of the Board's permanent public record. I further acknowledge that this required reporting may have adverse consequences in other contexts and any potential effects will not be the basis for a reconsideration of this Consent Order. I have had the opportunity to consult with an attorney prior to signing this Consent Order.

This the 10 day of NOVEMBER 2025.

Catherine Vukoder, R.D.H.