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Counselor Committee of the New Jersey
State Board of Marriage and Family
Therapy Examiners

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December 14, 2007
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF MARRIAGE
& FAMILY THERAPY

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
OF THE STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE	:	
APPLICATION OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
THOMAS BERLENBACH	:	CONSENT ORDER GRANTING RESTRICTED
	:	LICENSE TO PRACTICE
FOR LICENSURE TO PRACTICE	:	ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING	:	
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened before the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners (hereinafter "the Committee"), upon review of respondent's application for licensure. During the review process, the Committee received information that the applicant had been arrested for criminal sexual contact and endangering the welfare of children but that the criminal charges had been dismissed. The applicant also disclosed that the Episcopal Church had investigated the matter and determined that there was insufficient evidence to sustain a finding that the applicant had engaged in misconduct.

Mr. Berlenbach appeared before the Committee on June 8, 2006 with his attorney George W. Fisher, Esq. to discuss the criminal allegations, the Church proceedings and his qualifications for

licensure as an alcohol and drug counselor. Mr. Berlenbach testified that in 1997 he had been accused of engaging in sexual misconduct during 1994 with a young woman in the Trinity of Vineland parish where he was the priest. He denied that he engaged in any sexual contact with the young woman. Mr. Berlenbach admitted that he had kissed a parishioner and hugged another parishioner and that the parishioners misinterpreted his actions. Mr. Berlenbach testified that kissing and hugging parishioners was a common practice in many parishes at that time. However, the applicant denied that he engaged in any other sexual activity with any parishioners and specifically denied that he engaged in any sexual conduct with a minor. He did admit that he has had problems with boundary issues in the past and in an attempt to educate himself, he has read some material on boundary limits with clients. Mr. Berlenbach advised the Committee that he is currently an Episcopal priest, is under no Church/Clerical restrictions, can celebrate mass, and can participate in religious services. The Committee was advised that Mr. Berlenbach's only restriction is that he is prohibited from having any contact with the Trinity of Vineland parish.

Mr. Berlenbach testified that he has voluntarily limited his practice to working with adults in a licensed facility. At the time of his testimony, he was working as an alcohol and drug counselor at Faith Farm, Inc. in Bridgeton, New Jersey. He is presently working at the John Brooks Development Center, 1315 Pacific Avenue, Atlantic City, New Jersey 08404. The applicant provided letters of recommendation discussing the work he has performed and his personal integrity. Mr. Berlenbach discussed how alcohol and drug counseling has changed his life.

John Brooks Recovery Center
15 S. Tennessee Ave.
Atlantic City, N.J. 08404
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The Committee has reviewed Mr. Berlenbach's application, the decision from the Church proceedings, letters of recommendation and his testimony. The Committee finding that the following disposition of this matter is adequately protective of the public, and other good cause appearing;

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 200~~1~~⁷

ORDERED:

1. Mr. Berlenbach shall be granted a restricted license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling conditioned upon compliance with the terms of this Consent Order and all requirements for licensure as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor.
2. Mr. Berlenbach shall be precluded from engaging in any independent or private practice unless and until the Committee issues an Order granting him an unrestricted license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling.
3. Mr. Berlenbach shall only engage in the practice of alcohol and drug counseling in a facility licensed by the Division of Addiction Services of the New Jersey Department of Human Services. Mr. Berlenbach may only engage in alcohol and drug counseling in a facility with only an adult population.
4. Mr. Berlenbach shall immediately provide his present employer and any future employer with a copy of the within Order. Mr. Berlenbach shall submit a copy of the Consent Order signed by his present employer within ten (10) days of the filing of the within Consent Order. Prior to accepting employment in another facility licensed by the Division of Addiction Services of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Mr. Berlenbach shall obtain pre-approval by the Committee. Mr. Berlenbach shall be required to provide the Committee with a copy of this Consent Order signed by

each employer acknowledging that the employer has reviewed this Consent Order. The signed copy of this Consent Order shall be submitted to the Committee within ten (10) days of the commencement of employment.

5. Mr. Berlenbach shall notify the Committee in writing within five (5) days of any change in the status of his employment, including any change in location, responsibilities and/or title.

6. Mr. Berlenbach shall be required to have a supervisor, who has agreed to supervise him consistent with this order. The supervisor shall be an individual who is licensed to provide clinical supervision as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34C-6.3. The supervisor shall agree to comply with and sign a copy of this Consent Order. The signed Consent Order shall be returned to the Committee within ten (10) days of the filing of the within Consent Order. In the event, Mr. Berlenbach obtains new or additional employment in a facility licensed by the Division of Addiction Services of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, he shall be required to have a supervisor who works in the same physical facility. Mr. Berlenbach shall provide his new or additional supervisor with a copy of this Consent Order. The new supervisor shall agree to comply with and sign a copy of this Consent Order which shall be returned to the Committee within ten (10) days of commencement of employment.

7. Mr. Berlenbach shall successfully complete a minimum of three (3) contact hours in a course pre-approved by the Committee in the subject area of boundary issues. Respondent shall submit the original certificate of completion of the course to the Committee within six (6) months of the signing of this Consent Order. The three (3) contact hours in the subject area of boundary issues may

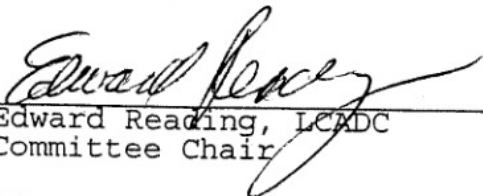
be used toward the completion of the minimum number of required contact hours of continuing education for license renewal.

8. The supervisor shall agree to report to the Committee in writing within 72 hours of any indication that Mr. Berlenbach is not capable of continued practice or has violated the statutes or regulations governing the practice of alcohol and drug counseling or has been disciplined or terminated from employment. Such notice shall be provided to Elaine DeMars, Executive Director, Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee or her designee, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 504-6582.

9. Mr. Berlenbach shall comply with all statutes and regulations, as well as professional standards of conduct and obligations imposed by law on licensed alcohol and drug counselors.

10. Any deviation from the terms of paragraphs 2 through 7 of this Consent Order without the prior written consent of the Committee shall be grounds for an automatic immediate temporary suspension if in the sole discretion of this Committee respondent has violated the Consent Order. Respondent may petition the Committee on five (5) days notice for a hearing limited to the sole issue of whether he deviated from the terms of the Consent Order.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE OF THE
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS


Edward Reading, LCADC
Committee Chair

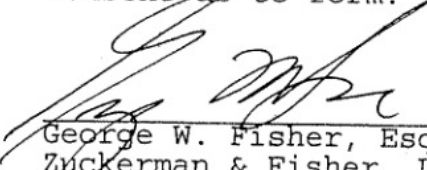
I have read the above order
and I understand and agree to
abide by its terms. Consent is
hereby given to the Alcohol and
Drug Counselor Committee of the

State Board of Marriage and Family
Therapy Examiners to enter this Order.

Thomas Berlenbach

Thomas Berlenbach

Consent as to form:


George W. Fisher, Esq.
Zuckerman & Fisher, LLC
Attorney for Thomas Berlenbach

EMPLOYER

I have read the within Order.


ALAN OPREOLMAN

(Print name of signator)
Name of Employer

John Brooks Recovery Center

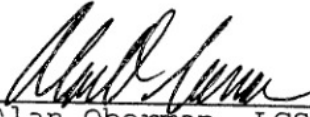
Address: Admin. Bldg., 19 S. Tennessee Ave., PO Box 597, Atlantic City, NJ 08401
Telephone # (609) 347-8615, ext. 124
(including area code and extension number)

License #37LC00074300

Dated: June 31, 2008

SUPERVISOR

I have read the within Order. I
agree to the supervision and reporting
requirements in this Order.


Alan Oberman, LCSW, LCADC
Supervisor

Address: Admin. Bldg., 19 S. Tennessee Ave., PO Box 597, Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Telephone Number (609) 347-8615, ext. 124

License No. 37LC00074300

Dated: Nov. 16, 2007

6/30/2006 - 7/31/2008