

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE SOCIAL WORKER SECTION OF THE
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING, AND
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
PATTI J. NELSON-GILL,	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	
	:	ORDER 0002243

Division of Legal Services and Compliance¹ Case No. 12 SOC 004

The parties to this action for the purpose of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

Patti J. Nelson-Gill
5279 Saint Augustine Lane
Hartford, WI 53027

Social Worker Section
Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and
Social Work Examining Board
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Social Worker Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board (Section). The Section has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Section in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Patti J. Nelson-Gill (dob August 1, 1962) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a social worker, having license number 120-2184, first issued on November 24,

¹ The Division of Legal Services and Compliance was formerly known as the Division of Enforcement.

1993, and current through February 28, 2013. Patti J. Nelson-Gill's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 5279 Saint Augustine Lane, Hartford, WI 53027.

2. On or about January 14, 2011, Respondent renewed her social worker credential in the State of Wisconsin. During the continuing education portion of the renewal process, Respondent certified the following statement:

I have completed 30 credit hours of continuing education in approved programs as provided in section MPSW 19.01, Wisconsin Administrative Code, between March 1, 2009 and February 28, 2011. I have or will have evidence of this which I will furnish to the Board upon request.

3. In July 2011, the Department conducted a continuing education audit on behalf of the Section. Respondent was selected to comply with this audit. As a result, she was requested to submit an attendance table and proof of attendance for all of the continuing education hours she completed during the 2009-2011 biennium.

4. Upon the Department's request that she submit an attendance table and proof of completion of the continuing education hours ("CEHs") acquired during the 2009 – 2011 biennium, Respondent submitted documentation showing that she had successfully completed 40 CEHs for the 2009 – 2011 biennium. She included documentation showing that she successfully met the 4 CEHs requirement in the area of Social Work Ethics and Boundaries.

5. The Department's investigation revealed that 34 of the 40 CEHs submitted by Respondent were continuing education courses that were sponsored by Fundamental UNV, which is not an approved sponsor under Wis. Admin. Code § MSPW 8.03(1m). Therefore, Respondent had only successfully completed a total of 6 CEHs, which included her successful completion of the 4 CEHs requirement in the area of Social Work Ethics and Boundaries.

6. Respondent needed to obtain and successfully complete an additional 24 CEHs in order to be in compliance with all the CEH requirements for the 2009 – 2011 biennium.

7. Respondent provided the Certificates of Completion for the following continuing education courses, totaling 24.5 CEHs, that were all taken after the 2009-2011 biennium:

- a) "How to Select an In Home Care Provider Live Webinare," completed February 16, 2011, 1 hour;
- b) "Alcohol-Related Dementia and the Elderly," completed May 20, 2011, 4 hours;
- c) "Caregivers: Investigating and Reporting Allegations of Caregiver Misconduct," completed August 31, 2011, 4 hours;
- d) "Helping Families Make Difficult End of Life Decisions," completed September 13, 2011, 1 hour;
- e) "Where is our Gate Keeper? Closing the Gaps in Services for Older Adults," completed September 20, 2011, 2 hours;

- f) "Guiding the Bereaved to an Intention to Heal," completed September 23, 2011, 4 hours;
- g) "Care of the Patient with Dementia," completed September 27, 2011, 1 hour;
- h) "Domestic Violence Presentation," completed October 5, 2011, 1.5 hours;
- i) "Psychiatric Disorders in the Aging Population: Diagnosis and Treatment of the Overlooked Patient," completed November 10, 2011, 6.0 hours;

8. The Department has received all certificates of Completion or proof of attendance for all the continuing education courses listed above. Respondent is now in compliance with all the continuing education requirements for the 2009 – 2011 biennium having completed a total of 30.5 CEHs.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Social Worker Section of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26, and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. Respondent's conduct in paragraphs 5-6 describes a failure to complete at least 30 Section-approved credit hours of continuing education in the 2009-2011 credentialing period as required by Wis. Admin. Code § MPSW 8.02(1), and subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 457.26(2)(h).

ORDER

- 1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
- 2. Patti J. Nelson-Gill is REPRIMANDED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, effective the date of this order:

3. Patti J. Nelson-Gill shall not use any of the continuing education hours listed in the Findings of Fact paragraph 7 to satisfy the CEH requirements of the 2011 – 2013 biennium.

4. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$350.00.

5. Payment of costs shall be made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services and sent to the Department Monitor at the address below:

Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

6. Violation of any of the terms of this Order may be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Respondent's license. The Section in its discretion may in the alternative impose additional conditions and limitations or other additional discipline for a violation of any of the terms of this Order. In the event Respondent fails to timely submit payment of the costs as ordered, Respondent's license (120-2184) may, in the discretion of the Section or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with payment of the forfeiture and costs.

7. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

SOCIAL WORKER SECTION OF THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY,
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING AND SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

by: Eric Alvarado
A Member of the Section (DW)

12/21/12
Date