

Hearing Status: CONFIRMED

Physician: Dr. Monica Cavanagh

Date of Hearing: November 26-29, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: ZOOM

Charges:

1. You did display a lack of knowledge of or lack of skill or judgment in the provision of professional services to your Patient A, particulars of which include one or more of the following:
 - a. Having already established a therapeutic relationship with your patient's minor daughter, you accepted Patient A as your patient;
 - b. You did not inform your patient or record in their chart your diagnostic opinion that they had a borderline personality disorder meeting full diagnostic threshold;
 - c. You had informed your patient's family physician and therapists, including the craniosacral therapist and the school about the patient having personality disorder features but not the patient;
 - d. You failed to inform your patient about or record in their chart the conventional treatment options for a patient with a borderline personality disorder;
 - e. You failed to discuss or to record in your patient's chart the patient's goals of treatment and a safety and crises management plan other than going to the hospital;
 - f. You failed to consider or to record in your patient's chart referral for consultation given the complexities, risk level and transference/countertransference issues encountered in your treatment of this patient;
 - g. You referred your patient to a craniosacral therapist when such therapy has little to no evidence to support its use as a treatment modality for a patient with borderline personality disorder and trauma;

- h. When the patient did not make sufficient progress with the initial psychodynamic, short-term dynamic and Accelerated Resolution Therapy (ART) after more than 2 years, you failed to discuss with your patient or record in their chart conventional and more specific treatment options for borderline personality disorder and trauma, and instead, supported alternative or non-specific treatments such as craniosacral therapy, Reiki, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), acupuncture, yoga, equine therapy, client-centered therapy, and existential therapy;
- i. You failed to maintain an appropriate physician and patient boundary in that you did one or more of the following:
 - i. You gave your patient a copy of the book, "Anna, Grandmother of Jesus: Message of Wisdom and Love";
 - ii. You provided your patient with an email address to contact you that was not your regular office email address;
 - iii. You shared personal information about yourself or your family with your patient during clinical sessions and by email;
 - iv. You accepted a necklace from your patient;
 - v. You failed to assert an appropriate physician and patient boundary when your patient would attempt to engage you in a personal relationship, including using your first name in communicating with you;
 - vi. On February 16, 2021 you offered to set up a virtual after clinic hours meeting with your patient when there was no urgency for that meeting;
- j. You billed the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan for eight units of 08.19 GA for services provided to your patient on February 12, 2021 when your chart notes for that visit with the patient do not justify the billing claim.
- k. You billed the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan for six units of 08.19 GA for services provided to your patient when you went walking/running with your patient on March 11, 2021 when your chart notes for that visit with the patient do not justify the billing claim;
- l. You billed the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan for 03.05JR for telephone communication with the patient on March 15, 2021 when your chart notes do not justify the billing claim;
- m. You gave notice to your patient by email on or about March 15, 2021 that you were terminating the doctor-patient relationship and thereafter did not have a closure session with your patient;
- n. You failed to provide reasonable advance notice of termination of care to your patient having regard to her continuing needs for care and transition of care to an appropriate health care professional.

2. You did display a lack of knowledge of or lack of skill or judgment in the provision of professional services to your minor Patient B, particulars of which include one or more of the following:
 - a. You gave notice to your patient's parent by email on or about March 15, 2021 that you were terminating the doctor-patient relationship and thereafter did not have a closure session with your patient;
 - b. You failed to provide reasonable advance notice of termination of care to your patient having regard to their continuing needs for care.

3. You did display a lack of knowledge of or lack of skill or judgment in the provision of professional services to your minor Patient C, particulars of which include one or more of the following:
 - a. You failed to inform your patient or their parents about your uncertainty of the autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis by the time of termination of care, although your letter to Dr. KC dated September 1, 2022 indicated this uncertainty or a potential factitious by proxy;
 - b. You failed to consider, discuss or record in your patient's chart reasonable other conventional medications that the patient may have benefitted from given their high dysregulation, anxiety and ADHD symptoms, even after a consultation with the Alberta Children's Hospital Child Development Services recommended looking again at a SSRI or stimulant medication;
 - c. You recommended many supplements or changes to supplements for your patient that are not conventional treatment options without clear indications for use or clear stepped trials of these supplements; these supplements were expensive on the whole and in one case, had to be specially ordered from a particular website or individual whom the family was recommended to contact;
 - d. Although you had indicated in your consultation letter dated May 22, 2018 after your initial assessment of the patient that the treatment plan included cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) for anxiety, which would be conventional treatment, you did not make a referral for CBT or record in the patient's chart that this therapy was tried;
 - e. You gave notice to your patient's parent by email on or about March 15, 2021 that you were terminating the doctor-patient relationship and thereafter did not have a closure session with your patient;
 - f. You failed to provide reasonable advance notice of termination of care to your patient having regard to their continuing needs for care nor was there a reasonable transfer of care plan that was discussed with the family beforehand;
 - g. Following your email to the family dated on or about March 15, 2021 that you are terminating care of the patient, there was not a timely transfer of clinical information; you wrote a letter to the pediatrician dated April 19, 2021 requesting for them to see the patient and your letter dated September 1, 2022 providing pertinent clinical information was completed 16 months later.

Although open to the public, the Hearing Tribunal can close a portion or all of the Hearing at any time. When this occurs, all those who registered to attend will be asked to leave.

To attend, please contact Hearings.Director@cpsa.ab.ca by **November 19, 2024**.

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

Inquiries can be directed to:

Hearings.Director@cpsa.ab.ca