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Professional Disclosure Statement

Marc V. Pimsler, MA, MAC, CCS, ACRPS, CYT, RRT-CP

As your clinical supervisor, I am responsible for providing individual and group supervision as you move forward in your journey of professional development. The purpose of this professional disclosure statement is to orient you towards my goals for supervision, provide you with an overview of the supervision process, and to outline some of the conditions under which this relationship can flourish. Prior to addressing the above mentioned points, I would like to review my qualifications for providing clinical supervision.

I have worked clinically in the field of addiction since 2005. I received my graduate degree in clinical mental health counseling from Argosy University. I am a Master Addiction Counselor credential from NAADAC, a certified clinical supervisor from GACA, an advanced certified relapse prevention specialist from the CENAPS corporation, a certified yoga/meditation teacher from Kashi Atlanta, and I am a Rapid Resolution Therapy – Certified Practitioner from the Institute for Rapid Resolution Therapy. I specialize in working with adolescents, young adults, and adults seeking recovery from substance use disorders. I have several areas of professional competence as I am advanced trained in providing experiential therapy, psychodrama, sand tray therapy, and practice with an emphasis on resolving shame and trauma.

I have been engaged in clinical supervision mostly through ACTS consulting since 2013. I provide group, individual, and triadic supervision for addiction counselors. I also provide clinical supervision for Safety Net Recovery and Pathways IOP where I serve as the Executive Clinical Director. I am currently the chair for the GACA ethics committee and I adhere to the GACA, NAADAC, NBCC, and ACA codes of ethics.

Supervision has two primary goals: The development of the counseling skills of the supervisee (counselor in training) and the protection of the client. These two goals are the lens in which all supervision activities are seen through. I take a combined approach to supervision using techniques primarily from Psychodynamic Supervision, Humanistic-Relationship Oriented Supervision, and Cognitive-Behavioral Supervision. Most of our time will be focused on your developing counseling skills; however, there will be some attention paid to the services your clients are receiving. When or if there is a question about the adequacy of the counseling that your client(s) are receiving, supervision will become more active and, perhaps more intrusive.

Group supervision will take place one Saturday per month in a four-hour session with three or more supervisees. Please email me for a list of upcoming group supervision sessions. Individual or Triadic supervision will be conducted at least, one hour per month with one to two supervisees. Individual and triadic supervision sessions are scheduled based on the convenience of those participating.

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If you are seeking initial certification as an addiction counselor, you are required to submit a minimum of one audiotaped counseling session per ten hours of supervision or at least one per quarter. Sanitized copies of documentation might be required for you to submit, in order to support your developing skills. It is your duty to bring in the required evidence of your work in order for me to assess your progress and professional development. Audio tapes and documentation will be reviewed during supervision and will not be kept by me. It is your duty to ensure and maintain confidentiality of all confidential materials.

Different supervisors will draw from different supervision models. You can count on the following, however; You will be encouraged to consider your thoughts, your behaviors, and your feelings as you conduct counseling sessions. Your supervisors will draw from the roles of teacher, consultant, and counselor to assist you in doing this. The supervision you will be offered will be developmentally appropriate (that is, the supervision will be matched to your level of experience and your relative ability). The supervision you receive will include discussions about cultural contexts – your own, the supervisor’s, and the client’s – and how these affect the counseling and supervision relationships of which you are a part. The supervision you receive will be sensitive to your personal goals for yourself as a counselor and will be consistent with how you conceptualize client issues theoretically. You will be challenged and supported throughout supervision. You will be treated with respect.

Although as your supervisor I may draw on a counselor role, it is important for you to understand that this is only to help you understand any personal reactions you may be having that are diminishing your positive effect as a counselor. The resolution of personal difficulties cannot be attained through supervision. A referral list of counseling services is available if you ask for it. It is not unusual for counselors in training to seek their own personal counseling during the credentialing process.

It will be necessary to document your hours and topics of each supervision session. Supervision will cover the following eight counselor skill groups: Treatment Admission (Screening, Intake and Orientation), Clinical Assessment, Ongoing Treatment Planning, Counseling Services (Individual, Group, Family, Crisis Intervention, Client Education), Case Management, Documentation, Discharge and Continuing Care, Legal, Ethical, and Professional Growth Issues. It is ultimately your responsibility to maintain your hours for your certification. I will maintain my own records of the overall process of supervision.

We will have ongoing assessment and evaluation of the process of supervision. Evaluation is an important part of supervision as it allows us both to see your progress so we can focus on your strengths and areas that need improvement. There will be a formal evaluation halfway through the initial certification process as well as a final counselor evaluation as you apply to take the national exam for certification. Both written and oral evaluation will be conducted by me of your professional development. During sessions when we review your audiotape you will receive immediate feedback on content reviewed.

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Fees are due at the time of supervision unless previous arrangements have been made. Fees for individual and triadic supervision are \$50/hour. Fees for group supervision are \$50 for a 4-hour group. Please email me for a schedule of group supervision dates and times. You are more than welcome to join group supervision at any time so long as there is room in the group.

For initial and recertification (for CACI) as an addiction counselor you are required to have supervision. A supervision contract would be required for you in order to state that you are under my supervision. The contract duration would be specific to your needs as a supervisee. It could be for a specific timeframe (6 months), until a specific event (become certified), or for a set number of needed hours (30 hours of group/individual supervision).

Because you are a counselor in training I cannot guarantee confidentiality of information gained in supervision if it is relevant to your overall professional development. I can, however, commit to honoring and respecting all information I receive in supervision about you and/or your clients and keeping all such information confidential to the degree possible. Occasionally, there are situations that occur that make confidentiality impossible. These include:

1. Threats to harm self or others
2. Reasonable suspicion of abuse of a child or vulnerable persons
3. When ordered to do so by the court
4. In defense against legal action before a court

Please feel free to contact me via email at info@marcpimsler.com or by phone at 404-839-2331. In case of emergency make sure to call 911 or GA crisis at 800-715-4225. It is very important to know the emergency procedures of the agency in which you work. Always follow policy and procedures. If you have concerns or questions about emergency policies/procedures, ask your site supervisor about what to do in case of emergency.

Although it is rare, occasionally a supervisee does not feel that he or she has received adequate supervision or a fair evaluation. If this should occur, your first step is to attempt to resolve the issue with me. If you remain dissatisfied, you may seek a second opinion from another supervisor which I will be happy to refer you. If you feel there is an ethical violation of any kind please submit your complaint to gaca@gaca.com.

While the practical aspects of this form might be intimidating I assure you this is an exciting part of your professional development. I intend for your supervision experience to be a time of growth and connection. I look forward to working with you and watching as you grow into an addiction professional.

Marc Pimsler, MA, MAC, CCS Date

Supervisee Date