



**STATE OF NEVADA**

**BEFORE THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

In re **Lisa Cooper**, Former Executive Director, Board of Massage Therapy, State of Nevada,

Ethics Complaint No. **18-005C**

Subject. /

**REVIEW PANEL DETERMINATION AND REFERRAL ORDER<sup>1</sup>**  
NRS 281A.725

The Nevada Commission on Ethics ("Commission") received this Ethics Complaint No. 18-005C ("Complaint") regarding the alleged conduct of Lisa Cooper ("Cooper"), the former Executive Director of the State of Nevada Board of Massage Therapy ("Board"), in violation of Nevada's Ethics in Government Law set forth in NRS Chapter 281A ("Ethics Law"). The Commission instructed the Executive Director to investigate alleged violations of NRS 281A.400(1) and (2) regarding Cooper's use of her position as the Executive Director to receive additional unauthorized annual leave and compensation to further her own pecuniary interest and her use of the Board's credit cards for personal expenses.

Cooper is a former public officer as defined in NRS 281A.160. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to NRS 281A.280 because the allegations contained in the Complaint relate to the Subject's conduct as a public officer and have associated implications under the Ethics Law.

On March 20, 2019, a Review Panel ("Panel") consisting of Chair Cheryl A. Lau, Esq. (Presiding Officer) and Commissioners Brian Duffrin and Teresa Lowry, Esq., reviewed the following: 1) the Complaint; 2) the *Order on Jurisdiction and Investigation*; 3) Investigator's Report; and 4) Executive Director's Recommendation to the Review Panel.<sup>2</sup>

Under NAC 281A.430, the Panel unanimously finds and concludes that the facts establish credible evidence to support a determination that just and sufficient cause exists for the Commission to render an opinion in the matter regarding the alleged violations of NRS 281A.400(1) and (2) related to Cooper's use of her position as the Board's Executive Director to receive additional unauthorized annual leave and compensation.

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<sup>1</sup> Except as provided by law, a Panel Determination shall not be cited as precedent.

<sup>2</sup> All materials provided to the Panel, except the Complaint and the *Order on Jurisdiction and Investigation*, represent portions of the investigatory file and remain confidential pursuant to NRS 281A.750.

However, the Panel unanimously finds and concludes that there is not just and sufficient cause for the Commission to render an opinion in the matter for alleged violations of NRS 281A.400(1) and (2) regarding Cooper's use of the Board's credit card for personal expenses. Therefore, there will be no further action regarding these allegations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

The Review Panel refers the Complaint to the Commission to render an opinion in the matter in furtherance of this just and sufficient cause determination.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

By: /s/ Cheryl A. Lau  
Cheryl A. Lau, Esq.  
Chair/Presiding Officer

By: /s/ Teresa Lowry  
Teresa Lowry, Esq.  
Commissioner

By: /s/ Brian Duffrin  
Brian Duffrin  
Commissioner