



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Board of Psychologist Examiners

3218 Pringle Road SE, Ste. 130

Salem, OR 97302-6309

(503) 378-4154 • Fax: (503) 374-1904

Oregon.gov/OBPE

PRESS RELEASE – March 25, 2015

On March 20, 2015, the Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners (Board) voted unanimously to revoke the Psychology license of Debra (Kali) Miller, Ph.D. and issued a Final Order. In the Final Order, the Board concluded that Dr. Miller's conduct in diagnosing reactive attachment disorder (RAD) in an 11 year old child and making specific treatment recommendations to the parents posed a significant risk of harm to the child, breached ethical standards, and constituted immoral or unprofessional conduct or gross negligence in the practice of psychology.

The Board found that Dr. Miller had recommended that the parents of this child implement certain interventions that did not involve evidence based practices. These included that the father baby bottle feed this then 11 year old child to promote attachment; that the child crawl on his tummy like a baby; that the parents place small treats into the child's mouth to reward good behavior ("baby birding"); and that the parents have the child sit for a certain time period in a cross legged, straight posture ("strong sitting"). This case came to the Board's attention after the child attempted suicide and was subsequently admitted to a hospital.

The effectiveness of these interventions is not supported by professional research/peer reviewed studies. Dr. Miller did not alter her recommendations in the face of evidence that the parents were often using these interventions as punishment. The Board concluded that these interventions had potential to cause harm, and more likely than not, did cause psychological harm to this child. During the hearing Dr. Miller continued to express strong conviction in the efficacy of the methodology she had promoted.

The Board had earlier suspended Dr. Miller's license, on Sept. 18, 2014, after finding that Dr. Miller's continued practice as a licensed psychologist in the State of Oregon would constitute a serious danger to the public health or safety. Both after the Board issued an Order for Emergency Suspension, and again after receiving Board's Proposed Order of Revocation of her psychology license, Dr. Miller exercised her legal right to seek a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. Two different Administrative Law Judges found in favor of each of the Board's proposed actions. Therefore, Dr. Debra (Kali) Miller's license to practice psychology in Oregon was revoked.

The Board has the responsibility to exercise general supervision over the practice of psychology in the State of Oregon and to protect the public from any conduct or practice contrary to the standards of the ethics of the psychological profession or conduct that constitutes a danger to the health or safety to a patient or the public.

Fran Ferder, Ph.D.

Chair, Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners

(503) 378-4154

fran.ferder@state.or.us