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### **THEORETICAL FOUNDATION FOR APPROVAL AS A SUPERVISING COUNSELOR**

Mentoring others has always been a strong interest of mine, and I have voluntarily provided that kind of guidance for master's-level students in a very informal way since I graduated in 1998. Other than a general interest in mentoring, I am interested in sharing with future counselors the good experiences I had during my own supervision process. However, my primary reason for wanting to become a clinical supervisor is rooted in my desire for "best of care" for people seeking counseling. All consumers of counseling services deserve competent, ethical, and professional practitioners, and I hope that my supervisees will be keenly dedicated to this kind of practice with their own clients as a result of our work together.

I have considered and researched a number of models and theories for counselor supervision during my training, and Caplan's model makes the most sense to me. The supervisory roles I fill in helping others become competent therapists will vary based on the expertise and development of the supervisees, as well as on my own development as a supervisor. In this manner, I will serve as Teacher, Counselor, Consultant, or Evaluator depending on both the situation and the long-term developmental goals of the supervisee. Focus areas within supervisory meetings will include analysis and processing of intervention skills, conceptualization skills, personalization skills, and ethics/professional development, along with specifics outlined in an approved Plan of Supervision. I am committed to being mindful of and responsive to the legal and ethical issues germane to clinical supervision, including Malpractice and Negligence, Duty to Warn, Direct and Vicarious Liability, Due Process, Dual Relationships, Competence, Confidentiality, and Informed Consent.

In addition to the required 24 hours of formal training in counselor supervision, I have attended a number of professional development programs over the years on this topic. I feel as prepared as I could possibly be in terms of having the information and resources to provide appropriate supervision. And although I have met both the requirements of academic training in supervision and practical experience as a clinician, I haven't actually done any live formal supervision, and have therefore taken the initiative to talk with several Supervising Counselors who have agreed to provide consultation for me as I apply and practice this new set of skills. Certainly, my lack of experience as a Supervising Counselor will be my greatest weakness as I begin this process. Another weakness will be my lack of familiarity with the administrative functions associated with this role. As a therapist, some of my greatest strengths include the ability to meet a client where they are, and to be very affirming of them, instilling hope and encouragement. These qualities will be especially helpful when working with new supervisees. Also, I have had a wide variety of therapeutic experiences with clients, and am certain that this experience will also be an asset in my work with supervisees.

With appropriate intentions, solid training, strong clinical skills, and an experienced network of colleagues who I can trust, I am well-equipped to begin serving as a Supervising Counselor. My commitment to myself, to my supervisees, and to their clients is to remain dedicated to my development as an effective, competent, professional and ethical clinical supervisor. Thank you for considering my application.