

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

1986-0620-030-03

IN RE:

Stephanie Blogoslowski

89 Rome Street

New Britain, CT 06053

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Examiners for Nursing, (hereafter the "Board"), was presented by the Department of Health Services with a Statement of Charges dated February 25, 1986.

The Statement of Charges alleged violations of certain provisions of Chapter 378, Connecticut General Statutes. The Board issued a Notice of Hearing. The Notice of Hearing provided that the hearing would take place on April 30, 1986 in Room 308 at the National Guard Armory on 360 Broad Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

The respondent, Stephanie Blogoslowski, was present at above mentioned hearing, but was not represented by counsel.

Each member of the Board involved in this decision attests that he/she has reviewed the record, and that this decision is based entirely on the record and their specialized professional knowledge in evaluating the evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Stephanie Blogoslowski, respondent, was licensed to practice nursing as a registered nurse in Connecticut, pursuant to Chapter 378 of the Connecticut General Statutes, with registration number R-29089. The respondent was so licensed at times referenced in this document.

2. The respondent originally was licensed as a registered nurse in Massachusetts.
3. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 4-182(c), the respondent was provided full opportunity prior to the institution of agency action to show compliance with all the terms for the retention of her license.
4. In a Memorandum of Decision dated November 10, 1983, the Board ordered that the license of the respondent be suspended for one year effective November 18, 1983, for diversion of Nubain.
5. The respondent was reinstated on November 18, 1984, and subsequently began to work at New Britain General Hospital, New Britain, Connecticut, as a registered nurse.
6. An investigation began on July 29, 1985 concerning reported incidents involving tampering with dosettes of controlled analgesics at New Britain General Hospital.
7. Hospital records were reviewed, which indicated which nurses worked at the nursing stations where tampered dosettes were found, during the time frames involved. The respondent's name kept recurring and the respondent worked at all the stations involved.
8. During August, 1985, while working as a registered nurse at New Britain General Hospital, the respondent diverted the controlled substance Demerol.
9. The Disposition Records for August 10 and 11, 1985, indicate that the respondent withdrew six doses of 75mg of Demerol, beginning at 4:00p.m. on August 10, 1985, for a patient who claims her last dose of said medication was on August 10, 1985, at approximately 7:30a.m.

10. The Disposition Records of August 9 and 10, 1985 indicate that the respondent drew up dosettes of Demerol for patients not assigned to her.

11. During August, 1985, while working as a registered nurse at New Britain General Hospital, the respondent failed to make accurate or complete documentation in medical or hospital records.

12. The Disposition Records for August 10, 1985 show that the respondent drew up a dosette of 75mg Demerol at 4:00p.m., 7:00p.m. and 10:20p.m. for a patient. No corresponding entries appear in said patient's medication administration record or nursing notes.

13. The Disposition Records of August 9, 1985 indicates that the respondent drew up a dosette of 75mg. Demerol at 5:45 p.m. and 8:00p.m. for a patient. No confirming entry appears in said patient's medication administration record or nursing notes regarding these two withdrawals.

14. The Disposition Records document that the respondent drew up two 75mg dosettes of Demerol between 3:00p.m. through 11:00p.m. on August 10, 1985 for a patient. Said patient's medication administration record documents administration of only one dose of Demerol 75mg during said period of time; then that entry is marked "not given" on the medication administration record. No corresponding entry was made on the Disposition Record of August 10, 1985 by the respondent.

15. The Disposition Record of August 11, 1985 indicate that the respondent drew up a dosette of 75mg. Demerol at 4:00p.m., 7:00p.m. and 10:00p.m. for a patient. There were no entries made in said patient's medication administration record or nursing notes to confirm this.

16. During August, 1985, while working as a registered nurse at New Britain General Hospital, the respondent administered medication against or without a physician's order.

17. The Disposition Records show that the respondent drew up a dosette of 75mg. Demerol at 3:45p.m. and again at 5:25p.m. on August 10, 1985, for a patient not assigned to her. The Demerol dosage had been discontinued by said patient's physician in the morning of August 10, 1985.

18. During August, 1985, while working as a registered nurse at New Britain General Hospital, the respondent failed to appropriately assess patients' condition.

19. The Disposition Records indicate that the respondent drew up a dosette of 75mg of Demerol at 3:45p.m. and 5:25 p.m. on August 10, 1985, for a patient not assigned to her. Ten grains of Aspirin administered on August 10, 1985, at 10:00p.m., by another nurse, seemed to provide all the relief needed by this patient. The head nurse indicated that the patient needed no pain medication all day. The Demerol dosage had been discontinued by said patient's physician in the morning of August 10, 1985.

20. The Disposition Records indicate that on August 10, 1985, the respondent drew up a dosette of 75mg Demerol at 4:00p.m., 7:00p.m. and 10:20 p.m. for a patient who at 11:00a.m. and 3:25p.m. on that date had received Percocet tablets not Demerol. The medication administration record indicated that the previous dose of Demerol to said patient was at 7:20a.m. on August 10, 1985. On August 10, 1985, the medication administration record reflects that the respondent administered two Percocet tablets to this same patient at 7:30p.m. and 11:00p.m.

21. The Disposition Records of August 9, 1985 indicate that the respondent drew up a 75mg dosette of Demerol at 5:45 p.m. and 8:00p.m. for a patient who was given, by another nurse, two Percocet tablets at approximately 12:30p.m., with good results, and was given two Percocets at 8:10p.m. by another nurse. The patient was not assigned to the respondent.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

22. Section (a) of the First Count alleges that the respondent violated Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-99(b)(2), (4), (5) or (6) by diverting the controlled substance Demerol. The respondent denied said charge.

Subsection (2) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions."

Subsection (4) of Section 20-99(b) prohibits the practice of nursing by an individual with an "emotional disorder or mental illness."

Subsection (5) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals."

Subsection (6) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities."

The Board determined that during August of 1985, while working as a registered nurse at New Britain General Hospital in New Britain, Connecticut, the respondent diverted the controlled substance Demerol. Disposition Records indicate that the respondent drew up dosettes of Demerol 75mg on at least four occasions, between August 9 through August 10, 1985, for a patient not assigned to her. Disposition Records further indicate that between August 9, 1985 through August 11, 1985, the respondent documented drawing up at least 10 dosettes of Demerol 75mg but made no entry in the patients' medication administration records, nor in the nursing notes to confirm administration to these patients. The Board further determined that the Disposition Records for August 10 and 11, 1985, indicate that the respondent withdrew six doses of 75mg of Demerol, beginning at 4:00p.m. on August 10, 1985, for a patient who claims her last dose of said medication was on August 10, 1985, at approximately 7:30a.m. The respondent denied this charge and felt that these were "only record keeping errors." The Board concluded that the respondent has violated Section 20-99(b)(2) as specified in section (a) of the First Count.

23. Section (b) of the First Count alleges that the respondent violated Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-99(b)(2), (4), (5) or (6) by diverting the controlled substance Morphine. The respondent denied the charge.

Subsection (2) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions."

Subsection (4) of Section 20-99(b) prohibits the practice of nursing by an individual with an "emotional disorder or mental illness."

Subsection (5) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals."

Subsection (6) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities."

The Board determined that insufficient evidence was presented to find that the respondent violated Section 20-99(b)(2), (4), (5), or (6), as specified in section (b) of the First Count. The Board hereby dismisses the charges as specified in section (b) of the First Count.

24. Section (c) of the First Count alleges that the respondent violated Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-99(b)(2), (4), (5) or (6) by diverting the controlled substance hydromorphone. The respondent denied this charge.

Subsection (2) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions."

Subsection (4) of Section 20-99(b) prohibits the practice of nursing by an individual with an "emotional disorder or mental illness."

Subsection (5) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals."

Subsection (6) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities."

The Board determined that insufficient evidence was presented to find that the respondent violated Section 20-99(b)(2), (4), (5) or (6) as specified in section (c) of the First Count. The Board hereby dismisses the charges as contained in section (c) of the First Count.

25. Section (d) of the First Count alleges that the respondent violated Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-99(b)(2), (4), (5) or (6) by diverting the controlled substance pentobarbital. The respondent denied this charge.

Subsection (2) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions."

Subsection (4) of Section 20-99(b) prohibits the practice of nursing by an individual with an "emotional disorder or mental illness."

Subsection (5) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals."

Subsection (6) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities."

The Board determined that insufficient evidence was presented to find the respondent violated Section 20-99(b)(2), (4), (5) or (6) as specified in section (d) of the First Count. The Board hereby dismisses the charges as contained in section (d) of the First Count.

26. Section (e) of the First Count alleges that the respondent violated Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-99(b)(2), (4), (5) or (6) by diverting the controlled substance secobarbital. The respondent denied this charge.

Subsection (2) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions."

Subsection (4) of Section 20-99(b) prohibits the practice of nursing by an individual with an "emotional disorder or mental illness."

Subsection (5) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals."

Subsection (6) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities."

The Board determined that insufficient evidence was presented to find the respondent violated Section 20-99(b)(2), (4), (5) or (6) as specified in section (e) of the First Count. The Board hereby dismisses the charges as contained in section (e) of the First Count.

27. Section (f) of the First Count alleges that the respondent violated Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-99(b)(2), (4), (5) or (6) by failing to make accurate or complete documentation in medical or hospital records.

Subsection (2) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions."

Subsection (4) of Section 20-99(b) prohibits the practice of nursing by an individual with an "emotional disorder or mental illness."

Subsection (5) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals."

Subsection (6) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities."

The Board determined that during August of 1985, while working as a registered nurse at New Britain General Hospital, New Britain, Connecticut, the respondent failed to make accurate or complete documentation in medical or hospital records of Demerol administration. On August 9, 10 and 11th, 1985, there were at least 10 occasions when the respondent documented drawing up 75mg dosettes of Demerol but made no entry on the medication administration records for these patients nor in the nursing notes to confirm administration to these patients. The Board determined further that the Disposition Records document that the respondent drew up two 75mg dosettes of Demerol between 3:00p.m. through 11:00p.m. on August 10, 1985, for a patient. Said patient's medication administration record documents administration of only one dose of Demerol 75mg during said period of time; then that entry is marked "not given" on the medication administration record. No corresponding entry was made on the Disposition Record of August 10, 1985 by the respondent. The respondent admitted to the record keeping errors. The board therefore concludes that the respondent has violated Section 20-99(b)(2) as specified in section (f) of the First Count.

28. Section (g) of the First Count alleges that the respondent violated Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-99(b)(2), (4), (5) or (6) by administering medication against or without a physician's order. The respondent denied this charge.

Subsection (2) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions."

Subsection (2) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions."

Subsection (4) of Section 20-99(b) prohibits the practice of nursing by an individual with an "emotional disorder or mental illness."

Subsection (5) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals."

Subsection (6) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities."

The Board determined that during August, 1985, while working as a registered nurse at New General Britain Hospital, New Britain, Connecticut the respondent administered medication against or without a physician's order. The Disposition Records show that the respondent drew up a dosette of 75 mg. Demerol at 3:45p.m. and again at 5:25p.m. on August 10, 1985 for a patient. The Demerol dosage had been discontinued, by said patient's physician, in the morning of August 10, 1985. The Board therefore concluded that the respondent has violated Section 20-99(b)(2) as specified in section (g) of the First Count.

29. Section (h) of the First Count alleges that the respondent violated Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-99(b)(2), (4), (5) or (6) by failing to appropriately assess the patients' condition. The respondent denied this charge.

Subsection (2) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions."

Subsection (4) of Section 20-99(b) prohibits the practice of nursing by an individual with an "emotional disorder or mental illness."

Subsection (5) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals."

Subsection (6) of Section 20-99(b) forbids "fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities."

The Board determined that the Disposition Records indicate that the respondent drew up a dosette of 75mg of Demerol at 3:45p.m. and 5:25 p.m. on August 10, 1985, for a patient not assigned to her. Ten grains of Aspirin administered on August 10, 1985, at 10:00p.m., by another nurse, seemed to provide all the relief needed by this patient. The head nurse indicated that the patient needed no pain medication all day. The Demerol dosage had been discontinued by said patient's physician in the morning of August 10, 1985.

The Board further determined that the Disposition Records indicate that on August 10, 1985, the respondent drew up a dosette of 75mg Demerol at 4:00p.m., 7:00p.m. and 10:20 p.m. for a patient who at 11:00a.m. and 3:25p.m. on that date had received Percocet tablets, not Demerol. The medication administration record indicated that the previous dose of Demerol to said patient was at 7:20a.m. on August 10, 1985. On August 10, 1985 the medication administration record reflects that the respondent administered two Percocet tablets to this same patient at 7:30p.m. and 11:00p.m.

The Board further determined that the Disposition Records of August 9, 1985 indicate that the respondent drew up 75mg dosette of Demerol at 5:45 p.m. and 8:00p.m. for a patient who was given, by another nurse, two Percocet tablets at approximately 12:30p.m. with good results and was given two Percocet tablets at 8:10p.m. by another nurse. The patient was not assigned to the respondent. The Board therefore concludes that the respondent has violated Section 20-99(b)(2) as specified in section (h) of the First Count.

ORDER

30. It is the unanimous decision of those members of the Board of Examiners for Nursing who were present and voting that:

- A. The license of the respondent be suspended for a minimum period of three years determined as follows:
 - i. as to the section (a) of the First Count, one year suspension.
 - ii. as to the section (f) of the First Count, one year and six months suspension.
 - iii as to the section (g) of the First Count, six months suspension.
 - iv. as to Section (h) of the First Count, six months suspension.

- B. The suspensions under section (a), (f), and (g) of the First Count are to run consecutively.

C. The suspension under section (h) of the First Count is to run concurrently with the suspension under section (g) of the First Count.

D. The total effective suspension period as referenced in (A) above is for a minimum period of three years.

31. The said period of suspension shall commence July 3, 1986.

32. At the end of the minimum three year suspension period specified under (30) above, the respondent may apply for reinstatement of her registered nurse license, at which time she is to present documentation of her drug free status during the period of said suspension, current to within one month of her application for reinstatement of her license.

33. The respondent, Stephanie Blogoslawski, is hereby directed to surrender her license and current registration to the Board of Examiners for Nursing at 150 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut, 06106, on or before July 3, 1986.

34. The Board herewith advises the Department of Health Services of the State of Connecticut of this decision.

Dated at West Hartford, Connecticut, this 2nd day
of July, 19 86.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

BY: Bette Jane M. Murphy RN
Bette Jane M. Murphy, R.N., Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
BUREAU OF HEALTH SYSTEM REGULATION
DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

In re:

Stephanie Blogoslawski, R.N.

Petition No. 860620-10-031

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Stephanie Blogoslawski of New Britain, Connecticut has been issued license number R-29089 to practice as a registered nurse by the Department of Health Services pursuant to Chapter 378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended; and

WHEREAS, Stephanie Blogoslawski admits and acknowledges that:

1. She was originally licensed as a registered nurse in Massachusetts.
2. She surrendered her Massachusetts nursing license in 1984 and has not applied for reinstatement of that license.
3. She is not licensed and does not have licensure pending as a nurse in any other state, the District Columbia, or any U.S. territory.
4. She was suspended from the practice of nursing by the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing in 1983 for one year because of a finding of diversion of the legend drug Nubain.
5. She was summarily suspended from the practice of nursing by the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing on June 24, 1986 because of allegations of diversion, dilution, and substitution of a controlled substance; and no final hearing on the merits of this action has been held.

6. She is currently suspended from the practice of nursing for three years because of a finding of diversion of a controlled substance, charting deficiencies, inappropriate administration of medication, and inappropriate patient assessment, which suspension became effective on July 3, 1986.

NOW THEREFORE, Stephanie Blogoslowski, agrees and stipulates to the following:

1. That she waives her right to the hearing on the merits of this summary suspension action.
2. That her Connecticut registered nursing license number R-29089 and her right to hold or renew the same is hereby permanently revoked.
3. That she hereby waives, abandons, and surrenders any such right or rights, as she may now or at any future time possess, to hold any nursing license, including the right to make any future application to the Department of Health Services.
4. That she shall not apply to another state for a nursing license, or in the alternative she shall (1) notify the Connecticut Department of Health Services, the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing and Drug Control Division within seven days of said application and (2) provide the appropriate licensing Board of such other state a copy of this Consent Order.
5. That she shall engage in counseling with a licensed therapist for at least six months and that the therapist shall send monthly reports of her attendance to the address listed in paragraph 11. below.

6. That a violation of the terms in paragraph 5. above shall result in a report to the Department of Consumer Protection, Drug Control Division who will refer this case for criminal prosecution.
7. That she understands that this Consent Order may, at the Department's discretion, be disseminated to the health or nursing licensing Boards of other states.
8. That this Consent Order may be considered as evidence in any proceeding before the Commissioner of Health Services (1) in which her compliance with this same order is at issue, or (2) in the event she should at any future time apply for such license or the reviewal thereof or for the restoration of her eligibility to hold such license.
9. That this Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review under any form or in any forum. Further, that said order is not subject to appeal under the provisions of Chapters 54 and 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, provided that this stipulation shall not deprive her of any other rights that she may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.
10. That she understands that this Consent Order is a matter of public record.
11. That all correspondence and reports are to be addressed to:

Marie Hilliard, R.N., M.S.N.
Board of Examiners for Nursing
Department of Health Services
150 Washington Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
12. That this Consent Order is effective the first day of the month after the date of the signature of the last person to sign this document.

13. That she has consulted with an attorney prior to signing this documents.

I, Stephanie Blogoslowski, have read the above Consent Order, and I agree and admit to the terms forth therein. I further declare the execution of this Consent Order to be my free act and deed.

Stephanie Blogoslowski
Stephanie Blogoslowski

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of August 1986.

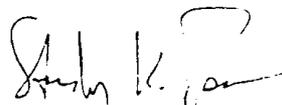
[Signature]
Commissioner of The Superior Court

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the above stipulation the undersigned do hereby stipulate and agree to not refer this matter to authorities for criminal prosecution.

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly authorized agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection on the 13th day of August 1986, it is hereby accepted.

William P. Ward
Drug Control Division

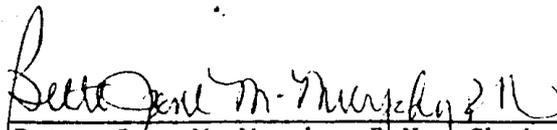
The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly authorized agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Health Services on the 13th day of August 1986, it is hereby accepted.



Stanley K. Peck, Director
Division of Medical Quality Assurance

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly authorized agent of the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing on the 13th day of August 1986, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

CONNECTICUT BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING



Bette Jane M. Murphy, R.N., Chairperson
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing

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