

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

Department of Public Health and Addiction Services v.

Deborah Latulipe Hedin, LPN

License No. 021602

91 Leffingwell Road, Apt. R-4

Uncasville CT 06382

CASE PETITION NO. 920106-11-001

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Examiners for Nursing (hereinafter the "Board") was presented by the Department of Health Services (hereinafter the "Department") with a Statement of Charges dated June 17, 1993. (Department Exhibit 1) The Statement of Charges alleged, in two (2) counts, violations of certain provisions of Chapter 378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut by Deborah Latulipe Hedin (hereinafter the "Respondent").

The Board issued a Notice of Hearing dated June 17, 1993 scheduling a hearing on June 30, 1993. (Department Exhibit 1) The hearing took place on June 30, 1993 in Room 1-C, Legislative Office Building, Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

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

FACTS

Based on the testimony given and the exhibits offered into evidence, the Board made the following findings of fact:

1. Deborah Latulipe Hedin, hereinafter referred to as the Respondent, was issued Licensed Practical Nurse License Number 021602 on June 2, 1986 and was the holder of said license until January 20, 1993. (Department Exhibits 2, 3, 8)
2. Pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, 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. (Department Exhibit 4)
3. The Respondent was aware of the time and location of the hearing. Department Exhibit 1 indicates that the Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges were delivered by certified mail to the Respondent.
4. The Respondent was present during the hearing but was not represented by counsel. (Hearing Transcript, June 30, 1993, p. 3)
5. The Respondent submitted an Answer to the Statement of Charges. (Respondent Exhibit A)

6. That from on or about June 18, 1990 to on or about January 2, 1992 the Respondent was employed as a licensed practical nurse at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, New London, Connecticut. (Department Exhibit 6)
7. That prior to her employment at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital and while she held a license as a licensed practical nurse in the State of Connecticut, the Respondent underwent inpatient treatment for alcohol/drug dependency. (Department Exhibit 6)
8. That during her employment at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital the Respondent attended Narcotics Anonymous. (Department Exhibit 6)
9. That on or about December 1991 the Respondent had a relapse of her alcohol/drug dependency. The Respondent abused alcohol and cocaine. (Department Exhibit 6)
10. That during December 1991 the Respondent was admitted to two (2) inpatient chemical dependency treatment programs. The Respondent discharged herself, against staff advice, from both programs prior to completion of treatment. (Department Exhibit 6)
11. That on or about January 1993 the Respondent was employed as a licensed practical nurse at Veterans Memorial Hospital, Meriden, Connecticut. (Department Exhibit 7)

12. That on January 9, 1993 and subsequent thereto, while working as a licensed practical nurse at Veteran's Memorial Hospital, the Respondent diverted the controlled substances, Demerol, Morphine and Percocet. (Department Exhibit 7) (Answer: Respondent Exhibit A)
  
13. That on or about January 9, 1993 and subsequent thereto the Respondent abused or utilized to excess the controlled substances specified in FACT 12 which she had diverted. (Answer: Respondent Exhibit A)
  
14. That on January 9, 1993 and subsequent thereto, while working as a licensed practical nurse at Veteran's Memorial Hospital, the Respondent failed to completely or properly or accurately make documentations in medical or hospital records. (Department Exhibit 7) (Answer: Respondent Exhibit A)
  
15. That on January 9, 1993 and subsequent thereto, while working as a licensed practical nurse at Veteran's Memorial Hospital, the Respondent falsified Controlled Substance Receipt Records. (Department Exhibit 7) (Answer: Respondent Exhibit A)
  
16. That the Respondent has participated in a substance abuse treatment program beginning on June 10, 1993. (Respondent Exhibit D)

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

In consideration of the above Findings of Fact, the following conclusions are rendered:

Deborah Latulipe Hedin held a valid licensed practical nurse license in the State of Connecticut at all times referenced in the Statement of Charges.

The Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges sufficiently provided information as mandated by the General Statutes of Connecticut Sections 4-177, 4-182 and 19a-17.

The hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 54 and 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut as well as 19-2a-1 through 19-2a-30 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The Notice of Hearing, Statement of Charges and the hearing process provided the Respondent with the opportunity to demonstrate compliance with all lawful requirements for the retention of her license as required by the General Statutes of Connecticut Section 4-182(c).

The FIRST COUNT of the Statement of Charges alleges, that upon being employed as a licensed practical nurse at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, New London, Connecticut on or about June 18, 1990, the Respondent admitted to prior alcohol and drug abuse; and that on or about December 7, 1991 the Respondent relapsed with alcohol and/or drugs.

The Respondent admits these charges. (Answer: Respondent Exhibit A)

The General Statutes of Connecticut, Section 20-99(b) prohibits conduct which fails to conform to the accepted standards of the nursing profession, which includes "... (5) abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals...."

Based on its findings and the Respondent's admission, the Board concludes that the Respondent's conduct as specified in the First Count is proven and that said conduct violates the General Statutes of Connecticut Section 20-99(b)(5). Therefore, the Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut.

The SECOND COUNT PARAGRAPH 3 of the Statement of Charges alleges the Respondent, on or about January 9, 1993 and at subsequent times while employed as a licensed practical nurse at Veteran's Memorial Hospital, Meriden, Connecticut, "a. diverted Demerol, Morphine and/or Percocet; and/or b. abused or utilized to excess one or more of said medication; and/or c. failed to completely or properly or accurately make documents in the medical or hospital records; and/or d. falsified one or more Controlled Substance Receipt Records."

The Respondent admits these charges. (Answer: Respondent Exhibit A)

The General Statutes of Connecticut, Section 20-99(b) prohibits conduct which fails to conform to the accepted standards of the nursing profession, which includes "... (2) illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions... (5) abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals... (6) fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities...."

Based on its findings and the Respondent's admission, the Board concludes that the Respondent's conduct as specified in the Second Count Paragraph 3 is proven and that said conduct violates the General Statutes of Connecticut Section 20-99(b)(2), (5) and (6). Therefore, the Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut.

ORDER

Pursuant to its authority under the General Statutes of Connecticut Sections 19a-17 and 20-99, the Board of Examiners for Nursing hereby orders:

1. That for the First Count, the licensed practical nurse license, No. 021602, of the Respondent be revoked.
2. That for the Second Count, the licensed practical nurse license, No. 021602, of the Respondent be revoked.
3. Revocation shall become effective on the date this Memorandum of Decision is signed by the Chairperson of the Board of Examiners for Nursing.
4. That at any future time should the Respondent apply for reinstatement of her licensed practical nurse license in Connecticut, she must present evidence, to the satisfaction of the Board, that she has been alcohol and drug free; that she has engaged in counseling and therapy for substance abuse; and that she has actively participated in a 12-Step structured recovery program.

The Board of Examiners for Nursing finds the misconduct regarding the First Count and the Second Count is severable and warrants the disciplinary action imposed.

The Board of Examiners for Nursing informs the Respondent, Deborah Latulipe Hedin, and the Department of Public Health and Addiction Services of the State of Connecticut of this decision.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 8th day of September, 1993.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

By

Janice Thibodeau

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