

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

Department of Public Health and Addiction Services v.

Melonie Londa, L.P.N.

Licensed Practical Nurse License No. 023945

16 Jefferson Park Road

Madison CT 06443

CASE PETITION NO. 930609-11-024

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Examiners for Nursing (hereinafter the "Board") was presented by the Department of Public Health and Addiction Services (hereinafter the "Department") with a Statement of Charges dated March 14, 1994. The Statement of Charges alleged, in two (2) counts, violations of certain provisions of Chapter 378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut by Melonie Londa (hereinafter the "Respondent").

The Board ordered a Notice of Hearing dated March 30, 1994 scheduling a hearing for June 29, 1994. The hearing took place on June 29, 1994 in Room 2-A, 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. Melonie Londa, hereinafter referred to as the Respondent, was issued Licensed Practical Nurse License Number 023945 on June 3, 1991 and was the holder of said license at all times referenced in the Statement of Charges. (Department Exhibit 1-B)
2. Pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §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 1)
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 29, 1994, pp. 2-3)
5. The Respondent provided a verbal answer to the Statement of Charges. (Hearing Transcript, June 29, 1994 pp. 5-8)
6. That beginning on or about May 1992 the Respondent was employed as a licensed practical nurse at Arden House Nursing Home, Hamden, Connecticut. (Department Exhibits 1-A and 1-C)
7. That on November 29, 1992 while working as a licensed practical nurse at Arden House, the Respondent failed to calculate a dose of Morphine Sulfate, which resulted in an incorrect dosage being administered to a patient. (Department Exhibits 1-A8, 1-A17)

8. That on or about February 13, 1993, while working as a licensed practical nurse at Arden House, the Respondent was counselled because of medication errors and signature omissions on medication Kardexes. (Department Exhibits 1-A6, 1-A7)
9. That on or about May 1 and May 2, 1993, while working as a licensed practical nurse at Arden House, the Respondent made six medication errors in which she administered incorrect dosages of Ativan and Klonopin to patients. (Department Exhibits 1-A9,10,11)
10. That on or about August 24, 1993, while working as a licensed practical nurse at Arden House, the Respondent signed out a dose of Ativan on a medication Kardex but failed to administer the medication to the patient. (Department Exhibit 1-A21)
11. That on or about September 3, 1993, while working as a licensed practical nurse at Arden House, the Respondent signed out two (2) doses of Ativan for a patient but only administered one of the doses. (Department Exhibit 1-A22)
12. That the Respondent has been diagnosed as suffering from Schizophrenia, Paranoid Stable and a Submissive Antagonistic Personality. In the opinion of the Respondent's psychiatrist, Albert J. Levis, M.D., the Respondent's condition caused her to function at a paranoid and pre-psychotic level which resulted in the Respondent's performance as a licensed practical nurse to be erratic. (Department Exhibits 1-C3, 4; 1-C9, 10; 1-C13)
13. That the Respondent continues to receive treatment from Dr. Levis and her condition requires treatment with therapeutic medications. (Department Exhibit 1-C13)
14. That on or about March 30, 1994 the Respondent completed a pharmacology review course at Middlesex Memorial Hospital. (Department Exhibit 1-C12)

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

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

Melonie Londa 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 §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 §4-182(c).

The FIRST COUNT of the Statement of Charges alleges that between approximately November 1992 and September 1993, while working as a nurse at Arden House Nursing Home, Hamden, Connecticut the Respondent:

- "a. failed to calculate a correct dosage of morphine sulfate, and administered the wrong dosage of that drug to a patient, on or about November 29, 1992; and/or,
- b. made a number of signature omissions or kardexes for patients at the facility between approximately November of 1992 and February 13, 1993; and/or,
- c. made approximately six (6) medication errors on the weekend of May 1 - 2, 1993; and/or,
- d. failed to administer a dose of Ativan which she signed out on the kardex as if given to a patient on or about August 24, 1993; and/or
- e. signed out two (2) doses of Ativan, but apparently only administered one, on or about September 3, 1993."

The Respondent admits these charges. (Answer: Hearing Transcript, June 29, 1994, pp. 5-7)

The General Statutes of Connecticut §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...."

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 §20-99(b)(2). Therefore, the Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to §19a-17 of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

The SECOND COUNT of the Statement of Charges alleges the Respondent suffers from an emotional disorder and/or mental illness which does or may affect her ability to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety.

The Respondent admits this charge. (Answer: Hearing Transcript, June 29, 1994. pp. 7-8)

The General Statutes of Connecticut §20-99(b) prohibits conduct which fails to conform to the accepted standards of the nursing profession, which includes "... (4) emotional disorder or mental illness...."

Based on the Respondent's admission and its findings the Board concludes that the Respondent suffers from an emotional disorder and/or mental illness which impaired her ability to practice nursing resulting in the conduct specified in the First Count. The Board further concludes that the Respondent's condition, if untreated, may affect her ability to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety.

The Board concludes that the Second Count is proven, therefore the Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to §19a-17 of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

ORDER

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

1. That for the First Count and the Second Count the Respondent's licensed practical nurse license, No. 023945, is placed on probation for a period of two (2) years.

2. If any of the following conditions of probation are not met, the Respondent's licensed practical nurse license may be immediately revoked:
 - A. The Respondent shall provide a copy of this Memorandum of Decision to any and all employers if employed as a nurse during the probationary period. The Board shall be notified in writing by her employer, within thirty (30) days as to receipt of a copy of this Memorandum of Decision.
 - B. Should the Respondent change employment at any time during the probationary period, she shall provide a copy of this Memorandum of Decision to her employer and said employer shall notify the Board in writing, within thirty (30) days, as to receipt of a copy of this Memorandum of Decision.
 - C. The Respondent shall cause bi-monthly employer reports to be submitted to the Board by her immediate supervisor during the entire period of probation. Bi-monthly employer reports are due on the first business day of January, March, May, July, September and November, and shall commence with the report due November 1, 1994. Employer reports shall be issued to the Board at the address listed in paragraph K below.
 - D. The employer reports cited in paragraph C above, shall include documentation of the Respondent's ability to safely and competently practice nursing and an evaluation of the Respondent's ability to competently and accurately administer medications.
 - E. At her own expense the Respondent shall engage in treatment with a licensed psychiatrist for the entire period of probation.
 - F. The Respondent shall provide a copy of this Memorandum of Decision to her psychiatrist. The Board will be notified in writing by her psychiatrist, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, as to receipt of a copy of this Memorandum of Decision.

- G. The Respondent shall cause bi-monthly evaluation reports to be submitted to the Board by her psychiatrist for the entire period of probation. Bi-monthly reports are due by the first business day of January, March, May, July, September and November, and shall commence with the report due November 1, 1994.
- H. The evaluation cited in G above, shall include documentation of dates of treatment, an evaluation of the Respondent's progress in treatment, and her ability to function in the capacity of a licensed practical nurse. Said reports shall be issued to the Board at the address cited in paragraph K below.
- I. The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing must be informed in writing prior to any change of employment.
- J. The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing must be informed in writing prior to any change of address.
- K. Any correspondence and reports are to be addressed to:

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING
Department of Public Health and Addiction Services
150 Washington Street
Hartford CT 06106

- 3. Any deviation from the terms of probation without prior written approval by the Board of Examiners for Nursing will constitute a violation of probation which will be cause for an immediate hearing on charges of violating this Order and will subject the Respondent to sanctions under §19a-17(a) and (c) of the General Statutes of Connecticut including but not limited to, the revocation of her license. Any extension of time or grace period for reporting granted by the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing shall not be a waiver or preclude the Board's right to take action at a later time. The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing shall not be required to grant future extensions of time or grace periods. Notice of

revocation or other disciplinary action shall be sent to her address of record (most current address reported to the Licensure and Renewal Section of the Division of Medical Quality Assurance of the Department of Public Health and Addiction Services or the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing.)

4. This Memorandum of Decision becomes effective, and the two (2) year probation period of the Respondent's license shall commence, on September 15, 1994.

The Board of Examiners for Nursing hereby informs the Respondent, Melonie Londa, 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, 1994.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

By

Janice A. Thibodeau

9958Q



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

September 17, 1996

Melonie Londa
16 Jefferson Park Road
Madison CT 06443

RE: LPN License No. 023945

Dear Ms. Londa:

You have fulfilled the terms of the probation of your license. The probationary status of your practical nurse license has been removed effective September 15, 1996.

Renewal of your practical nurse license is required, by law, annually during the month of your birth following the date of this letter. If the license is not renewed within ninety (90) days of the due date, it will become automatically void. This means that future reinstatement will require re-application. This is a process of having your credentials re-evaluated.

State law requires you to notify this office within thirty (30) days of ANY change of address whether in or out of this state. Should you have any questions concerning this process contact this Department at 860-509-7588.

Sincerely,

Marie T. Hilliard, Ph.D., R.N.
Executive Officer
Board of Examiners for Nursing

MTH:jew
marie.doc/21

cc: Richard J. Lynch, Assistant Attorney General
Donna Buntaine Brewer, Chief, Legal Office
✓ Debra Tomassone, Chief, Licensure & Registration
Application File, Applications, Examinations & Licensure Section



Phone:

Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191

410 Capitol Avenue - MS # _____

P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134

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