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BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson #1051
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1230

FILED

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KSBN

IN THE MATTER OF

LEIGH A. ZARDA

License No. 14-099810-041

Case No. 09-088-8 and 09-741-7

FINAL ORDER AND CONSENT AGREEMENT

NOW ON THIS 10th day of March, 2011, the Kansas State Board of Nursing, represented by Assistant Attorney General, Alma A. Heckler, and the Respondent, Leigh A. Zarda, hereby enter into this agreement and proffer evidence and the hearing officer adopts those recommendations and makes the following findings of fact and orders:

AGREED FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is licensed to practice nursing in Kansas through 4/30/2013. The Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) has jurisdiction over the Respondent and the subject matter of this action.
2. Respondent's address of record is 7450 Mize Rd, Shawnee Mission, KS 66227.
3. The Respondent understands that pursuant to K.S.A. 77-515, respondent may be represented at respondent's expense by, an attorney during these proceedings. Respondent acknowledges that this agreement will be an open record pursuant to the Kansas Open Records Act, K.S.A 45-215 et seq., and may be published or disseminated notwithstanding any state or federal law otherwise restricting public access to, or dissemination of, any personal or health care information, or any information or records of substance abuse evaluation and/or treatment contained herein.
4. After an investigation, the Board's investigative committee found reasonable grounds to believe that the respondent violated the Kansas Nurse Practice Act, K.S.A. 65-1120, and referred this matter for further proceedings.

5. The Kansas State Board of Nursing has the authority under K.S.A. 74-1106 et seq. to examine, license and renew license for duly qualified applicants and may limit, deny, suspend or revoke a license or authorization to practice nursing, may issue a public or private censure and levy administrative fines consistent with K.S.A. 74-1110, if a violation of K.S.A. 65-1120 is established.

6. (a) Respondent was disciplined by the Missouri Board of Nursing due to the following: in February 2008, while employed by Truman Medical Center as a registered professional nurse. During her last two months of employment at Truman, she was observed to be unstable, in one moment she was euphoric and the next sobbing uncontrollably. Due to respondent's behavior a review was conducted of Pyxis and medical records. The review revealed several instances respondent removed narcotic medication without proper physician authorization or documentation. Respondent improperly documented the disposal of various controlled substances. Respondent was terminated from Truman Medical Center on April 24, 2008.

(b) On December 23, 2008 respondent was working for Advance Staffing Resources on assignment as a registered nurse, at St. Luke's Internal Medicine in Kansas City, Missouri. On December 23, 2008, respondent called in a prescription for ninety (90) pills of Hydrocodone to a pharmacy without proper authorization. Pharmacy called to confirm the prescription and was advised it was invalid. The prescription was not filled. Hydrocodone is a controlled substance.

(c) Respondent was convicted of misdemeanor DUI on or about 7/23/07 and completed the terms of her probation. Respondent entered the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in February 2009 and after a relapse is under contract until March 2012.

7. The above incidents are violations of the Kansas Nurse Practice Act. Items 1 and 2 have already been established to be violations of the Missouri Nursing Practice Act, by

settlement agreement. The Respondent agrees that the board is prepared to prove that respondent has violated:

(a) K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct by K.A.R. 60-3-110(n), diverting drugs, supplies, or property of any patient or agency.

(b) K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct by K.A.R. 60-3-110(a) Performing acts beyond the authorized scope of the level of nursing for which the individual is licensed.

8. Respondent has the right to a hearing with evidence and witnesses and to seek review of the findings from that hearing in accordance with the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act and the Act for Judicial Review and Civil Enforcement of agency actions. Respondent is waiving those rights and voluntarily entering into this agreement instead of proceeding to such a hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

9. The Kansas State Board of Nursing has the authority under K.S.A. 74-1106 et seq. to examine, license and renew license for duly qualified applicants and may limit, deny, suspend or revoke a license or authorization to practice nursing, may issue a public or private censure and levy administrative fines consistent with K.S.A. 74-1110, if a violation of K.S.A. 65-1120 is established.

10. Respondent has violated the Kansas Nurse Practice Act as follows:

(a) K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct by K.A.R. 60-3-110(n), diverting drugs, supplies, or property of any patient or agency.

(b) K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct by K.A.R. 60-3-110(a) Performing acts beyond the authorized scope of the level of nursing for which the individual is licensed.

POLICY STATEMENT

11. The role of the Kansas State Board of Nursing is to protect citizens of Kansas.

DISPOSITION

12. By entering into this Consent Agreement and consenting to the entry of the Final Order, both parties waive their right to full administrative proceedings pursuant to K.S.A. 65-1120 and K.S.A.77-501 et seq. and to judicial review.

13. Based upon this agreement, and pursuant to the disciplinary remedies available in K.S.A. 65-1120, the parties agree that this Final Order and Consent Agreement will continue through any renewal periods of respondent's nursing license until respondent completes each of the conditions and requirements of this agreement. Further, the parties agree that in the event of a lapse of Respondent's nursing license, reinstatement of Respondent's nursing license shall be contingent upon this Final Order and Consent Agreement remaining in effect until Respondent completes each of the conditions and requirements of this agreement.

14. Based upon this agreement, and pursuant to the disciplinary remedies available in K.S.A. 65-1120, the parties agree that the Respondent's license to practice nursing in Kansas is immediately suspended. The suspension will be stayed as long as the requirements and conditions of this agreement are met.

15. Based upon this agreement, and pursuant to the disciplinary remedies available in K.S.A. 65-1120, the parties agree that the Respondent's license to practice nursing in Kansas is immediately limited. The limitations placed on the license and described below will remain in place until the requirements and conditions of this agreement are met or until the requirements and conditions of this agreement call for the modification of the limitations.

16. The Kansas State Board of Nursing will not take additional disciplinary action against respondent's nursing license for the violations stated above as long as respondent completes each of the following conditions and requirements:

(a) Respondent shall return his or her current license card to the Board with this Consent Agreement. Respondent shall receive a license which shall be issued with an "S"

placed in the status code portion of the license card to indicate that the license is suspended with a Stay. The license will have an "L" indicating the limitations on the practice.

(b) Respondent will participate in and complete the reasonable recommendations and requirements of the Kansas Nurses Assistance Program (KNAP); sign releases of information necessary for KNAP to evaluate and monitor respondent and for KNAP to report information to the board. Respondent will be deemed to have completed the KNAP program when KNAP issues written notification that respondent has completed the program. Respondent must enroll in the KNAP program within thirty (30) days of entering this agreement. Noncompliance with KNAP is a violation of this agreement.

(c) Respondent must submit to random drug screens as determined or selected by the Board or by KNAP. The costs of the drug screens will be paid by the respondent. Respondent agrees that a Positive Drug Screen is a violation of this agreement.

(d) Respondent has completed a narcotic key restriction on respondent's license for the six (6) months.

(e) Respondent shall immediately notify the Legal Division of any use of alcohol, if prohibited by KNAP, or controlled substances, or any violation of this Final Order and Consent Agreement.

(f) The respondent shall immediately inform all employers and prospective employers of this Final Order and Consent Agreement.

(g) Respondent shall send a money order for \$70 to the Board upon entering into this agreement to pay the cost of this action.

(h) Respondent shall not violate the Kansas Nurse Practice Act during the duration of this agreement.

(i) Respondent shall not violate the laws of the United States, of State, or of any political subdivision of any State during the term of this agreement. Traffic infractions shall not be considered violations of the law.

(j) Respondent shall only work in nursing positions where she is supervised by an RN at all times and on site.

(k) Respondent will Submit Reports from the respondent's employer to the attention of the Legal Division, Kansas State Board of Nursing, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 1051, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1230 on the following schedule:

Prior to respondent securing employment that utilizes his or her nursing license, respondent is to mail to the Kansas State Board of Nursing a statement indicating that respondent has not yet secured employment which utilizes respondent's nursing license. This statement is due by the 10th day of each month beginning the next month after signing this Final Order and Consent Agreement.

Once respondent is employed in a position that utilizes his or her nursing license, or if respondent is currently employed in a position that utilizes his or her nursing license, a nursing performance report is due by the 10th day of every third Month until respondent has caused the submission of four (4) separate nursing performance reports.

The report shall be prepared and signed by respondent's immediate supervisor or by an R.N. who evaluates respondent's performance on a regular basis and be based on the following guidelines:

- (1) Incorporation of information on **facility letterhead stationary** is preferred.
- (2) Letter format is acceptable, with the date of the report identified.
- (3) Evaluator's name, telephone number, address, license number and nursing credentials.
- (4) Respondent's name, address, telephone number, license number.
- (5) A short explanation of the respondent's work performance in the following areas:
- (6) Standards met regarding facility policies and procedures.
- (7) Compliance with the Kansas Nurse Practice Act.
- (8) Supervisor evaluations.

(9) Overall appropriateness.

(10) Interactions with patients.

(11) Interactions with staff and administration.

(l) Respondent shall comply with all the terms of discipline by the Missouri Board of Nursing and verify compliance when asked by the Board. If the respondent violates any agreement with the Missouri Board, she must notify the Kansas Board of Nursing in 14 days of any such violation.

(m) Respondent agrees to notify the Legal Division of any changes in address and phone number as well as all employment terminations or employer changes or additions. All such notifications shall be made in writing within fourteen (14) days of such a change.

17. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that Respondent is responsible for the costs related to satisfying the conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement. Respondent further acknowledges and agrees that to provide the Board with false information regarding compliance with this Consent Agreement is a violation of this Final Order and Consent Agreement.

18. If Respondent does not meet these conditions and requirements, the Kansas State Board of Nursing may request additional sanctions against Respondent's license or application for a license. Respondent would be sent notice of such action and would be entitled to a hearing as to whether Respondent had complied with this Final Order and Consent Agreement, but Respondent could not contest the violations listed in this agreement.

19. All parties understand that if an action based on failure to meet the conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement is filed, K.S.A. 77-531 requires the Notice of Hearing to be served upon the Respondent and the Respondent's attorney of record, if any. All parties agree that only serving the Notice of Hearing upon the Respondent will be proper service and it is the Respondent's responsibility to contact his or her attorney, if any, in reference to the action.

20. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that if any action based on failure to meet the conditions and requirements of this Consent Agreement is filed during the term of this Final Order and Consent Agreement, or within 30 days after the expiration date, the conditions of this Final Order and Consent Agreement shall continue in effect until the Board or a hearing/presiding officer designated pursuant to K.S.A. 77-514 and K.S.A. 77-526, rules on the action.

21. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon a first finding of Respondent not complying with any of the conditions or requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement, the Stay of Suspension of Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Kansas, shall be lifted for a period of six months from the date of said finding. Respondent will not be allowed to practice nursing in the state of Kansas during the period of suspension. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that all conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement remain in effect during the period of suspension.

22. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon a second or subsequent finding of Respondent not complying with any of the conditions or requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement the Stay of Suspension of Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Kansas, shall be lifted for a period of one year from the date of said finding. Respondent will not be allowed to practice nursing in the state of Kansas during the period of suspension. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that all conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement remain in effect during the period of suspension.

23. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon the Stay of Suspension being lifted due to a finding of non-compliance with any of the conditions or requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement, the Suspension will not again be Stayed until the Respondent has, following the prescribed time period of suspension, provided written verification to the Board that Respondent is in compliance and has remained in compliance during the period of suspension,

with all conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement. Upon the Respondent providing said written verification the suspension will again be stayed.

24. The Board will inactivate this case file once respondent satisfies this agreement. This agreement does not prohibit the agency from taking disciplinary action against Respondent's license for any additional or cumulative violation of the Kansas Nurse Practice Act committed by the Respondent before or after this agreement is entered into.

25. This agreement is a discipline and must be reported on any future renewal or reinstatement applications. This agreement is a contract entered into by the parties to resolve an investigative case. The original of this agreement shall be placed in the Agency Record. This Agreement is a public record and will be reported to national disciplinary data banks.


26. After successful completion of all of the conditions and requirements of this Consent Agreement by the respondent, the Final Order and Consent Agreement will be satisfied and the case will be inactivated.

27. By signing this Final Order and Consent Agreement, Respondent acknowledges that Respondent has read and understands the entire document, and agrees to be bound by its terms. This Final Order and Consent Agreement constitute the entire agreement of the parties and may not be modified except in writing and approved by all parties. The effective date of this Final Order and Consent Agreement is the date shown on the certificate of service.

28. The hearing/presiding officer whose signature appears below has been designated pursuant to K.S.A. 77-514 and K.S.A. 77-526 to act on behalf of the Board/agency head and to hear discipline cases on behalf of the Board/agency head and to render either initial orders or final orders, if by agreement of both parties, in those discipline cases.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto execute this FINAL ORDER AND
CONSENT AGREEMENT.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

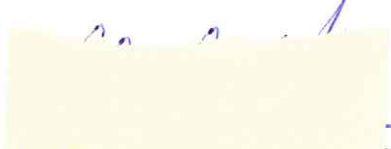


Leigh A. Zarda
Respondent
7450 Mize Rd
Shawnee Mission, KS 66227


Leigh A. Zarda must sign before a Notary Public.



Kyle A. Branson #23229
Attorney for Respondent
Gillette Law Firm, PA
5501 Foxridge Dr.
Mission, Kansas 66202-1556



Alma A. Heckler, #11555
Assistant Attorney General
Kansas State Board of Nursing
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson #1051
Topeka, KS 66612



Sandra L. Sharon, Presiding Officer

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-527, either party may request a review of this final order by filing a petition for reconsideration with the Kansas State Board of Nursing. A petition for reconsideration must be filed with 15 days from the date this final order was served. Failure to timely request a reconsideration by the Kansas State Board of Nursing may preclude further judicial review. The petition for reconsideration shall be mailed or personally delivered to: Mary Blubaugh, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, Landon State Office Building, Suite 1051, 900 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612-1230.

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-531, if the final order is served by mail, three days are added to the time limits set out above.


Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-530, if a request for reconsideration is not requested in the time and manner stated above, this initial order shall become effective as a final order 30 days after service.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On the 11th day of March, 2011, I mailed a copy of this FINAL ORDER AND CONSENT AGREEMENT to:

Leigh A. Zarda
7450 Mize Rd
Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66227

Kyle Branson
Gillette Law Firm, PA
5501 Foxridge Dr.
Mission, Kansas 66202-1556



Alma A. Heckler, #11555
Assistant Attorney General
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