

FILED

BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING

OCT 16 2008

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

KSBN

**IN THE MATTER OF
MARY R. TUCKER
License No. 23-025225-082**

Case No. 07-474-8, 07-574-9

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

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NOW ON THIS 17th day of October, 2008, the Kansas State Board of Nursing, represented by Assistant Attorney General, Alma A. Heckler, and the Respondent, Mary R. Tucker, by and through her attorney, Steven R. Wiechman, 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 8/31/2008. 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 21880 W Rd, Holton, KS 66436.
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.
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) The licensee was employed by Rossville Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center during the period of 11/28/05 to 3/9/07. It was alleged that the licensee, while working as a charge nurse, was physically and verbally abusive to residents of the facility. The licensee was terminated.

(b) The licensee was hired by Medicalodge in Holton, Kansas and began work on 3/16/07. Licensee was terminated on 4/23/07 due to alleged abuse of a resident. Additionally, the licensee was also alleged to have committed six (6) medication errors during April 2007.

7. The above incidents, if proven to be true, would be violations of the nurse practice act. The Respondent has been advised that the board is prepared to prove that respondent has violated:

Count 1: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(3), Professional Incompetency by K.S.A. 65-1120(e)(1), one or more instances involving failure to adhere to the applicable standard of care to a degree which constitutes gross negligence, as determined by the board.

Count 2: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(3), Professional Incompetency by K.S.A. 65-1120(e)(3), a pattern of practice or other behavior which demonstrates a manifest incapacity or incompetence to practice nursing.

Count 3: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct by K.A.R. 60-3-110(c), failing to take appropriate action or to follow policies and procedures in the practice situation designed to safeguard each patient.

Count 4: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct by K.A.R. 60-3-110(g), verbal abuse, which shall be defined as any word or phrase spoken inappropriately to or in the presence of a patient that results in or might reasonably be expected to result in the patient's unnecessary fear, emotional distress, or mental distress.

Count 5: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct by K.A.R. 60-3-110(e)(2), physical abuse, which shall be defined as any act or failure to act performed intentionally or carelessly that causes or is likely to cause harm to a patient by the unreasonable use of any

physical or chemical restraint, medication, or isolation as punishment, for convenience, in conflict with a physician's order or a policy and procedure of the facility or a state statute or regulation, or as a substitute for treatment, unless the use of the restraint, medication, or isolation is in furtherance of the health and safety of the patient.

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. Count 1: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(3), Professional Incompetency by K.S.A. 65-1120(e)(1), one or more instances involving failure to adhere to the applicable standard of care to a degree which constitutes gross negligence, as determined by the board.

Count 2: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(3), Professional Incompetency by K.S.A. 65-1120(e)(3), a pattern of practice or other behavior which demonstrates a manifest incapacity or incompetence to practice nursing.

Count 3: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct by K.A.R. 60-3-110(c), failing to take appropriate action or to follow policies and procedures in the practice situation designed to safeguard each patient.

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

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

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

(d) 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.

(e) The respondent will complete ten (10) hours of Continuing Nurses Education (CNE) on the topic of "Resident Rights"; ten (10) hours on "Patient Abuse and How to Handle Difficult Patients"; ten (10) hours on following physician's orders and two (2) hours on the Kansas Nurse Practice Act. Respondent is to submit the original certificates for proof of the completion of the hours within 30 days of this agreement. Respondent may not use these hours to meet the CNE requirements of any renewal period.

(f) Respondent shall only work in nursing positions where she is supervised by an RN at all times if she works on any unit with residents or patients who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia for the period of her supervision as described in the Paragraph (h).

(g) Licensee will Submit Reports from the Licensee'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 Licensee securing employment that utilizes his or her nursing license, Licensee is to mail to the Kansas State Board of Nursing a statement indicating that Licensee has not yet secured employment

which utilizes Licensee's nursing license. This statement is due by the 10th day of each month beginning the next month after signing this consent agreement. Once Licensee is employed in a position that utilizes his or her nursing license, or if Licensee 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 Licensee has caused the submission of four (4) separate nursing performance reports. The report shall be prepared and signed by Licensee's immediate supervisor or by an R.N. who evaluates Licensee'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 or other credentials. (4) Licensee's name, address, telephone number, license number. (5) A short explanation of the Licensee's work performance in the following areas: (a) Standards met regarding facility policies and procedures. (b) Compliance with the Kansas Nurse Practice Act. (c) Supervisor evaluations. (d) Overall appropriateness. (e) Interactions with patients. (f) Interactions with staff and administration.**

(h) Respondent agrees to notify the Legal Division of any changes in her residence and 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.

16. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that Respondent is responsible for the costs related to satisfying the conditions and requirements of this 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 Consent Agreement.

17. 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 Consent Agreement, but Respondent could not contest the violations listed in this agreement.

18. All parties understand that if an action based on failure to meet the conditions and requirements of this 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.

19. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon a first finding of Respondent not complying with the conditions or requirements of this 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.

20. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon a second or subsequent finding of Respondent not complying with the conditions or requirements of this 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.

21. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon the Stay of Suspension being lifted due to a finding of non-compliance with this 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 with all conditions and requirements of this Consent Agreement. Upon the Respondent providing said written verification the suspension will again be stayed.

22. 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.

23. 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 and is a public record.


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

25. By signing this Consent Agreement and Final Order, Respondent acknowledges that Respondent has read and understands the entire document, and agrees to be bound by its terms. This Consent Agreement and Final Order constitute the entire agreement of the parties and may not be modified except in writing and approved by all parties.

26. 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 CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

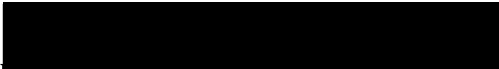

Mary R. Tucker
Respondent
21880 W Rd
Holton, KS 66436

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On the 15th day of October, 2008, I mailed a copy of this CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER to:

Mary R. Tucker
21880 W Rd
Holton, KS 66436

Steven Wiechman
Counsel for Respondent
1101 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, Kansas 66604


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