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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

SEP 30 2013

KSBN

FILED 09/21

25 SEP '13 09:22

**IN THE MATTER OF
SARAH DITTMAN
License No. 23-34196-082**

Case No. 11-1721-8 and 11-1764-8

INITIAL AGREED ORDER

NOW ON THIS ^{30th}~~25th~~ day of Sept., 2013, the Kansas State Board of Nursing,

represented by Assistant Attorney General, Alma A. Heckler, and the Respondent, Sarah Dittman, 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 8/31/2014. 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 9733 S.W. 61st Street, Topeka, Kansas 66610.
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. Respondent acknowledges that this agreement is 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.
5. 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.

6. 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.

7. (a) A petition was filed on May 31, 2013 to take disciplinary action against the Respondent's license and states the following:

(b) Respondent was employed at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka, Kansas from 1/12/2004 to 10/4/2011. She was terminated for theft of narcotics. Respondent admitted to diverting medications, specifically Diluadid, for two months prior to her employment termination at Stormont Vail. Stormont Vail records indicate other narcotics were missing and there were several instances of her failure to chart. Respondent had also had numerous counseling memorandums regarding her inability to work as scheduled at Stormont Vail prior to her termination. She received those memorandums in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

(c) Respondent was referred to the Kansas Nurse Assistance Program (KNAP) and enrolled in December of 2011. Respondent has had one instance of non-compliance with KNAP, she relapsed in August of 2012 on Tramadol. Her KNAP program was extended until August 2015. Respondent admits to the facts as stated in the petition filed on May 31, 2013.

(d) In Case No. 12-1195-8, Respondent reported on her 8/15/2012 renewal application answered "yes" to the question "has any license, certification, or registration (nursing or other) ever been denied, revoked, suspended, limited or disciplinary action taken by a licensing authority of any state, agency of the United States government, territory of the United States or country?" A check of the records revealed that she had not had any disciplinary action taken against a nursing license or driver's license. Respondent reported that she had a surgical procedure to correct a brain malformation prior to filling out her renewal. She reported she was not thinking straight at that time.

VIOLATIONS

8. The above incidents are violations of the nurse practice act. The Respondent agrees that the board is prepared to prove that respondent has violated:

Count 1: K.S.A. 65 1120(a)(4) to be unable to practice with skill and safety due to current abuse of drugs or alcohol;

Count 2: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct, by diverting drugs, supplies, or property of any patient or agency; K.A.R. 60-3-110(n);

Count 3: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct, by failing to complete the requirements of the impaired provider program of the board; K.A.R. 60-3-110(s);

9. 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

10. 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.

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

Count 1: K.S.A. 65 1120(a)(4) to be unable to practice with skill and safety due to current abuse of drugs or alcohol;

Count 2: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct, by diverting drugs, supplies, or property of any patient or agency; K.A.R. 60-3-110(n);

Count 3: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct, by failing to complete the requirements of the impaired provider program of the board; K.A.R. 60-3-110(s);

POLICY STATEMENT

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

DISPOSITION

13. By entering into this Initial Agreed Order (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.

14. Based upon this agreement, and pursuant to the disciplinary remedies available in K.S.A. 65-1120, the parties agree that this Initial Agreed Order 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 Initial Agreed Order remaining in effect until Respondent completes each of the conditions and requirements of this agreement.

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 suspended. The suspension will be stayed as long as the requirements and conditions of this agreement are met.

16. 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.

17. 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 any paper license cards still in her possession to the Board with this Initial Agreed Order. Respondent shall receive a license which when verified by the public will show Suspended with a Stay to indicate that the license is suspended but such suspension is stayed so long as she continues to meet the requirements of this Agreed Order. The license will have limitations on the practice as stated below:

(b) Respondent shall 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 is currently enrolled in the KNAP program. 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 shall have a narcotic key restriction whenever KNAP imposes a restriction. The narcotic key restriction prohibits the respondent from passing of narcotics, wasting of narcotics or having access to narcotics. The narcotic key restriction also prohibits the respondent from supervising nurses or others that have access to narcotics. KNAP will notify the Board when the a key restriction has been imposed by KNAP.

(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 Initial Agreed Order.

(f) The respondent shall immediately inform all employers and prospective employers of this Initial Agreed Order.

(g) The Respondent shall only work in nursing positions where she is supervised by an RN at all times.

(h) Respondent shall not seek or accept employment with a nursing registry, a temporary nursing service or agency, a nursing home, a home health care service or agency, or as a private duty nurse without prior written consent of the Board for the term of this Agreement.

(i) 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:

If the Respondent is unemployed, prior to respondent securing employment that utilizes 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 Initial Agreed Order. (A statement from the respondent that she has not yet secured employment in nursing, is not a nursing performance report).

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 her nursing license, a nursing performance report is due by the 10th day of each of the following months; January 2014, April 2014, July 2014 and October 2014, or 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) The evaluation should be submitted by your supervisor on your employer's **facility letterhead stationary.**

(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:

(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.

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

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

(l) 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.

(m) The respondent will complete the following Continuing Nurse Education (CNE) within ninety days of the effective date of this Agreement:

2 hours on the Kansas Nurse Practice Act (which may be accessed through the Via Christi web site at www.via-christi.org/cne or call 316-268-8551).

Respondent shall not use these hours to meet the CNE requirements of any renewal period.

(n) 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.

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

20. 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 Initial Agreed Order, but Respondent could not contest the violations listed in this agreement.

21. All parties understand that if an action based on failure to meet the conditions and requirements of this Initial Agreed Order 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.

22. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that if any action based on failure to meet the conditions and requirements of this Initial Agreed Order is filed during the term of this Initial Agreed Order, or within 30 days after the expiration date, the conditions of this Initial Agreed Order 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.

23. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon a first finding of Respondent not complying with any of the conditions or requirements of this Initial Agreed Order, 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 Initial Agreed Order to remain in effect during the period of suspension.

24. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon a second or subsequent finding of Respondent not complying with any of the conditions or requirements of this Initial Agreed Order 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 Initial Agreed Order remain in effect during the period of suspension.

25. 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 Initial Agreed Order, 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 Initial Agreed Order. Upon the Respondent providing said written verification the suspension will again be stayed.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. After successful completion of all of the conditions and requirements of this Initial Agreed Order by the respondent, the Initial Agreed Order will be satisfied and the case will be inactivated.

29. By signing this Initial Agreed Order, Respondent acknowledges that Respondent has read and understands the entire document, and agrees to be bound by its terms. This Initial Agreed Order 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 Initial Agreed Order is the date shown on the certificate of service.

30. 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 INITIAL AGREED ORDER.

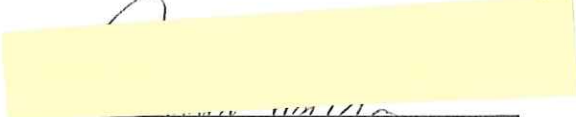
IT IS SO ORDERED.



Sarah Dittman
Respondent
9733 S.W. 61st Street
Topeka, Kansas 66610

Sarah Dittman must sign before a Notary Public.



*Sarah Dittman signed before me on this 19th day of September, 2013 this document.
Kristy L. Workman*


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


Sandra Sharon, Presiding Officer

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-529, either party may request a review of this initial 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 initial 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.


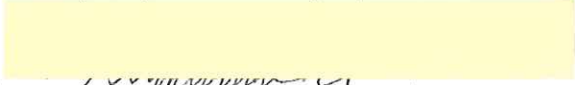
Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-531, if the initial order is served by mail, three days are added to the time limits set out above.

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 30th day of September, 2013, I mailed a copy of this INITIAL AGREED ORDER to:

Sarah Dittman
9733 S.W. 61st Street
Topeka, Kansas 66610



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