



STATE OF MAINE
 BOARD OF NURSING
 158 STATE HOUSE STATION
 AUGUSTA, MAINE
 04333-0158

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
 GOVERNOR

MYRA A. BROADWAY, J.D., M.S., R.N.
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN RE: VIRGINIA E. PUTNAM, R.N.) **CONSENT AGREEMENT**
a.k.a. Ginger Putnam) **FOR LICENSE PROBATION**
of Brunswick, Maine) **WITH CONDITIONS**
License No. R036703)

INTRODUCTION

This document is a Consent Agreement regarding Virginia E. Putnam’s license to practice registered professional nursing in the State of Maine. The parties enter into this Agreement pursuant to 10 M.R.S.A. § 8003(5)(A-1)(4), 10 M.R.S.A. § 8003(5)(B), and 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A(1-A)(B). The parties to this Consent Agreement are Virginia E. Putnam (“Licensee”), Maine State Board of Nursing (“Board”) and the Office of the Attorney General, State of Maine. An informal conference was held on December 13, 2006. The parties reached this Consent Agreement based on information submitted by 1) Parkview Adventist Medical Center (“Parkview”) by letter dated March 18, 2005; 2) True North Health Center (“True North”) by letter dated November 15, 2005; and, 3) Baker Family Health, LLC, (“Baker Family”) by letter dated November 22, 2005.

FACTS

1. Virginia E. Putnam has been a registered professional nurse licensed to practice in Maine since 1993.
2. Virginia E. Putnam was terminated from Parkview on March 18, 2005, for failure to comply with medication administration and controlled substance policies. In addition, she failed to comply with standards of nursing practice and patient care, which raised Parkview’s concerns for patient safety. Exhibit 1.
3. Virginia E. Putnam was working as a per diem nurse at Baker Family on November 7, 2005, and asked not to return to work per diem because Ms. Putnam called in a fraudulent prescription at Hannaford Pharmacy in Brunswick for Vicoprofen under another nurse’s name at Baker Family. The medication was purported to be a prescription for Ms. Putnam. Exhibit 2.
4. Virginia E. Putnam was terminated from True North on November 15, 2005, for unethical behavior. Ms. Putnam had been working as a per diem nurse at True North in the year of 2005. The Medical Director at True North was informed by Hannaford Pharmacy in Brunswick that Ms. Putnam had called in prescriptions, purportedly authorized by the Medical Director for the medications: Vicoprofin #20, Fiorinal #30, Fiorinal #60 and Ambien #30. The Medical Director had not authorized nor prescribed these medications for Ms. Putnam. Exhibit 3.



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OFFICES LOCATED AT: 161 CAPITOL ST., AUGUSTA, ME
<http://www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/>

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5. Virginia E. Putnam has not worked in nursing since November 2005. She is currently working as a phlebotomist at Affiliated Labs, which is under the umbrella of Eastern Maine Healthcare.
6. Virginia E. Putnam admits that she has a substance abuse problem.
7. Virginia E. Putnam has been sober since November 2005. Ms. Putnam entered the extensive outpatient substance abuse program at Mercy Hospital in November 2005, and completed the program in January 2006. Her current treatment consists of seeing a drug counselor either once every week or every third week and submitting to random drug tests.

AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS OF PROBATION

8. Virginia E. Putnam agrees and understands that this document imposes discipline regarding her license to practice registered professional nursing and based upon the above-stated facts her conduct constitutes grounds for discipline under 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A(2)(A), (2)(B), (2)(F) and (2)(H) and Chapter, 4(1)(A)(1), 4(1)(A)(2), 4(1)(A)(6), 4(1)(A)(8), (4)(3)(O), (4)(3)(P), (4)(3)(Q) and (4)(3)(S) of the Rules and Regulations of the Maine State Board of Nursing.
9. Virginia E. Putnam neither admits nor denies the facts contained herein, but she acknowledges that if this matter went to a hearing before the Board that it is more likely than not that the facts would support the Board's findings in this Agreement.
10. Virginia E. Putnam's license as a registered professional nurse in the State of Maine is placed on a probationary status with conditions. The period of probation will commence on Ms. Putnam's return to nursing practice, either through employment and/or pursuant to an educational program. The period of probation will be for a period of five years, to be effective only while she is employed in nursing practice and/or enrolled in a nursing education program. For purposes of this Agreement, nursing employment is any employment during which Ms. Putnam performs nursing services. Ms. Putnam's probationary license will be subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Virginia E. Putnam will abstain completely from the use of alcohol or drugs, with the exception of substances used in accordance with a valid prescription from a treatment provider who is aware of Ms. Putnam's substance abuse history.
 - b. Virginia E. Putnam will continue in her aftercare treatment program to such an extent and for as long as her treatment provider(s) recommend.

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- c. Virginia E. Putnam will arrange for and ensure the submission of quarterly reports to the Board by her treatment provider(s), and such report shall continue until her probation is terminated. If Ms. Putnam's treatment is terminated she shall notify the Board.
- d. Virginia E. Putnam will immediately notify the Board in writing should she return to employment and/or an educational program in the field of nursing. Notice under this section shall include the place and position of employment or the educational program and any subsequent change in employment or educational programs.
- e. Virginia E. Putnam will notify any and all of her nursing employer(s) and notify faculty involved in any clinical studies of the terms of this Consent Agreement and shall provide them with a copy of it.
- f. Virginia E. Putnam's employment is restricted during the period of probation to structured settings with on-site supervision by another registered professional nurse. Structured settings shall not include assignments from temporary employment agencies, school nursing, working as a traveling nurse or working within the correctional system.
- g. Virginia E. Putnam will arrange for and ensure the submission to the Board of quarterly reports from her nursing employer and/or clinical faculty regarding her general nursing practice. If during the period of probation, Ms. Putnam's employment as a nurse terminates or should her educational program in the field of nursing terminate, she shall notify the Board of this change to ensure that she remains in compliance with her employment and/or educational quarterly reports.
- h. Virginia E. Putnam agrees and understands that the Board and the Department of Attorney General shall have access to any and all medical records and all otherwise confidential or medically privileged information pertaining to her treatment for substance abuse which the Board deems necessary to evaluate Ms. Putnam's compliance with the Consent Agreement and her continued recovery. Ms. Putnam shall provide such information, shall authorize the release of such records and information, and shall authorize any such discussions and communications with any and all persons involved in her care, counseling and employment as may be requested by the Board for the purpose of evaluating Ms. Putnam's compliance with the Consent Agreement and her continued recovery.
11. The State of Maine is Virginia E. Putnam's home state of licensure for purposes of the Nurse Licensure Compact (Compact). Ms. Putnam agrees that during the pendency of this Consent Agreement her nursing practice is limited to the State of Maine. If Ms. Putnam wishes to practice in any other party state within the

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Compact she shall petition the Board for written authorization. In addition, Ms. Putnam will arrange to have the party state in which she intends to practice provide the Board with written authorization that she has been approved to practice in that state.

12. Virginia E. Putnam agrees and understands that her license will remain on probationary status and subject to the terms of this Agreement indefinitely beyond the five year probationary period, until and unless the Board, at Ms. Putnam's written request, votes to terminate Ms. Putnam's probation. When considering whether to terminate the probation, the Board will consider the extent to which Ms. Putnam has complied with the provisions of this Agreement.
13. Virginia E. Putnam understands that this document is a Consent Agreement that affects her rights to practice nursing in Maine. Ms. Putnam understands that she does not have to execute this Consent Agreement and that she has the right to consult with an attorney before entering into the Consent Agreement.
14. If Ms. Putnam fails to meet any of the obligations of this Consent Agreement, the Board may take any disciplinary action, which it deems appropriate and impose any of the sanctions, including but not limited to that found in Title 10 M.R.S.A. § 8003 and Title 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A.
15. Virginia E. Putnam affirms that she executes this Consent Agreement of her own free will.
16. Modification of this Consent Agreement must in writing and signed by all the parties.
17. This Consent Agreement is not subject to review or appeal by the Licensee, but may be enforced by an action in the Superior Court.

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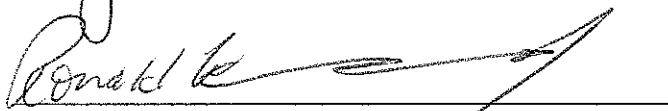
18. This Consent Agreement becomes effective upon the date of the last necessary signature below.

I, VIRGINIA E. PUTNAM, R.N., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING CONSENT AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING IT, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY, WITHOUT ANY THREAT OR PROMISE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND.

DATED: 4/2/07

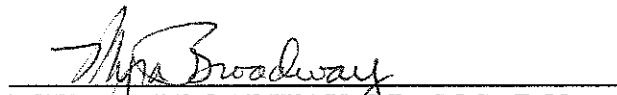

VIRGINIA E. PUTNAM, R.N.

DATED: 4/24/07


RON SCHNEIDER, ESQ.
Attorney for Virginia E. Putnam

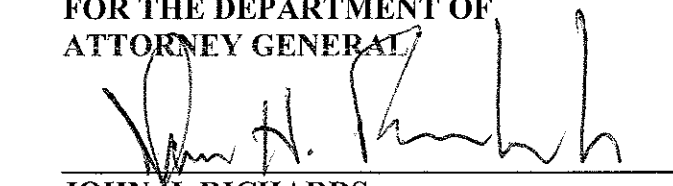
FOR THE MAINE STATE
BOARD OF NURSING

DATED: 4/25/07


MYRA A. BROADWAY, J.D., M.S., R.N.
Executive Director

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATED: 4/30/07


JOHN H. RICHARDS
Assistant Attorney General