

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: CHRISTOPHER SHELDON GREGORY, R.N.
License Number: 0001-214615
Case Number: 164221

ORDER

JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10), a Special Conference Committee of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) held an informal conference on April 12, 2016, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Christopher Sheldon Gregory, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Christopher Sheldon Gregory, R.N. appeared at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

NOTICE

By letter dated March 11, 2016, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Mr. Gregory notifying him that an informal conference would be held on April 12, 2016. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Christopher Sheldon Gregory, R.N. was issued License Number 0001-214615 to practice professional nursing on August 1, 2008, which is scheduled to expire on July 31, 2016. At

all times relevant to the allegations contained herein, said license was in full force and effect. His primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. Mr. Gregory violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that:

a. He signed a Participation Contract with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") on March 15, 2012, at which time he acknowledged that his alcohol and/or substance abuse disorder and/or mental illness and/or physical illness may impair his ability to practice his health profession safely.

b. He was dismissed from HPMP on July 17, 2015, for noncompliance, including failure to enter and complete treatment as recommended, failure to respond to HPMP communications, failure to return signed Recovery Monitoring Contracts, failure to submit reports, and continued use of opioids and benzodiazepines.

3. Mr. Gregory violated Virginia Code §§ 54.1-3007(2), (5), (6), and (8) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing in that during the course of his employment with Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia, beginning in December 2009, and continuing for several months, by his own admission, Mr. Gregory diverted approximately two to three Percocet (oxycodone – C-II) tablets per week for his personal and unauthorized use.

4. At the informal conference, Mr. Gregory acknowledged a prior history of alcohol abuse and diversion of Percocet. Mr. Gregory stated that he abused alcohol for more than a decade, which transitioned to abuse of Percocet.

5. In 2014, Mr. Gregory was diagnosed with a physical condition for which he was treated with Percocet and Xanax for an extended period of time. Mr. Gregory disclosed to HPMP all prescriptions and diagnoses related to his condition. Mr. Gregory did not test positive for any substances other than those he was prescribed.

6. In April 2015, HPMP advised Mr. Gregory that his monitoring contract would be extended and directed him to follow up with an assessment from a specialist to re-evaluate his diagnosis.

7. In May 2015, Mr. Gregory notified HPMP that he was not in agreement with extending his HPMP participation, which he had been scheduled to complete successfully that same month. At the informal conference, Mr. Gregory stated that he had become frustrated with the handling of his HPMP participation.

8. Mr. Gregory is under the care of a pain management specialist. He is currently prescribed Percocet on a PRN basis and methadone twice a day. He stopped taking Xanax approximately one month before the informal conference, and he hopes to begin alternative treatment when he is financially able to do so.

9. Mr. Gregory stated that his current support system includes his parents and his wife. He stated that he attends two Alcoholics Anonymous meetings per week and is a sponsor. He stated that he is currently employed as an R.N. at Consulate of Windsor. He stated that he has not used alcohol since June 2010.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Virginia Board of Nursing hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Christopher Sheldon Gregory, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Mr. Gregory shall have evaluations by a mental health specialist and a chemical dependency specialist satisfactory to the Board as well as a complete physical examination performed by a medical doctor satisfactory to the Board and shall have a written report of the evaluations, including a diagnosis, recommended course of therapy, prognosis, and any recommendations sent to


the Board with 90 days after the date that this Order is entered. Upon receipt of the required information, the Board may request that Mr. Gregory reappear before a Special Conference Committee in order to consider the specialist's recommendations and to make a final disposition of the matter.

3. Mr. Gregory shall maintain a course of conduct in his capacity as a professional nurse commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

4. Any violation of the terms and conditions of this Order or of any law or regulation affecting the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of Mr. Gregory and an administrative proceeding shall be convened to determine whether such license shall be suspended or revoked.


Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

FOR THE BOARD



Jay Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED AND MAILED: April 29, 2011

Certified True Copy
By 
Virginia Board of Nursing

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Mr. Gregory may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on June 1, 2016, notify Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that he desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated. This Order shall become final on June 1, 2016, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.