

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: CARLA MORSE, R.N.
License No.: 0001-219466**

ORDER

In accordance with §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021 and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), an informal conference was conducted on behalf of the Board of Nursing ("Board") on September 8, 2015, in Henrico County, Virginia. Carla Morse, R.N., was present and was not represented by legal counsel. Judith Piersall, R.N., B.S.N., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On November 18, 2015, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Morse was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel.

Based upon its review of the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the following Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Carla Morse, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-219466 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on July 1, 2009. The license is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2016.
2. By letter dated August 12, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Morse notifying her that an informal conference would be held on September 8, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 3613 Gentle Road, Portsmouth, Virginia 23703, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.
3. Ms. Morris stated she had become "hooked on drugs" while recovering from multiple

surgeries in a single year. At the urging of her family, Ms. Morse self-admitted to the Farley Center on August 14, 2013 for dependence on alcohol, oxycodone, Dilaudid, and Xanax. She was discharged September 12, 2013. On October 7, 2013, Ms. Morse voluntarily entered a Recovery Monitoring Contract with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), wherein she acknowledged that her alcohol and/or substance use disorder may impair her ability to safely practice. On March 16, 2015, Ms. Morse resigned from the HPMP and accepted a nursing position that did not restrict her access to controlled substances. She was subsequently dismissed from HPMP for accepting a nursing position without HPMP approval.

4. Ms. Morse reported that she accepted a position at Northampton Convalescent Center and her employment was terminated after approximately 30 days, in April, 2015, for failing to keep up with her assigned duties.

5. On April 10, 2015, Ms. Morse submitted to a urine drug screen and tested positive for hydromorphone and hydrocodone, for which she did not have current prescriptions. Ms. Morse also tested positive for amphetamines. Although she did have a prescription for Vyvanse (lisdexamfetamine, C-II), Ms. Morse reported to the Department of Health Professions investigator that she had not begun taking this medication.

6. On May 19, 2015, Ms. Morse was referred for a neuropsychological evaluation by Churchland Psychiatric Associates. Ms. Morse reported that she had a neuropsychological evaluation which was conducted on August 25, 2015, but results of the evaluation were not yet available at the time of the conference.

7. Ms. Morse has been diagnosed with ADHD. At the informal conference, her speech was rambling, she had difficulty answering questions and she was unable to focus on the notes she had prepared to present at the conference. She is currently prescribed Vyvanse, Lopressor, Crestor, Imdur,

Protonix and Neurontin, but she denied taking the Vyvanse.

8. Ms. Morse reported that she attends Alcoholics Anonymous meetings approximately two times a month. She has a sponsor and is currently on Step 4; however, she was unable to explain what Step 4 entails. Ms. Morse gave a sobriety date of August 14, 2011, however she admitted taking “left over” Percocet for plantar fasciitis on April 8, 2015. She also admitted taking Percocet for fractured ribs in May 2015.

9. On the application for employment with Chesapeake Regional Home Health Care dated December 6, 2010, Ms. Morse indicated that her reason for leaving Maryview Medical Center was that she preferred home health, when, in fact, her employment was terminated on December 3, 2010, for unsatisfactory performance and following three days of suspension for having slurred speech. She then worked at Chesapeake Regional Medical Center Home Health. At Chesapeake Regional Ms. Morse received multiple counselings for failure to complete documentation. Ms. Morse stated she resigned from this position before she could be fired.

10. Ms. Morse, who received her license to practice in 2009, has, other than Northampton Convalescent Center, not worked since 2011, with the exception of her current employment with Comfort Care. Her current employer is not aware that Ms. Morse is the subject of a matter before the Board of Nursing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Findings of Fact Nos. 3, 5 and 6 constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.
2. Finding of Fact No. 9 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. License No. 0001-219466 of Carla Morse, R.N., is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED for a period of not less than one year.

2. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.

3. At such time as Ms. Morse shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of professional nursing. Ms. Morse shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of the license prior to issuance of the license to resume practice.

4. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.


Pursuant to § 54.1-2400.2 of the Code, 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.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Morse may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on January 16, 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 she 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.

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing

FOR THE BOARD:


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

ENTERED: December 14th, 2015

This Order shall become final on January 16, 2016, unless a request for a formal administrative

hearing is received as described above.