

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE:

ANGELA MEADWELL, R.N.

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 October 28, 2009, in Henrico County, Virginia. Angela Meadwell, R.N., was present and was not represented by legal counsel. Jane Elliott, R.N., Ph.D., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On January 27, 2010, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Meadwell 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. Angela Meadwell, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-120178 to practice as a professional nurse in Virginia on August 29, 1990. The license is current and will expire on December 31, 2011.
2. By letter dated September 29, 2009, the Board sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Meadwell notifying her that an Informal Conference would be held on October 28, 2009. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 4861 Nelms Lane, Roanoke, Virginia 24019, the address of record on file with the Board.
3. On June 26, 2009, during the course of her employment at North Roanoke Dialysis, Roanoke, Virginia, Ms. Meadwell was observed with dilated pupils and slurred speech. Ms. Meadwell did not have a patient assignment. Ms. Meadwell subsequently admitted to her supervisor that she had consumed alcoholic beverages during work hours.

4. Ms. Meadwell is unable to engage in the safe practice of nursing due to use of alcohol, drugs, and mental illness as evidenced by Ms. Meadwell receiving inpatient treatment for depression and substance abuse. Specifically:

a. In November, 2008, she was admitted to Virginia Baptist Hospital, Lynchburg, Virginia for mental health treatment. After being discharged, Ms. Meadwell relapsed on alcohol, which led to subsequent admissions.

b. She was admitted to Lewis Gale Behavioral Health, Lynchburg, Virginia and received mental health and substance abuse treatment in June, 2009, and July, 2009.

c. She participated in a substance abuse treatment program in July, 2009, at Mount Regis Center, Salem, Virginia.

5. On September 14, 2009, Ms. Meadwell executed a Recovery Monitoring Contract with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), in which she acknowledged that she suffers from an alcohol abuse disorder and mental illness that may impair her ability to practice nursing safely. Ms. Meadwell is currently in good standing with the HPMP and has been given permission to work as a patient care technician at Fresenius Medical Care, Roanoke, Virginia.

6. At the informal conference, Ms. Meadwell gave her sobriety date as July 6, 2009, and stated that she currently resides in the Oxford House, a self-supporting, drug-free group home, in Roanoke, Virginia. Ms. Meadwell attends Alcoholics Anonymous meetings four times per week and has a sponsor. Ms. Meadwell also attends a support group with other residents of the Oxford House one time per week and a Caduceus meeting one time per week. Ms. Meadwell receives individual counseling from Hannah Lloyd, B.G.S., C.S.A.C., one time per week. Ms. Lloyd wrote a letter to the Board on behalf of Ms. Meadwell stating that she has been accountable, has a positive attitude, and is compliant with her HPMP contract. Ms. Lloyd wrote that she is "very glad to advocate for [Ms. Meadwell] at this time."

7. At the informal conference, Ms. Meadwell stated that she does not feel an urgent need to return to nursing practice as she wishes to focus on her recovery at this time. A representative from Fresenius Medical Care provided a letter of reference and support for Ms. Meadwell. Ms. Meadwell presented other letters of reference from friends and colleagues.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Findings of Fact #4, #5, and #6 constitute violations of §54.1-3007(6) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”).
2. Finding of Fact #3 constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(5) and (6) of the Code.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. The Board shall TAKE NO ACTION contingent on the following conditions:
 - a. Ms. Meadwell shall comply with all terms and conditions for the period specified by the HPMP.
 - b. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for revoking the license of Ms. Meadwell, and an administrative proceeding shall be held to decide whether her license should be revoked. Ms. Meadwell shall be noticed to appear before the Board at such time as the Board is notified that:
 - i. Ms. Meadwell is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the HPMP, or has been terminated from participation in the HPMP;
 - ii. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against Ms. Meadwell involving a violation of law or regulation or any term or condition of this Order; or
 - iii. Ms. Meadwell has successfully completed the above-referenced period of participation in the HPMP. However, upon receipt of Ms. Meadwell’s participation in and compliance with the

HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Meadwell's appearance before the Board and conduct an administrative review of this matter.

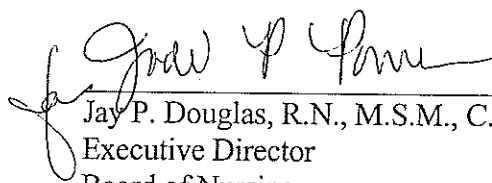
2. This Order is applicable to Ms. Meadwell's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Meadwell shall not work outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the Virginia Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Ms. Meadwell wishes to work. Any requests for out of state employment should be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

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

This Order is subject to appeal to the Board. If Ms. Meadwell desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board pursuant to §§2.2-4020 and 2.2-4021 of the Code, she must notify Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233, in writing, within thirty-three (33) days from the date of service of this Order. Upon the filing of a request for the hearing with the Executive Director, this Order shall be vacated.

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.

FOR THE BOARD


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

Entered: February 5, 2010

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing