

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: SUSAN BECK, R.N.

CONSENT ORDER

On October 15, 2003, an Informal Conference Committee ("Committee") of the Virginia Board of Nursing ("Board") met with Susan Beck, R.N., to inquire into allegations that she may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Committee made Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and issued its decision.

By letters dated December 23, 2003 and February 12, 2004, the Board issued Ms. Beck a Notice of Formal Administrative Hearing and Statement of Particulars setting forth the matters under review. In lieu of proceeding to this formal administrative hearing, the Board and Ms. Beck, as evidenced by their signatures affixed below, agree to enter into this Consent Order affecting the license of Ms. Beck to practice professional nursing in Virginia.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Susan Beck, R.N., holds License No. 0001-133866, issued by the Virginia Board of Nursing.
2. During the course of her employment with INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital, Alexandria, Virginia:
  - a) Ms. Beck violated § 54.1-3007(2), (3) and (6) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) and (e) of the Regulations of the Board in that, by her own admission, on or about January 28, 2003, she diverted methadone, and in December 2002, she diverted Demerol (meperidine), for her personal and unauthorized use and self-administered the drugs while on duty. She accomplished the diversion by administering drugs left over from a patient's dose, instead of wasting it.
  - b) Ms. Beck violated § 54.1-3007(2), (3) and (6) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) and (e) of the Regulations of the Board in that, a review of medical records

from December 15, 2002 to January 25, 2003, to include medication administration records and narcotic withdrawal reports, revealed the following:

- i. She withdrew narcotics and failed to document administration;
  - ii. She withdrew narcotics and documented administration at intervals that were not in accordance with the physicians' orders;
  - iii. She withdrew narcotics from other units in addition to the unit to which she was assigned; and
  - iv. There were discrepancies between the time she withdrew narcotics and the time that they were charted as being administered.
- c) Ms. Beck violated § 54.1-3007(2), (3) and (6) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) of the Regulations of the Board in that, as a result of the above medical record review, on or about January 29, 2003, she was confronted and asked to submit to a drug screen. She was found to have an unopened pack of ten (10) syringes in her bag, that were the same brand and same type of packaging as those used in the hospital. Ms. Beck was placed on a leave of absence and referred to the Employee Assistance Program ("EAP"), pending investigation. On or about February 6, 2003, the drug screen was reported as yielding positive results for methadone.

3. Ms. Beck violated § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code, in that, from March 5, 2003 until April 16, 2003, she received outpatient treatment for opioid abuse, at the Harrison House of Virginia, Annandale, Virginia. Upon discharge, she was recommended to attend aftercare and Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous meetings and see a psychologist. Commencing in April 2003, Ms. Beck began receiving mental health treatment from George Lawrence, Ph.D., Potomac Center, Inc., Alexandria, Virginia. On her initial appointment, Ms. Beck admitted to drinking two (2) shots of vodka prior to her appointment.

Ms. Beck stated to the Committee that she has discontinued therapy with Dr. Lawrence.

4. Ms. Beck violated § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code, in that, on or about April 24, 2003, she entered into a Recovery Monitoring Contract with the Health Practitioners' Intervention Program ("HPIP"), pursuant to Chapter 25.1 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, and 18 VAC 76-10-10, et seq., of the Regulations Governing the HPIP. On or about August 25 and September 2, 2003, she tested positive for alcohol. Ms. Beck acknowledged that she had been drinking and stated that "alcohol has not been a problem" [for her]. On or about September 9, 2003, she was sent a pre-dismissal letter. Martha Ann Spruill, Case Manager, stated to the Committee that due to her non-compliance, Ms. Beck will be recommended for dismissal from the HPIP when the Intervention Program Committee meets on October 17, 2003.

#### CONSENT

Susan Beck, R.N., by affixing her signature hereon, agrees to the following:

1. She acknowledges that she has been specifically advised to seek advice of counsel prior to signing this document;
2. She acknowledges that she is fully aware that without her consent, no legal action can be taken against her, except pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act, § 2.2-4000, et seq., of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended;
3. She acknowledges that she has the following rights, among others: the right to a formal hearing before the Board, to reasonable notice of said hearing, to representation by counsel, and the right to cross examine witnesses against her;
4. She waives all such rights to a formal hearing;
5. She neither admits nor denies the above Findings of Fact; however, she waives her right to contest the foregoing Findings of Fact in any subsequent proceedings before the Board; and
6. She consents to the entry of the following Order affecting her license to practice professional

nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

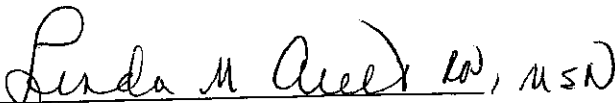
ORDER

WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Consent Order, hereby ORDERS that License No. 0001-133866, issued to Susan Beck, R.N., to practice nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, be and hereby is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED until such time Ms. Beck can appear and present clear and convincing evidence that she is safe and competent to practice nursing.

Upon entry of this Consent Order, the license of Susan Beck, R.N., will be recorded as suspended and no longer current. Consistent with the terms of this Consent Order, in the event Ms. Beck seeks reinstatement of her license, she shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of her license prior to issuance of her license to resume practice.

Pursuant to § 2.2-4023 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the signed original of this Consent Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as public record and shall be made available for public inspection or copying on request.

FOR THE BOARD

  
Linda M. Ault, R.N., M.S.N.  
President

ENTERED: March 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2004

Seen and Agreed to:

Susan Beck RN

Susan Beck, R.N.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,  
County/City of Fairfax, to wit:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, Eireta Kattner, a Notary  
Public, by Susan Beck, R.N., this 5 day of March, 2004.

My commission expires the 30 day of Sept, 2005



Notary Public

Certified True Copy

By KB 4/8/04

Virginia Board of Nursing

VA BOARD OF NURSING