

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE:

TABITHA N. THRASHER, L.P.N.

License No.: 0002-076765

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 May 26, 2015, in Henrico County, Virginia. Ms. Thrasher 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 July 15, 2015, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Thrasher 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. Tabitha N. Thrasher, L.P.N. was issued License No.0002-076765 to practice practical nursing in Virginia on September 18, 2007. The license is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2015. Ms. Thrasher's primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated May 4, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Thrasher notifying her that an informal conference would be held on May 26, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 221 Treetop Rd., Rocky Mount, VA 24151, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.
3. During the course of her employment with Avante at Roanoke, Roanoke, Virginia ("Avante"), Ms. Thrasher improperly administered narcotic medication and improperly documented the

administration of narcotic medications on several occasions, as evidenced by the following:

a. On July 16, 2014, Ms. Thrasher signed out two tablets of hydromorphone 4mg (C-II) for Resident A at 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., but she only documented the administration of one tablet during her shift, leaving one tablet unaccounted for.

b. On July 16, 2014, Ms. Thrasher signed out a tablet of Lorazepam .5mg for Resident D at 8:00 p.m., but she documented administration at 6:03 p.m.

c. On July 7, 2014, by her own admission, Ms. Thrasher removed and documented administering two tablets of morphine sulfate 15mg (C-II) to Resident E at 9:00 p.m., when the physician's order was for one tablet every 12 hours.

d. Ms. Thrasher denied diverting narcotics while working at Avante but indicated her employment at Avante had been terminated. According to the facility, they considered Ms. Thrasher a "voluntary quit" due to her not coming in to the facility to discuss the narcotic medication issues.

4. At the informal conference, Ms. Thrasher said that she made documentation errors because she was unfamiliar with the computer system, had insufficient training on the computer system, and had been allowed to be with a preceptor only one day before she was assigned to administer medications, for an entire shift, to 34 patients using two medication carts.

5. On May 15, 2014, during the course of her employment with Pheasant Ridge Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Roanoke, Virginia ("Pheasant Ridge"), Ms. Thrasher improperly administered narcotic medication and improperly documented the administration of narcotic medications on several occasions, as evidenced by the following:

a. Ms. Thrasher withdrew three tablets of Adderall 20mg (amphetamine, C-II) for Resident F, who was prescribed two tablets daily. Ms. Thrasher documented that she administered one

tablet and wasted one tablet, leaving one tablet unaccounted for.

b. Ms. Thrasher pre-poured and crushed two tablets in a cup of applesauce to be administered to Resident F. Ms. Thrasher claimed the tablets were Adderall, but the two crushed tablets did not appear to be Adderall.

c. Ms. Thrasher denied diverting narcotics while working at Pheasant Ridge.

6. As a result of inappropriately documenting the administration of narcotics, Ms. Thrasher's employment with Pheasant Ridge was terminated on July 18, 2014.

7. On her application for employment with Avante dated June 10, 2014, Ms. Thrasher answered "no" to the question whether she had ever been fired, and she indicated she left employment at Pheasant Ridge because she "needed[ed] to find a job with insurance." In fact, Ms. Thrasher's employment with Pheasant Ridge was terminated on July 18, 2014 due to multiple problems with the documentation, administration, and wastage of narcotic medications.

8. Ms. Thrasher has a diagnosis of bipolar disorder and a history of abusing opiates and marijuana. Further, she received treatment for opiate addiction from April 2012 through June 2014 and for bipolar disorder in 2011 and 2012. Ms. Thrasher has received no further treatment for chemical dependency or mental illness since June 2014.

9. At the informal conference, Ms. Thrasher stated that she was currently working as a nurse at Springtree Health and Rehabilitation Center, Roanoke, Virginia ("Springtree"). Ms. Thrasher did not inform Springtree of this matter before the Board.

10. Ms. Thrasher stated her date of sobriety was July 2014.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007 (5) of the Code.
2. Finding of Fact No. 5 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007 (5) of the Code.

3. Finding of Fact No. 7 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.

4. Finding of Fact No. 8 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. License No. 0002-076765 of Tabitha N. Thrasher, L.P.N. is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.

2. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice practical nursing.

3. At such time as Ms. Thrasher 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 practical nursing. Ms. Thrasher 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 shall be STAYED upon proof of entry into the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") pursuant to Chapter 25.1 of Title 54.1 of the Code and 18 VAC 76-10-10 *et seq.* of the Regulations Governing the HPMP. At such time, the indefinite suspension shall be STAYED and the following terms and conditions shall apply:

a. Ms. Thrasher 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 summarily rescinding the stay of indefinite suspension of the license of Tabitha N. Thrasher, L.P.N., and an administrative proceeding shall be held to determine whether her license shall be revoked. The stay of indefinite suspension may be summarily rescinded at such time the Board is notified that:

- i. Ms. Thrasher is not in compliance with the terms and conditions specified by the HPMP;
- ii. Ms. Thrasher’s participation in the HPMP has been terminated;
- iii. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against Ms. Thrasher involving a violation of law, regulation, or any term or condition of this order.

5. Upon receipt of evidence of Ms. Thrasher’s participation and successful completion of the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Thrasher’s appearance before a Committee and conduct an administrative review of this matter, at which time she may be issued an unrestricted license.

6. This Order is applicable to Ms. Thrasher’s multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice practical nursing. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Thrasher 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. Thrasher wishes to work. Any requests for out of state employment should be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

7. Tabitha N. Thrasher, L.P.N. is hereby REPRIMANDED.


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

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. Thrasher may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on

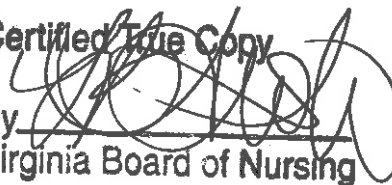
August 31, 2015, notify Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that he/she desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

FOR THE BOARD:

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

ENTERED: July 27, 2015

This Order shall become final on August 31, 2015, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By _____
Virginia Board of Nursing