

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: CHRISTINE STOLBA, R.N. REINSTATEMENT APPLICANT
License No.: 0001-189081

ORDER

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), a Special Conference Committee ("Committee") of the Virginia Board of Nursing ("Board") met on April 1, 2015 in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon Christine Stolba's application for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing in Virginia and to inquire into allegations that grounds may exist to deny said application. Ms. Stolba was present and was not represented by counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Christine Stolba was issued License No. 0001-189081 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on February 20, 2004. Said license was suspended by Order of the Board entered on June 6, 2011. Ms. Stolba's primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated March 3, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Stolba notifying her that an informal conference would be held on April 1, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 4405 Barford Court, Chantilly, Virginia, 20151, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3. Ms. Stolba submitted an application for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing which was received by the Board on October 14, 2014.

4. Since January 2011, Ms. Stolba has received counseling with the Community Mental Health

Center, Chantilly, Virginia. As recently as December 2014, her diagnosis included anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, opioid dependency, sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic dependency, and personality disorder. During treatment Ms. Stolba had displayed drug seeking behavior. She admitted to her treatment provider that she wanted the “immediate kick” of opiates and she specifically requested benzodiazepines. Furthermore, according to Ms. Stolba’s providers at Community Mental Health Center, she had not been truthful about medications she received from other providers.

5. At the informal conference, Ms. Stolba stated that she did not agree with the diagnosis of personality disorder as it has never been discussed with her, and she did not agree with diagnosis of sedative, hypnotic or anxiolytic dependency. In addition, Ms. Stolba indicated that she disagreed with some of the treatment notes within her treatment records.

6. Ms. Stolba stated that her date of sobriety was May 2011; however, Ms. Stolba was prescribed an opioid medication as recently as February 2015.

7. On October 27, 2014, Ms. Stolba admitted to borrowing Ambien from her friends and indicated to her counselor that she wished that she had some Valium. At the informal conference, Ms. Stolba stated that she requested Valium previously, but not on the date detailed in her treatment records.

8. Between February 2011 and October 2014, Ms. Stolba was either seen at or admitted to Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, Fairfax, Virginia, approximately 19 times for headaches, pain, anxiety, and/or opioid abuse/dependency. At a majority of the visits, Ms. Stolba was prescribed narcotic medications. At the informal conference, Ms. Stolba indicated that while she acknowledged that the diagnosis of opioid dependency was in her medical records, and agreed that she had a history of opioid dependency, she did not agree that she was seen for opioid dependency.

9. On May 8, 2014, while at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, Ms. Stolba requested a prescription for

pain medication; the physician wrote her a prescription for four tablets of Vicodin(C-II) and she threw the prescription at the R.N. and left the facility. At the informal conference, Ms. Stolba stated that she did not request pain medication and she did not throw the prescription at the nurse. Ms. Stolba stated that she complained about, in her opinion, sub-standard care, and she believed that this note was placed in her file following her complaint. Ms. Stolba stated that the hospital told her to put her complaint in writing but she failed to do so.

10. Between January 1, 2012, and December 1, 2014, Ms. Stolba was prescribed narcotic medications and other controlled substances, including Valium, Percocet, Dilaudid, Xanax, Lunesta, Ambien, Adderall and Suboxone, by eleven providers, and she had her prescriptions filled at nine pharmacies. As recently as May 2014, a pharmacy advised Ms. Stolba's physician at Chantilly Family Medicine, Chantilly, Virginia, that they could not fill her prescription for Valium because she had not been using her medication as prescribed. At the informal conference, Ms. Stolba stated that she did not recall an incident when she tried to receive Valium early. Ms. Stolba stated that she went to a variety of pharmacies because they were all close to her home and she went where she felt was convenient at the time.

11. Ms. Stolba is currently prescribed Lamictal, Wellbutrin XL, Zoloft, propranolol, trazadone and Lunesta and is currently receiving one-on-one counseling.

12. On Ms. Stolba's application for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing, received by the Board on October 14, 2014, Ms. Stolba answered "no" to the question asking if she had a mental, physical or chemical dependency condition which could interfere with her current ability to practice nursing. At the informal conference, Ms. Stolba admitted that she has a mental illness but she answered "no" because she did not feel her illness would interfere with her nursing practice.

13. At the informal conference, Ms. Stolba acknowledged that she does not inform all of her prescribers of her history of opioid dependency. Further, she did not feel she was at risk for abuse of opioids

or see it as a problem if she is prescribed opioid medications. She further stated that at times she needs opioid medication.

14. On March 31, 2015, the Board received a signed Participation Contract regarding Ms. Stolba's enrollment in the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program. On her contract Ms. Stolba indicated that she may suffer from the disease of chemical dependency that impairs her ability to practice nursing as evidenced by her "opioid abuse." At the informal conference, Ms. Stolba acknowledged that she had been dismissed from the HPMP twice before but stated that she is no longer dependent on opioids and the HPMP is a good tool to hold her accountable.

15. Ms. Stolba is currently employed as a part-time cashier; the last time she was employed as a professional nurse was in January 2009.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Findings of Fact Nos. 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10 constitute a violation of §54.1-3007(6) of the Code.
2. Finding of Fact No. 12 constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(1) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(1)(b) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.
3. The Committee concludes that Ms. Stolba has not demonstrated satisfactory evidence that she is prepared to resume practice in a safe and competent manner.

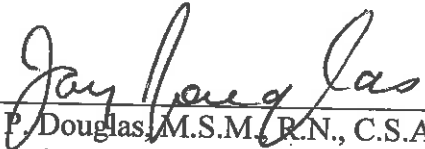
ORDER

On the basis of the foregoing, the Committee hereby ORDERS that the application of Christine Stolba for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby DENIED.

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4023 and 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 public record and shall be made available for public inspection or copying on request.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Stolba may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on **May 18, 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 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.

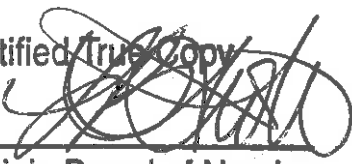
FOR THE COMMITTEE:



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

ENTERED: April 16th, 2015

This Order shall become final on **May 18, 2015**, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By _____
Virginia Board of Nursing