

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: SHEILA BLOXOM-HUFF, 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 April 7, 2009, in Henrico County, Virginia. Sheila Bloxom-Huff, R.N., was present and was not represented by legal counsel. Janet B. Younger, R.N., P.N.P., Ph.D., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On May 20, 2009, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Bloxom-Huff 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. Sheila Bloxom-Huff, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-144509 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on July 19, 1995. The license is set to expire on June 30, 2010. Ms. Bloxom-Huff was issued License No. 0002-045709 to practice practical nursing on May 28, 1992, which expired on June 30, 1996.

2. By letter dated March 13, 2009, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Bloxom-Huff notifying her that an informal conference would be held on April 7, 2009. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 559 Whippoorwill Road, Wytheville, Virginia 24382, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3. During the course of her assignment with Lewis Gale Medical Center, Salem, Virginia, through Trinity Healthcare Staffing:

a. The 24-Hour Controlled Drug Nursing Audit Sheet (“Audit Sheet”) indicates that on March 2, 2008, between 1400 and 1530 hours, Ms. Bloxom-Huff removed a Valium 2mg tablet (diazepam, Schedule IV) and a Lortab 7.5/500mg tablet (hydrocodone, Schedule III); however, she failed to identify the patient, time and dose to whom they were administered.

b. On July 2, 2008, Ms. Bloxom-Huff documented administering Demerol 75mg (meperidine, Schedule II) to Patient A at 1404 and 1636 hours; however, the order was for 50-75mg every six hours.

c. On the Audit Sheet for July 28, 2008, Ms. Bloxom-Huff removed a hydrocodone 10/325mg tablet for Patient B at 0955 hours; however, she failed to document administration or wastage.

d. On the Audit Sheet for July 31, 2008, Ms. Bloxom-Huff removed an Ativan 1mg tablet (lorazepam, Schedule IV) for Patient C at 1830 hours; however, she failed to document administration or wastage.

e. On July 31, 2008, Ms. Bloxom-Huff documented administering two hydrocodone 7.5/325mg tablets to Patient C at 1434 and 1906 hours; however, the order was for one to two tablets every six hours.

As a result of these incidents, her contract to work at this facility was not renewed.

4. During the informal conference, Ms. Bloxom-Huff acknowledged having difficulty documenting on the Audit Sheet. There was no patient harm reported as a result of the above errors.

5. Ms. Bloxom-Huff is unable to safely practice nursing due to substance abuse and mental illness, as evidenced by the following actions:

a. Ms. Bloxom-Huff obtained Lortab and tramadol (Schedule VI) tablets from other friends and acquaintances for her personal and unauthorized use, in addition to her valid prescriptions for controlled substances.

b. Ms. Bloxom-Huff abused prescribed medications and obtained multiple prescriptions for hydrocodone and Darvocet N (propoxyphene/acetaminophen, Schedule IV) from different practitioners; however, she failed to inform the prescribers that she was obtaining drugs from others. On the medical history form dated May 7, 2007, for a dentist from whom Ms. Bloxom-Huff received treatment, she falsely indicated that she was not taking any medicine or drugs, when, in fact, she had active prescriptions for Darvocet N and hydrocodone. Consequently, she received another prescription from the dentist for hydrocodone tablets.

c. On February 1, 2008, Ms. Bloxom-Huff abruptly discontinued all psychotropic drugs including Wellbutrin and Effexor, without the knowledge or assistance of a physician or nurse practitioner. Subsequently, she reported feeling depressed and anxious, with severe mood swings and loss of memory.

6. During the informal conference, Ms. Bloxom-Huff had difficulty containing her thoughts and comments to what was being asked. She continued rambling until she was interrupted and was difficult to redirect. She was also somewhat emotionally labile. Ms. Bloxom-Huff reluctantly admitted to being dependent/addicted to drugs and stated that she intends to enroll in a 12-step program in the near future. Ms. Bloxom-Huff reported that she is currently unemployed and has not worked for eight months. She does not have health insurance and is not receiving any mental health treatment. She resumed taking Wellbutrin prescribed by her nurse practitioner. Ms. Bloxom-Huff stated that she has not been given a mental health diagnosis; however, in a letter to the Board dated October 28, 2008, her treating nurse practitioner opined that Ms. Bloxom-Huff may be bipolar.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact #3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(5) of the Code.
2. Finding of Fact #5 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. License No. 0001-144509 of Sheila Bloxom-Huff, R.N., is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
2. Ms. Bloxom-Huff's right to renew License No. 0002-045709 is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
3. The licenses will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.
4. At such time as Ms. Bloxom-Huff shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her licenses, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of nursing. Ms. Bloxom-Huff shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of the licenses prior to issuance of the licenses to resume practice.
5. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional or practical nursing.
6. This suspension shall be STAYED upon proof of Ms. Bloxom-Huff's entry into the Health Practitioners' Intervention Program ("HPIP") and demonstrating six months' compliance with a Recovery Monitoring Contract. At such time, the indefinite suspension shall be STAYED and the following terms and conditions shall apply:
 - a. Ms. Bloxom-Huff shall comply with all terms and conditions for the period specified by the HPIP.

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 Sheila Bloxom-Huff, R.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. Bloxom-Huff is not in compliance with the terms and conditions specified by the HPIP;
- ii. Ms. Bloxom-Huff's participation in the HPIP has been terminated;
- iii. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against her involving a violation of law, regulation, or any term or condition of this order.

7. This Order is applicable to Ms. Bloxom-Huff's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Bloxom-Huff 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 she wishes to work. Any requests for out of state employment should be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.


8. Ms. Bloxom-Huff 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. Bloxom-Huff 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
Virginia Board of Nursing

Entered: June 5TH, 2009

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Order was mailed this day to Sheila Bloxom-Huff, R.N., at 559 Whippoorwill Road, Wytheville, Virginia 24382.



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

DATE June 5TH, 2009