

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: SUZETTE DINZEO, R.N.
License No.: 0001-207762**

CONSENT ORDER

The Virginia Board of Nursing ("Board") and Suzette Dinzeo, R.N., as evidenced by her signature hereto, enter into the following Consent Order affecting Ms. Dinzeo's license to practice professional nursing in Virginia.

The Board adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Suzette Dinzeo, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-207762 to practice professional nursing by the Virginia Board of Nursing on July 5, 2007. Said license is set to expire on June 30, 2014. Ms. Dinzeo's primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. During the course of her employment with Martha Jefferson Hospital, Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2009 and 2010, Ms. Dinzeo diverted Vicodin (hydrocodone/acetaminophen – Schedule III) and hydromorphone (Schedule II) for her personal and unauthorized use, which she accomplished by removing more than was ordered for a patient and keeping the waste or not administering to a patient who did not need it for pain. During the course of her employment with Dogwood Village, Orange, Virginia, in January 2011, Ms. Dinzeo diverted Tramadol (ultram) for her personal and unauthorized use.
3. Ms. Dinzeo signed a Participation Contract with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") on February 22, 2011, in which she acknowledged her history of substance abuse. She signed her eighth Recovery Monitoring Contract with HPMP on January 24, 2013. Ms. Dinzeo was granted a

stay of disciplinary action contingent upon her compliance with the terms and conditions of the HPMP for the period specified by the HPMP. Ms. Dinzeo had a history of alcohol abuse and opiate addiction.

4. On December 28, 2012, the stay of disciplinary action was rescinded following HPMP's receipt of Ms. Dinzeo's December 4, 2012, urine drug screen, which was positive for alcohol.

5. On March 27, 2013, Ms. Dinzeo was found to be in noncompliance with the HPMP after she submitted a diluted urine drug screen. She also admitted to relapsing on alcohol in February and March 2013.

6. Ms. Dinzeo entered inpatient treatment at Boxwood Recovery Center on April 16, 2013, and she was discharged on April 29, 2013. She continues to receive individual counseling, and attends a recovery group and Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

7. Ms. Dinzeo's therapist with LSATP stated in an April 15, 2013, interview with the investigator for the Department of Health Professions that she did not believe Ms. Dinzeo is ready or safe to practice nursing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 2 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (5) and (6) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.
2. Findings of Fact Nos. 3 through 7 constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

CONSENT

Suzette Dinzeo, R.N., by affixing her signature hereon, agrees to the following:

1. She has been advised to seek advice of counsel prior to signing this document;
2. She acknowledges that without her consent, no legal action can be taken against her except pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act, § 2.2-4000(A) *et seq.* of the Code;

3. She acknowledges that she has the following rights, among others: the right to an informal fact finding conference before the Board, the right to reasonable notice of said hearing, the right to representation by counsel, and the right to cross-examine witnesses against her;

4. She waives all such right to an informal conference;

5. She admits to the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law contained herein and waives her right to contest such Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in any subsequent proceeding before the Board;

6. She consents to the entry of the following Order affecting her right to practice professional nursing in Virginia.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, on the basis of the foregoing, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, and in lieu of further proceedings, hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. The Board shall TAKE NO ACTION at this time contingent upon the condition that Suzette Dinzeo, R.N., remain compliant with all terms and conditions of the HPMP for the period specified by the HPMP. :

2. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for revoking the license of Ms. Dinzeo, and an administrative proceeding shall be held to decide whether her license should be revoked. Ms. Dinzeo shall be noticed to appear before the Board at such time as the Board is notified that:

a. Ms. Dinzeo is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the HPMP, or has been terminated from participation in the HPMP;

b. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against Ms. Dinzeo involving a violation of law or regulation or any term or condition of this Order; or

c. Ms. Dinzeo has successfully completed the above-referenced period of participation in the HPMP. However, upon receipt of evidence of Ms. Dinzeo's participation in and compliance with the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Dinzeo's appearance before the Board and conduct an administrative review of this matter.

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

4. Ms. Dinzeo 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.

5. Any violation of the terms and conditions of this Order or of any law or regulation affecting the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of Ms. Dinzeo and an administrative proceeding shall be convened to determine whether such license shall be suspended or revoked.

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 upon request.

FOR THE BOARD

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

ENTERED: November 19, 2013

Suzette Dinzeo

SEEN AND AGREED TO:

Suzette M. Dinzeo
Suzette Dinzeo, R.N.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
COUNTY/CITY OF Aberdeen, TO WIT:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, Connie E. Steppe a Notary Public, this 13th day of November, 2013.

My commission expires 11/30/2017.

Registration Number 326773.

C E Steppe
NOTARY PUBLIC

