

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: YEVONNE POWERS, R.N.
License No.: 0001-181252**

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 October 7, 2013, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Yevonne Powers, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing professional nursing practice in Virginia. Ms. Powers was present and was represented by Christopher Stevens, Esquire, and Elizabeth Perrow, Esquire.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Yevonne Powers, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-181252 to practice as a professional nurse in the Commonwealth of Virginia on December 18, 2002. Said license expires on July 31, 2015. Ms. Powers’ primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated July 12, 2013, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Powers notifying her that an informal conference would be held on August 8, 2013. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 1027 Goodview Town Road, Goodview, Virginia, 24095, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. Upon motion of Ms. Powers, the Board continued the informal conference to October 7, 2013.
3. On April 4, 2013, Patient A, who was 17 years old, narcotic naïve, and weighed approximately 105 pounds, arrived at Med Express, Roanoke, Virginia, for treatment of a severe sore throat

accompanied by slight fever and body aches. Patient A had been seen at this facility two days earlier for similar complaints, but her condition had worsened. Patient A's throat condition was such that she was unable to swallow or speak without crying.

4. After examining the patient, the physician ordered three intramuscular injections for the patient, specifically, 1 gram of Rocephin, 4 mg of Dilaudid (hydromorphone – Schedule II), and 125 mg of Solumedrol, a steroid. Ms. Powers requested a change of dosage for the Rocephin because the facility did not have the ordered dosage in stock, which the physician approved.

5. Ms. Powers administered all three medications to Patient A. Ms. Powers stated at the informal conference that the patient remained on-site at the facility for approximately thirty minutes following the administration of the medication. Ms. Powers did not express any concern about the ordered dosage of Dilaudid, despite the patient's condition and the medication's known risk of respiratory depression.

6. Patient A's record does not reflect any patient education about the risks or side effects of the medication she had been administered at Med Express or prescribed to take home following discharge, which included orally administered Dilaudid.

7. Ms. Powers stated at the informal conference that at the time of discharge, Patient A's condition had improved and that the patient was talking and was able to drink an energy drink. Ms. Powers also stated that she had no concerns about discharging the patient to her home with her mother.

8. After leaving Med Express, Patient A's mother stopped at a pharmacy to fill her daughter's prescriptions. En route to their home from the pharmacy, less than one hour after leaving Med Express, Patient A suffered respiratory arrest and cardiac arrest. Patient A was transported to a local hospital, where she died approximately seven hours after leaving Med Express, following multiple attempts to resuscitate her.

9. Ms. Powers remains employed at Med Express on paid administrative leave pending resolution of this matter.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Findings of Fact Nos. 5 and 6 constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(5) of the Code.

ORDER

On the basis of the foregoing, the Committee hereby ORDERS as follows:

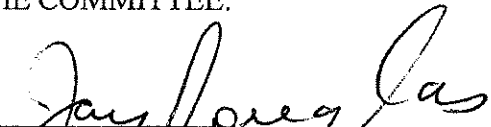
1. Yevonne Powers, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Ms. Powers shall provide the Board with verification that she has completed the following NCSBN online course within 30 days of the date this Order is final: *Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses*.
3. Ms. Powers shall maintain a 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.
4. 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. Powers 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 on request.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Powers may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on November 11, 2013, 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: October 9th, 2013

This Order shall become final on November 11, 2013, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By 

Virginia Board of Nursing