

## BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE:        AGNES LONG, R.N.**  
**License No.: 0001-224466**

### 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 Agnes Long, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing professional nursing practice in Virginia. Ms. Long 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. Agnes Long, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-224466 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on June 3, 2010. Said license expires on August 31, 2015. Ms. Long’s primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated September 11, 2013, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Long notifying her that an informal conference would be held on October 7, 2013. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 450 East Reservoir Street, Wytheville, Virginia, 24382, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The Notice was also sent to 1951 Rockdale Road, Wytheville, Virginia, 24382, a secondary address.
3. On June 3, 2013, Ms. Long was hospitalized at the Smyth County Community Hospital following a suicide attempt. She was diagnosed with major depressive disorder with suicide attempt.

4. Following consultation with a counselor on June 17, 2013, Ms. Long was diagnosed with adjustment disorder with mixed anxiety and depressed mood. The counselor also noted Ms. Long's past history of substance abuse, including marijuana, benzodiazepenes, and methamphetamines. Ms. Long stated at the informal conference that she has not used recreational drugs since October 2004. She stated that she had not used alcohol since early August 2013.

5. Ms. Long has also received a diagnosis of bipolar disorder from multiple treatment providers.

6. Ms. Long's primary care physician cleared her to return to work at Smyth County Community Hospital, where she had worked since her initial licensure as an R.N., on July 17, 2013. Ms. Long's counselor stated in her June 19, 2013, interview with the investigator for the Department of Health Professions that she was concerned with the physician's decision to release Ms. Long to work and did not believe she was safe to return to practice.

7. Ms. Long stated at the informal conference that she is currently in counseling, which she attends once every week or two. She stated that she started attending substance abuse group therapy with the Mount Rogers Community Services Board beginning in October 2013.

8. Ms. Long stated that she is currently taking Seroquel and Cymbalta as prescribed.

9. Ms. Long returned to work at the Smyth County Community Hospital on July 21, 2013, where she was employed prior to the June 2013 suicide attempt, and remains employed with the facility. She is employed full time as an R.N. in the emergency department on the night shift, and there have been no patient care issues before or since the suicide attempt.

#### **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

Findings of Fact Nos. 3 and 4 constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

#### **ORDER**

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

1. The Committee shall TAKE NO ACTION at this time, contingent upon Ms. Long's compliance with the following terms and conditions:

a. Ms. Long shall enter into the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), pursuant to § 54.1-2515 *et seq.* of the Code and 18 VAC 76-10-10 *et seq.* of the Regulations Governing the HPMP, and shall have proof of entry into a Contract with the HPMP provided to the Board within 30 days of the date this Order is final.

b. Ms. Long shall continue to comply with all terms and conditions of the Contract with the HPMP for the period specified in the Contract.

2. This order shall be applicable to Ms. Long's multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice professional nursing. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Long shall not work outside 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. Long wishes to work. Any request for out of state employment shall be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

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

a. Ms. Long has failed to make application to the HPMP;

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

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

d. Ms. Long has successfully completed the above-referenced period of participation in the HPMP. However, upon receipt of Ms. Long's participation in and compliance with the HPMP, the

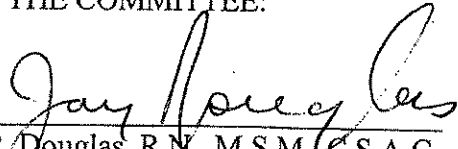
Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Long's appearance before the Board and conduct an administrative review of this matter.

4. Ms. Long 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.

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. Long may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on November 27, 2013, notify Jay P. Douglas, 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, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.  
Executive Director, Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED: October 25<sup>th</sup> 2013

This Order shall become final on November 27, 2013, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

**Certified True Copy**

By   
**Virginia Board of Nursing**