

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: TANGELA BLANTCH, C.N.A.
Certificate No.: 1401-039075

ORDER

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4020, 54.1-110 and 54.1-2400(11) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), a formal administrative hearing was held before a panel of the Board of Nursing ("Board") on July 16, 2013, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Tangela Blanch, C.N.A., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nurse aide practice in Virginia. The case was presented by Anne Glick Joseph, Deputy Director, Administrative Proceedings Division. Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, was present as legal counsel for the Board. Ms. Blanch was present and was not represented by legal counsel. The proceedings were recorded by a certified court reporter.

Upon consideration of the evidence presented, the Board adopted the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Tangela Blanch, C.N.A., was issued Certificate No. 1401-039075 to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia on July 17, 1993. Said certificate is scheduled to expire on July 31, 2013.

2. During the course of her employment with Riverside Health System, PACE-Manchester, Richmond, Virginia, on April 10, 2012, Ms. Blanch tested positive for marijuana on a reasonable cause drug screen. Both the rapid screen as well as the final drug screen returned positive. Tricia Holliday, Employee Health Nurse at Riverside PACE, testified at the hearing that there is a zero tolerance policy for drug use at Riverside.

3. Ms. Blantch was observed behaving erratically by co-workers at Riverside on multiple occasions. These behaviors led to the employer requesting her to submit to the reasonable cause drug screen. Specifically:

a. On April 9, 2012, during an off-site staff retreat, co-workers observed her singing and chanting loudly in the bathroom. Ms. Holliday testified at the hearing that three individuals from the Manchester facility commented about her behavior during the staff retreat. Ms. Blantch testified that she was praying in the bathroom, not chanting.

b. Ms. Holliday testified that on April 10, 2012, she observed Ms. Blantch singing loudly and dancing outside the facility while walking to work.

c. According to Ms. Barnes' testimony, Ms. Blantch made bizarre comments relating to her recent obsessive behavior toward a Riverside PACE physician when being transported from the hospital where the drug screen was conducted, specifically that "there is a difference between a desperate housewife and a cougar."

d. Ms. Barnes also testified that Ms. Blantch inappropriately interrupted a morning meeting, which caused her to believe that Ms. Blantch's erratic behavior was indicative of being impaired.

4. In an interview with an investigator for the Department of Health Professions as well as in her testimony at the hearing, Ms. Blantch acknowledged that she used marijuana on a regular basis and that she had been drinking more alcohol than normal to deal with stress in her life.

5. Ms. Blantch testified that she believes she was "placed on a list to be fired" at Riverside Pace and that she was being "hounded and harassed." She testified that this was the reason she had been required to submit to a drug screen.

6. When asked by the Board, Ms. Blantch first testified that she wonders if she has a substance abuse problem. She stated that the last time she smoked marijuana was in March 2013 and that she last drank wine on July 4, 2013. Although she first testified that she would like some help with her substance abuse problem, she later testified that she does not have a problem. She does not believe she needs to be in any counseling as long as she could learn coping strategies and understand stressors.

7. Ms. Blantch testified that she does not know the names of medications she is currently taking.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board concludes that Findings of Fact Nos. 2-4 constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby ORDERS as follows:

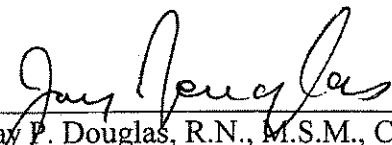
1. Certificate No. 1401-039075 of Tangela Blantch, C.N.A., to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED for a period of not less than one year.

2. The certificate of Ms. Blantch will be recorded as SUSPENDED and no longer current. Should Ms. Blantch seek reinstatement of her license consistent with this Order, she shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement of her certificate prior to issuance of her certificate to resume practice.

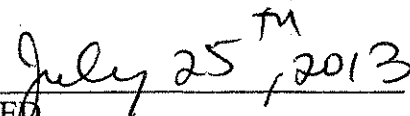
3. At such time as Ms. Blantch shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her certificate, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is able to return to safe and competent nurse aide practice.

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.

FOR THE BOARD




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



ENTERED

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have 30 days from the date you are served with this Order in which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. The service date shall be defined as the date you actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to you, whichever occurred first. In the event this decision is served upon you by mail, three days are added to that period.

Certified True Copy
By 

Virginia Board of Nursing