

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: SONIA DIONNE BARNETT-KETTER, R.N.
License Number: 0001-254643
Issue Date: September 29, 2014
Expiration Date: May 31, 2018
Case Number: 169860

**NOTICE OF FORMAL ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
AND STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

You are hereby notified that a Formal Hearing has been scheduled before the Board of Nursing ("Board") regarding your license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

TYPE OF PROCEEDING:	This is a formal administrative hearing before a panel of the Board.
DATE AND TIME:	March 23, 2017 10:30 A.M.
PLACE:	Virginia Department of Health Professions Perimeter Center - 9960 Mayland Drive 2 nd Floor - Virginia Conference Center Henrico, Virginia 23233

LEGAL AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION:

1. This formal hearing is being held pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11). This proceeding will be convened as a public meeting pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3700.

2. At the conclusion of the proceeding, the Board is authorized to take any of the following actions:
 - Exonerate you;
 - Reprimand you;
 - Require you to pay a monetary penalty;
 - Place you on probation and/or under terms and conditions;
 - Suspend your license;
 - Revoke your license.

ABSENCE OF RESPONDENT AND RESPONDENT'S COUNSEL:

If you fail to appear at the formal hearing, the Board may proceed to hear this matter in your absence and may take any of the actions outlined above.

RESPONDENT'S LEGAL RIGHTS:

You have the right to the information on which the Board will rely in making its decision, to be represented by counsel at this proceeding, to subpoena witnesses and/or documents, and to present relevant evidence on your behalf.

COMMONWEALTH'S EXHIBITS:

Enclosed is a copy of the documents that will be distributed to the members of the Board and will be considered by the Board when discussing any allegations with you and when deliberating on your case. **These documents are enclosed only with the amended notice sent by certified mail, which you may be required to claim at the post office. Please bring these documents with you to the formal hearing.**

FILING DEADLINES:

1. Deadline for filing exhibits: **March 3, 2017**. Submit 15 copies of all documents you want the Board to consider to Darlene Graham, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. Exhibits may not be sent by facsimile or e-mail. Please note that any documentation or evidence that you previously submitted for an informal conference that is not already part of the Commonwealth's evidence must be resubmitted as an exhibit if you want the Board to consider it at the hearing.

The Commonwealth must file any objections to your submissions in writing, addressed to Darlene Graham at the Board office, no later than **March 8, 2017**. If no objections have been received by **March 8, 2017**, the evidence will be distributed to the Board members for their review, and will be considered by the Board as evidence when it deliberates upon your case. If the Commonwealth raises objections, you have until **March 13, 2017**, to file your response to the objections, in writing and addressed to Darlene Graham at the Board office. The Chair of the proceeding will rule on the motion.

2. Deadline for filing motions or offers of settlement: **March 3, 2017**, addressed to Darlene Graham at the above address.

3. Deadline for filing any objections to the Commonwealth's exhibits, in writing, to Darlene Graham at the above address: **March 3, 2017**. If you do not file objections by this date, the exhibits will be distributed to the Board members for their review prior to your hearing, and will be considered by the Board as evidence when it deliberates on your case. If you do file objections, the Commonwealth has until **March 3, 2017** to file a response to the objections, in writing, and addressed to Darlene Graham at the Board office. The Chair of the proceeding will rule on the motion. NOTE: failure to object to the distribution of the Commonwealth's exhibits prior to the proceeding will not affect your right to contest any information contained in those exhibits at the proceeding.

REQUEST FOR A CONTINUANCE:

Absent exigent circumstances, such as personal or family illness, a request for a continuance after **March 3, 2017** will not be considered. If you obtain counsel, you should do so as soon as possible, as a motion for a continuance due to the unavailability of counsel will not be considered unless received by **March 3, 2017**.

STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS

The Board alleges that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Sonia Dionne Barnett-Ketter, R.N., was licensed to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2. Sonia Dionne Barnett-Ketter, R.N. violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(5) and (8) in that, during the course of her employment with Chesapeake Regional Medical Center, Chesapeake, Virginia (“CRMC”), an audit of Ms. Barnett-Ketter’s medication overrides and patient documentation from April 2015 through September 2015 revealed that of the 181 medication overrides entered by Ms. Barnett-Ketter, 150 were inappropriate. Specifically, Ms. Barnett-Ketter repeatedly documented that she verified overrides when, in fact, she failed to have fellow nurses verify and co-sign. Ms. Barnett-Ketter also repeatedly failed to document the reasons for the overrides or for failing to administer medications as ordered in the patient assessment records and Medication Administration Records (“MAR”). For example:

a. On or about September 2, 2015, just prior to leaving her shift, Ms. Barnett-Ketter was told by her supervising nurse to administer Arixtra (fondaparinux, a “high-risk” medication) to Patient A, who was under Ms. Barnett-Ketter’s care. By her own admission, Ms. Barnett-Ketter obtained the Arixtra from another patient’s medication drawer (Patient B), entered an electronic override of the medication, and administered it to Patient A. Ms. Barnett-Ketter failed to document a reason for the override and failed to obtain the required validation and signature from another nurse before performing the override. In doing so, Ms. Barnett-Ketter delayed the administration of Patient B’s ordered medication.

b. On or about June 18, 2015 and June 19, 2015, Ms. Barnett-Ketter failed to give Patient C heparin, which was ordered to be administered every 12 hours. Ms. Barnett-Ketter charted in Patient C's MAR that "medication [was] refused." Ms. Barnett-Ketter failed to document a reason for the refusal in Patient C's daily assessment record and failed to notify the physician of the refusal. On or about June 18, 2015, Ms. Barnett-Ketter also failed to administer ordered lisinopril to Patient C, giving the reason as "held for Low BP/HR." Ms. Barnett-Ketter failed to document the "Low BP/HR" parameters in Patient C's daily assessment record and failed to document that she notified the physician of the "hold."

c. On or about May 28, 2015, Ms. Barnett-Ketter failed to administer ordered hydrochlorothiazide and temazepam to Patient D. Ms. Barnett-Ketter failed to document the reason these medications were not given in Patient D's daily assessment records and MAR.

See Confidential Attachment for the names of the patients referenced above.



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

February 23RD
Date 2017