

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: SONDRA MARIE WALTERS, R.N.
License Number: 0001-218745
Case Number: 161455

RATIFICATION AND ORDER

On September 21, 2016, a panel of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Sondra Marie Walters, R.N. was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel.

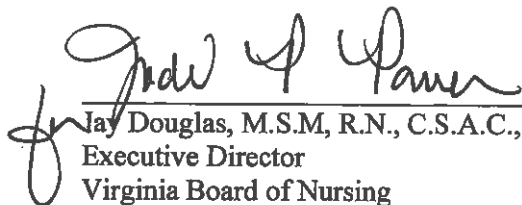
In consideration whereof, the Board of Nursing ACCEPTS the attached Recommended Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Agency Subordinate and ADOPTS the Recommended Order in its entirety.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2(K), the Board considered whether to disclose or not disclose Ms. Walters' health records or health services.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Ms. Walters may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on November 1, 2016, notify Jay 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 BOARD


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

ENTERED AND MAILED ON:

September 29, 2016

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing

This Order shall become final on November 1, 2016, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

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IN RE: SONDRA MARIE WALTERS, R.N.
License Number: 0001-218745
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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF AGENCY SUBORDINATE

Jurisdiction and Procedural History

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10), Allison Gregory, M.S., R.N., F.N.P.-B.C., serving as Agency Subordinate of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”), held an informal conference on July 14, 2016 in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Sondra Marie Walters, R.N. may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Ms. Walters appeared at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Agency Subordinate makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and recommends that the Board adopt the following Order.

Notice

By letter dated June 23, 2016, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Walters notifying her that an informal conference would be held on July 14, 2016. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

Recommended Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

1. Sondra Marie Walters, R.N. was issued License Number 0001-218745 to practice professional nursing on June 11, 2009, which is scheduled to expire on January 31, 2018. At all times

relevant to the findings herein, said license was in full force and effect. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. Ms. Walters violated Virginia Code 54.1-3007(6) of the Code in that she is unsafe to practice professional nursing due to chemical dependency and/or substance abuse, as evidenced by the following:

a. From January 20 through 26, 2015, Ms. Walters received inpatient treatment at Lewis Gale Center for Behavioral Health, Salem, Virginia for detoxification of substance abuse. Ms. Walters' discharge diagnoses included polysubstance dependence, substance induced mood disorder, and opiate dependence.

b. By her own admission, prior to her January admission at Lewis Gale Center for Behavioral Health, Ms. Walters was abusing cocaine, hydrocodone (C-II), and oxycodone (C-II).

c. From March through July 2015, Ms. Walters received outpatient psychological services and medication therapy at Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare for diagnoses including opioid dependence and major depressive disorder recurrent.

3. At the informal conference, Ms. Walters admitted to using opiates and cocaine. She admitted that she suffered from opiate dependence, but denied cocaine dependence.

4. Ms. Walters has been employed with Intrepid, Roanoke, Virginia since January 11, 2016 providing home health care services. At the informal conference, Ms. Walters stated that she does not handle medications as part of her job duties, and she acknowledged that that could be a trigger for her. Intrepid is not aware of these issues before the Board. Prior to Intrepid, she worked for Consulate Health Care at Pheasant Ridge in Roanoke (from May to December 2014), Berkshire Health & Rehab in Vinton, VA (from 2012 to 2014) and at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital (from 2009-2012).

5. Ms. Walters stated that her date of sobriety is in September 2015, but she could not recall a specific date.

6. Ms. Walters currently participates in an outpatient methadone (C-II) program at the Roanoke Treatment Center, Roanoke, Virginia and attends NA meetings two to four times a week.

Recommended Order

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Agency Subordinate recommends that the Board issue an Order as follows:

1. The Board shall TAKE NO ACTION at this time, contingent upon Sondra Marie Walters' compliance with the following terms and conditions:

a. Ms. Walters shall enter into the Virginia Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") and shall provide to the Board proof of entry into a Contract with the HPMP within 45 days of the date this Order is entered. Thereafter, Ms. Walters shall comply with all terms and conditions of the HPMP for the period specified by the HPMP.

b. Upon receipt of evidence of Ms. Walters' participation in and successful completion of the terms specified by the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Walters' appearance before the Board and conduct an administrative review of this matter, at which time she may be issued an unrestricted license.

c. This Order is applicable to Ms. Walters' multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Walters 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 she seeks to work. Any requests for out of state employment should be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

d. Ms. Walters shall comply with all laws and regulations governing the practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this Order shall constitute grounds for an administrative proceeding before the Board.

Reviewed and approved on July 29, 2016
By Allison Gregory, M.S., R.N., F.N.P.-B.C.
Agency Subordinate

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing