

level of controlled substance usage, the Respondent admitted to being responsible to the material left in the staff bathroom on February 23, 2021 and admitted to diversion of drugs including fentanyl and hydromorphone. On March 15, 2021 the New Hampshire Office of Professional Licensure and Certification suspended the Respondent's license as a Registered Nurse on an emergency basis.

8. It was the recommendation of the State of Vermont that the Respondent's license be indefinitely suspended with conditions to be imposed as a prerequisite to requesting reinstatement. That recommendation is included in the proposed order below.

Conclusions of Law

Respondent has received adequate or constructive notice of the charges in this matter as indicated by the Board's file and the Prosecution's presentation. Because Respondent has failed to answer the charges, the factual allegations in the Specification of Charges are treated as if proved. O.P.R. Rule 3.4. Accordingly, the Board may find, based up the finding of Default from this Default Hearing held pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §809(d), that Respondent has engaged in the unprofessional conduct alleged in the Specification of Charges. The Respondent committed unprofessional conduct by violating: 3 VSA Sec. 129a(a)(5) [Practicing the profession when medically or psychologically unfit to do so]; 26 VSA Sec. 1582(a)(2) [Diverting drugs for unauthorized use]; 3 VSA Sec. 129a(b)(1) [Failure to practice competently]; 26 VSA Sec. 1582(a)(3) [Engaging in conduct of a character likely to deceive or defraud the public]; and 3 VSA Sec. 129a(a)(15) [Failure to exercise independent judgment in the performance of licensed activities].

Proposed Order

In accordance with the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and consistent with the recommendation by the State, the Board does ORDER that the Respondent's license be INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED. In the event that the Respondent seeks to regain her license, she must petition for reinstatement. Within forty-five (45) days of requesting reinstatement, Respondent must, at her own cost:

- (a) Obtain an independent evaluation report by a pre-approved licensed professional specializing in drug and alcohol abuse ("Independent Evaluator") who has verified receipt of the Default Order. The results of the Independent Evaluation must indicate that Respondent does not present a risk to the safety, health or welfare of Respondent's potential patients, as well as any recommendations that would ensure that the Respondent is safe to practice. The evaluation must be submitted to the Enforcement Unit Case Manager.
- (b) Submit to the Enforcement Unit Case Manager the results of a minimum of three (3) random drug and alcohol screens:
 - (i) When Respondent is ready to petition for reinstatement, Respondent shall contact the Enforcement Unit Case Manager at the Office of Professional Regulation to set-up the drug and alcohol screen process and receive instructions. Once registered with the pre-approved person or entity, Respondent will have 45 days to submit to a minimum of three (3) random

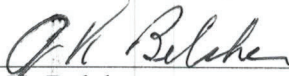
- drug and alcohol screens. The process by which Respondent learns whether the Respondent is selected to provide a sample on any given day will be governed by the policy of the pre-approved person or entity conducting the testing at that time;
- (ii) The drug and alcohol screens must be collected in an observed setting, administered by a pre-approved person or entity, and analyzed by a pre-approved lab qualified to analyze samples for forensic purposes, the result of which shall be negative;
 - (iii) Failure to appear for, refusal to provide, adulteration of, dilution of, or tampering with a drug or alcohol screen in any way shall cause that screen to be presumed positive; and
- (c) If recommended by an Independent Evaluator, the respondent must enter into a treating professional agreement and substance abuse treatment plan with a pre-approved treating professional(s) and follow all recommendations. If treatment is recommended, Respondent must submit a treating professional agreement to the Enforcement Unit Case Manager before a reinstatement request will be considered.

If reinstated, Respondent's license SHALL BE CONDITIONED pursuant to whatever terms are reasonable at the time of Respondent's reinstatement request for a minimum period of three (3) years, taking into account the independent evaluation, the drug and alcohol screen results, the facts contained in the Default Order, and any other relevant factors at that time.

Notwithstanding any provision above, the Respondent must continue to meet all Nursing Board requirements for maintaining a license, license renewal and license reinstatement.

The Hearing Officer reports the above findings of facts, conclusions of law, and the proposed order to the Board or Director with the recommendation that the Board or Director approve them and enter the Order as above.

Dated this 5th day of November, 2021.



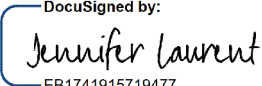
George K. Belcher
Hearing Officer of the Vermont Board of Nursing

The Vermont Board of Nursing, or the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation, considered the report of findings of fact and conclusions of law on 12/13/2021. After considering the report, the Hearing Authority takes the following action:

- / / Rejects the report and schedules the matter for hearing.
- / / Schedules the matter for additional evidence.
- / ☒ Accepts the report, adopts the findings of fact and conclusions of law, and orders the recommended discipline as set forth in the proposed order above.

SO ORDERED.

Vermont Board of Nursing or Director of the Office of Professional Regulation

By: 
DocuSigned by:
EB1741915719477...
Jennifer Laurent, APRN Chair
Vermont Board of Nursing

Date: 12/13/2021, 2021

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

DATE OF ENTRY: 12/13/2021

APPEAL RIGHTS

This is a final administrative determination by the Vermont Board of Nursing or Director of the Office of Professional Regulation. A party aggrieved by a final decision of a board or hearing authority may appeal this decision by filing a written Notice of Appeal with the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation, Vermont Secretary of State, 89 Main Street, Fl. 3, Montpelier, VT 05620-3402 within 30 days of the entry of this order. If an appeal is filed, the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall assign the case to an appellate officer. The review shall be conducted on the basis of the record created before the board. In cases of alleged irregularities in procedure before the board, not shown in the record, proof on that issue may be taken by the appellate officer. 3 V.S.A. §§ 129(d) and 130a.

**STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF NURSING**

IN RE:)
SARA SERENA LOREN) **Docket No. 2021-60**
License No. 026.0139592)

NOW COMES the State of Vermont and makes the following Charges against the Respondent, Sara Serena Loren:

Board Authority

1. The Vermont State Board of Nursing (the “Board”) has authority to issue warnings or reprimands; suspend, revoke, limit, or condition current licenses; or prevent the renewal of lapsed licenses if, after disciplinary hearing, the Board finds that the Respondent has engaged in unprofessional conduct. 3 V.S.A. § 129(a); 3 V.S.A. § 129a; 3 V.S.A. § 814(d); 26 V.S.A. Chapter 28; the Administrative Rules of the Board of Nursing (the “ARBN”); and the Rules of the Office of Professional Regulation.

Statement of Facts

2. Sara Serena Loren (“Respondent”) of Issaquah, Washington, is licensed in the State of Vermont as a Registered Nurse under license number 026.0139592. This license was first issued on July 9, 2019, and expired on March 31, 2021.
3. Respondent is also licensed as a Registered Nurse in the State of New Hampshire, under license number 081782-21.
4. On March 15, 2021, the New Hampshire Board of Nursing suspended Respondent’s New Hampshire registered nursing license due to Respondent’s diversion of fentanyl and hydromorphone from Dartmouth-Hitchcock outpatient surgical center. Respondent admitted to diversion after she was subjected to a fitness-for-duty test due to her statistically significant higher level of controlled substance utilization and the discovery of a needle/syringe and blood-soaked paper towels in a staff bathroom. *See Attachment A.*
5. On March 17, 2021, the New Hampshire Board of Nursing accepted a Preliminary Agreement not to Practice, signed by Respondent, which is in effect until further order of the Board. *See Attachment B.*
6. As of the filing of this Specification of Charges, Respondent’s New Hampshire registered nursing license is still suspended.

Violation One: 3 V.S.A. §129a(a)(5) Practicing the profession when medically or psychologically unfit to do so.

7. The State re-alleges and incorporates Paragraphs 2 through 6 above.
8. As a Registered Nurse, Respondent shall only practice when she is medically or psychologically fit to do so.

STATE OF VERMONT



Prosecuting Attorney
Office of
Professional Regulation
89 Main Street
3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT
05620-3402

9. Paragraphs 2 through 6 above demonstrate Respondent practiced the profession of nursing while medically or psychologically unfit to do so.
10. The act(s), omission(s), and/or circumstance(s) described above constitute grounds for summary suspension because the Respondent has committed unprofessional conduct in violation of 3 V.S.A. §129a(a)(5).

Violation Two: 26 V.S.A. §1582(a)(2) Diverting or attempting to divert drugs or equipment or supplies for unauthorized use.

11. The State re-alleges and incorporates Paragraphs 2 through 6 above.
12. As a Registered Nurse, Respondent is prohibited from diverting or attempting to divert drugs, equipment, or supplies for unauthorized use.
13. Respondent diverted or attempted to divert drugs for unauthorized use as demonstrated in Paragraphs 2 through 6 above.
14. The act(s), omission(s), and/or circumstance(s) described above constitute grounds for summary suspension because Respondent has committed unprofessional conduct in violation of 26 V.S.A. §1582(a)(2).

Violation Three: 26 V.S.A. §1582(a)(3) Engaging in conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public.

15. The State re-alleges and incorporates Paragraphs 2 through 6 above.
16. As a Registered Nurse, Respondent is prohibited from engaging in conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public.
17. Paragraphs 2 through 6 above demonstrate Respondent engaged in conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public.
18. The act(s), omission(s), and/or circumstance(s) described above constitute grounds for summary suspension because the Respondent has committed unprofessional conduct in violation of 26 V.S.A. §1582(a)(3).

Violation Three: 3 V.S.A. §129a(a)(15) Failing to exercise independent professional judgment in the performance of licensed activities when that judgment is necessary to avoid action repugnant to the obligations of the profession.

19. The State re-alleges and incorporates Paragraphs 2 through 6 above.
20. As a Registered Nurse, Respondent is required to exercise independent professional judgment in the performance of licensed activities.
21. Paragraphs 2 through 6 above demonstrate Respondent failed to exercise independent professional judgment in the performance of licensed activities when that judgment is necessary to avoid action repugnant to the obligations of the profession.
22. The act(s), omission(s), and/or circumstance(s) described above constitute grounds for summary suspension because the Respondent has committed unprofessional conduct in violation of 3 V.S.A. §129a(a)(15).

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Violation Four: 3 V.S.A §129a(b)(1) Failure to practice competently by reason of any cause on a single occasion or on multiple occasions may constitute unprofessional conduct, whether actual injury to a client, patient, or customer has occurred. Failure to practice competently includes: (1) performance of unsafe or unacceptable patient or client care.

23. The State re-alleges and incorporates Paragraphs 2 through 6 above.
24. As a Registered Nurse, Respondent has an obligation to provide safe and acceptable patient care.
25. Paragraphs 2 through 6 above demonstrate that Respondent provided unsafe and unacceptable patient care.
26. The act(s), omission(s), and/or circumstance(s) described above constitute grounds for summary suspension because Respondent has committed unprofessional conduct in violation of 3 V.S.A. §129a(b)(1).

Relief Requested

WHEREFORE, the Registered Nurse license of Sara Serena Loren should be revoked, suspended, reprimanded, conditioned, or otherwise disciplined.

DATED this 2nd day of September, 2021.

STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE

By: /s/ Elizabeth A. St. James
Elizabeth A. St. James
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**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL
LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION**

BOARD OF NURSING

**In Re: Sara Loren,
RN Lic. #081782-21**

Docket No.: 2021-NUR-0021

**ORDER OF EMERGENCY
SUSPENSION - 03/11/21**

I. CASE SUMMARY/PROCEDURAL HISTORY:

On 03/10/21, the Board of Nursing ("Board") received a complaint alleging that Sara Loren ("Licensee") had diverted or attempted to divert medication from Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. OPLC Enforcement investigative staff conducted an expedited investigation. Pursuant to RSA 326-B:37(IV):

In cases involving imminent danger to public health, safety, or welfare, the board may order the immediate suspension of a license pending an adjudicative proceeding.

On 03/11/21, Tracey Collins was appointed to serve as presiding officer under N.H. Code Admin. R. Nur Rule 202.01(l) and 208.01(b)("Rules").

II. EVIDENCE PRESENTED AND CONDUCT OF HEARING:

This Board was presented with sworn testimony from Michael Porter, Esq., Administrator III, OPLC Enforcement and Investigator Briana Miller. A review of the evidence presented, and the reasonable inferences taken there from, allows the Board to find as follows: Licensee was employed as a clinical nurse at Dartmouth-Hitchcock outpatient surgical center since March 2020. On or about 02/23/21, a needle/syringe and blood-soaked paper towels were found in a staff bathroom at the facility. After doing a review of controlled substances utilization, Licensee stood out as having a statistically

significant higher level of controlled substance utilization. On or about 03/05/21, staff at Dartmouth-Hitchcock confronted Licensee and she was subjected to a fitness-for-duty test. Licensee admitted to diverting drugs, including fentanyl and hydromorphone, and that she was responsible for the needle/syringe and bloody paper towels.

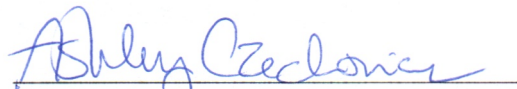
III. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS OF FACTS / CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The Board finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that OPLC Enforcement has met its burden of proof on an emergency basis. There are sufficient facts to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence that Licensee has engaged in drug diversion involving dangerous and highly addictive controlled substances such as fentanyl and hydromorphone. Such conduct appears to be a clear violation of RSA 326-B:37(II)(n), and (p)(1). Such conduct also appears to be a criminal offense. Due to the nature of the Licensee's actions on their face, OPLC Enforcement has demonstrated an imminent threat to the public health, safety, and welfare, so as to warrant immediate emergency suspension pursuant to RSA 541-A:30(III) and RSA 326-B:37(IV).

IV. CONCLUSION AND DECISION:

Pursuant to RSA 541-A:30(III) and 326-B:37(IV), the Board hereby orders the immediate emergency suspension of Sara Loren's license as a registered nurse, pending a follow up emergency hearing in this matter. A Notice of Emergency Hearing with an appropriate date/time shall follow forthwith.

DATED: 03/15/21



Ashley Czechowicz
Authorized Representative of the Board of Nursing-
New Hampshire Office of
Professional Licensure & Certification
7 Eagle Square
Concord, NH 03301

**State of New Hampshire
New Hampshire Board of Nursing
Concord, New Hampshire 03301**

In the Matter of:
Sara Loren
(License #081782-21)

Docket No. 2021-ENF-0320

PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT NOT TO PRACTICE

The New Hampshire Board of Nursing ("Board") first granted Sara Loren ("Ms. Loren" or "Respondent") a license to practice as a Registered Nurse ("RN") on December 6, 2019. Ms. Loren was issued license number 081782-21.

On or about March 10, 2021 the Board received a complaint alleging Ms. Loren engaged in diversion of fentanyl and hydromorphone at her place of employment while engaged in her duties as an RN.

Respondent enters into a Preliminary Agreement Not To Practice with the Board as follows:

1. Recognizing that professional misconduct allegations are now pending against me before the Board, I, Sara Loren, RN, voluntarily agree not to practice as a registered nurse effective upon my signing this Preliminary Agreement Not to Practice.
2. I admit to no violations of NH RSA 326-B or any administrative rules, ethical provisions, or any other laws, statutes, or regulations, adopted by the Board.
3. Understanding that this Preliminary Agreement and the restrictions herein shall remain until further order of the Board, I hereby specifically waive any

statute of limitations, or laches defense, which might be then available,

including but not limited to, those based on RSA 332-G: 8 and RSA 332-G:

9.

4. I understand that I may request a hearing on this Preliminary Agreement at any time and a hearing on this matter will be scheduled for the next available hearing date.
5. In the event that I apply for a renewal of my license while this agreement is in effect, I voluntarily agree to waive any statutory or administrative time deadlines regarding the Board's final action on any such license renewal application. I understand that by waiving such deadlines, the Board's final action on any such license renewal application will be automatically deferred until after the disposition of this Board matter and that my license will not expire while this Preliminary Agreement is in effect.
6. I voluntarily enter into this Preliminary Agreement with the Board and state that no promises or representations have been made to me other than those terms and conditions expressly stated herein.
7. I further understand that this document shall become a permanent part of my file, and will be maintained by the Board as a public document.
8. I have had the opportunity to seek and obtain the advice of an attorney of my choosing in connection with my decision to sign this Preliminary Agreement.

9. I am of sound mind and not under the influence of any substance that would impair my judgement at the time I sign this Preliminary Agreement.
10. I understand that my failure to comply with the terms of this Preliminary Agreement Not To Practice shall constitute unprofessional conduct under RSA 326-B: 37 and may subject me to discipline under RSA 326-B: 37

FOR RESPONDENT

Date: 3-12-21

Sara Loren
Respondent (Sara Loren)

FOR THE BOARD

This Preliminary Agreement is hereby accepted in accordance with the binding terms and conditions set forth above.

Date: 3-12-21

3/17/21 (APR)

Ashley Czechawicz
(Signature)
Sara Loren Administrator
Print Name
Authorized Representative of the
New Hampshire Board of Nursing