

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

IN RE:	)	
MARLEY PARSONS	)	Docket No. 2011-233
License No. 025.0062988	)	

STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER

NOW COMES the State of Vermont, by and through State Prosecuting Attorney S. Lauren Hibbert, and the Respondent, Marley Parsons, LPN, who stipulate and agree as follows:

Board Authority

1. The Vermont 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 a 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. § 1582; the Administrative Rules of the Board of Nursing (the "ARBN"); and the Rules of the Office of Professional Regulation.

Stipulated Facts

2. Marley Parsons (the "Respondent") of Castleton, Vermont is licensed by the State of Vermont as a Licensed Practical Nurse under license number 025.0062988. This license was originally issued on or about January 15, 2010 and is currently set to expire on or about January 31, 2012.
3. At all times relevant, Respondent was employed as a Licensed Practical Nurse at The Pines at Rutland (the "Facility"), located in Rutland, Vermont.
4. On or about April 18, 2011 the Office of Professional Regulation received a complaint regarding drug diversion at the Facility. The Facility reported that 25 tablets of Hydromorphone were found missing on or about April 14, 2011.
5. On or about April 29, 2011, in a sworn affidavit, State Investigator June Kelly advised in part the following:
 - a. On or about April 18, 2011, Investigator Kelly was assigned to investigate a possible drug diversion at the Facility.

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- b. On or about April 19, 2011, in an interview with Investigator Kelly, Registered Nurse M.S., who is the Director of Nursing, stated that there are is always one nurse who is assigned to the second floor of the Facility. M.S. stated that on April 14, 2011 the second floor had the following staffing assignments: Registered Nurse S.H. worked from 11:00 pm to 7:00 am; the Respondent worked from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm; and, Registered Nurse D.M.P. worked from 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm.
- c. On or about April 19, 2011, M.S. stated that an inventory of the narcotic cart is done at the beginning and end of a shift by two nurses. Additionally, the narcotic cart is locked, M.S. has a back up key, and a narcotic log sheet is maintained to track medication administration. Furthermore, M.S. stated she is responsible for destruction of narcotic medication when a patient is discharged.
- d. On or about April 19, 2011, M.S. stated that on or about April 14, 2011 she could not account for one out of three blister packs for patient O.B., who had been discharged. Initially, M.S. could not locate the narcotic log sheet for twenty four (24) tablets of Hydromorphone; however, she did find the narcotic log sheet and she noticed that on or about March 26, 2011 twenty four (24) Hydromorphone tablets were wasted followed by a line mark and two undecipherable signatures. Additionally, M.S. stated that she could not recognize either signature, although one looked similar to J.C, who is a staff member authorized to destroy medications.
- e. On or about April 19, 2011, in an interview with Investigator Kelly, Registered Nurse D.M.P. stated that on or about April 14, 2011 at approximately 2:45 pm she did a narcotic count with the Respondent as they were changing shifts and noticed that there were two blister packs belonging to the discharged patient O.B. At approximately 4:00 pm, she was notified by Registered Nurse D.P., who was working on a different floor, that an empty blister pack was found. D.M.P. advised that she then noticed that at the 7:00 am narcotic count O.B. had three blister packs.
- f. On or about April 19, 2011, in an interview with Investigator Kelly, Registered Nurse S.H. stated that she worked on the 11 pm to 7 am shift and on or about April 14, 2011 she did a medication count at approximately 7 am with the Respondent. Furthermore, S.H. stated that she noted patient O.B. had three blister packs of Hydromorphone 2 mg tablets and that one blister pack had ten (10) half tablets, second blister pack had thirty (30) half tablets and the third blister pack had approximately eighteen (18) to twenty two (22) tablets. Additionally, S.H. stated that once the 7 am count was completed she secured the narcotic cart and handed the key to the Respondent.
- g. On or about April 20, 2011, in an interview with Investigator Kelly, Registered Nurse J.M., who is the evening supervisor, stated she reviewed the narcotic log and she did not recognize the signatures as any of the staff authorized to destroy

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medications. Furthermore she stated that it appeared as if someone was attempting to forge J.C.'s signature and that March 26, 2011 was a Saturday, which is not a normal day for medication to be destroyed.

- h. On or about April 21, 2011, in an interview with Investigator Kelly, J.C., who is the Staff Development Coordinator at the Facility, stated that he reviewed the narcotic log for patient O.B. and the signature by the date of March 26, 2011 is not his and he does not recognize either signature as belonging to someone approved to destroy medications.
 - i. On or about April 21, 2011, in an interview with Investigator Kelly at approximately 9:50 am, the Respondent admitted that she stole twenty four (24) Hydromorphone 2 mg tablets from the narcotic cart and noted them as wasted on the narcotics log. The Respondent further stated that she gave eight (8) tablets of Hydromorphone to Licensed Nursing Assistant B.B. and sixteen (16) tablets of Hydromorphone to Licensed Nursing Assistant A.H.
 - j. On or about May 5, 2011, in an email and a telephone message to Investigator Kelly, the Respondent stated that she diverted Hydromorphone for her own personal use and that her previous statements to Investigator Kelly were false. Additionally, the Respondent stated that she was seeking professional advice in relation to her addiction problem.
6. On or about May 9, 2011 the State requested that the Respondent's licensed practical nurse license be summarily suspended due to her above described conduct. The Board granted the State's request.
7. The Respondent has committed unprofessional conduct because when she diverted Hydromorphone from the facility she is unable to practice nursing competently, she acted in a conduct of a character likely to deceive the public, and she willfully made a false record. Additionally, by admitting to having a drug problem and diverting medication from her workplace to support her habit the Respondent practiced in an incompetent manner and she did not comply with the statutes and rules governing the nursing profession.

Violations

8. The act(s), omission(s), and/or circumstance(s) described above constitute grounds for discipline because the Respondent has committed unprofessional conduct in violation of:
- a. 26 V.S.A. § 1582(a)(3) (Is unable to practice nursing competently by reason of any cause);
 - b. ARBN Chapter 4, Subchapter 4, Rule II(B)(1) and (2) ("Inability to practice nursing competently" includes: (1) performance of unsafe or unacceptable patient

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care; and (2) failure to conform to the essential standards of acceptable and prevailing nursing practice);

- c. ARBN Chapter 4, Subchapter 4, Rule II(C) ("Any cause" includes, but is not limited to, reasons of physical or mental disability or use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of materials);
- d. 26 V.S.A. § 1582(a)(7) (Engages in conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public) which includes falsifying or altering clinical records or making inaccurate or misleading entries pursuant to ARBN Chapter 4, Subchapter 4, Rule II(D)(3), and diverting supplies, equipment, or drugs for personal or other unauthorized use pursuant to ARBN Chapter 4, Subchapter 4, Rule II(D)(4);
- e. 3 V.S.A. § 129a(a)(7) (Willfully making or filing false reports or records in the practice of the profession; willfully impeding or obstructing the proper making or filing of reports or records; or willfully failing to file the proper reports or records);
- f. 3 V.S.A. § 129a(b)(1) and (2) (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; or (2) failure to conform to the essential standards of acceptable and prevailing practice); and
- g. 3 V.S.A. § 129a(a)(3) (Failing to comply with provisions of federal or state statutes or rules governing the practice of the profession).

Understandings

- 7. This Stipulation is neither an admission of liability by the Respondent nor a concession by the State of Vermont that its charges are not well-founded. To avoid delay, uncertainty, inconvenience, and expense of protracted litigation of the charges above, the Parties reach a full and final Stipulation pursuant to these Understandings and the Order below. The Respondent does not dispute that the State could prove these charges by a preponderance of the evidence if this matter went to a hearing and agrees that the conditions below are necessary to protect the public.
- 8. Respondent understands that the Nursing Board must review and accept the terms of the Consent Order. If the Board rejects any portion, the entire Stipulation and Consent Order shall be null and void.

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9. Respondent specifically waives any claims that any disclosures made to the full Board during its review of this agreement have prejudiced her rights to a fair and impartial hearing in future hearings if this agreement is not accepted by the Board.
10. Respondent has read and reviewed this entire document and agrees that it contains the entire agreement between the parties.
11. Respondent is not under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time she signs this Stipulation and Consent Order.
12. Respondent voluntarily enters into this agreement after the opportunity to consult with legal counsel and is not being coerced by anyone into signing this Stipulation and Consent Order.
13. Respondent voluntarily waives her right to a contested hearing before the Board of Nursing and waives any right to appeal from this Stipulation and Consent Order.
14. Respondent agrees that the Order set forth below may be entered by the Board.

ORDER

Based on the Stipulation above, it is **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** as follows:

- A. The Board of Nursing hereby **INDEFINITELY SUSPENDS** the Respondent's license to practice nursing for a **MINIMUM OF SIX (6) MONTHS from the date of entry below**. Within forty-five (45) days of requesting reinstatement, Respondent must: **1)** obtain an independent evaluation report by a licensed professional specializing in drug and alcohol abuse pre-approved by the Board and who has verified receipt of this Order, the results of which must indicate that the Respondent does not present a risk to the safety, health or welfare of her potential patients; **2)** submit to the Board the results of a minimum of three (3) random urine analyses, collected in an observed setting; administered by a person or entity that has been pre-approved by the Board; and analyzed by a lab qualified to analyze samples for forensic purposes and pre-approved by the Board, the results of which shall be negative; failure to appear for, refusal to provide, adulteration of, dilution of, or tampering with a sample for any urine analysis shall cause that screen to be presumed positive; **3)** enter into a treating professional agreement with a treating professional pre-approved by the Board; and **4)** enter into a substance abuse treatment plan approved by the Board with the pre-approved treating professional. The Respondent's license shall not be reinstated until these prerequisites are met, regardless of whether more than six (6) months have passed since the suspension went into effect. Once reinstated, Respondent's license will be **CONDITIONED FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE (3) YEARS** commencing with the date of reinstatement. The conditions will be as follows:

- (1) Re-issue of License.

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Upon the commencement of these conditions, Respondent shall be issued a license labeled "conditioned."

(2) Length of Time of Conditions Imposed.

The conditions shall remain in place until Respondent has completed all conditions ordered. Respondent shall be subject to the conditions until Respondent completes a **minimum of three (3) years** of supervised nursing in which she works at least forty (40) hours every two (2) weeks as a nurse. Part time hours of less than forty (40) hours every two (2) weeks shall be credited on a prorated basis. Respondent shall be prohibited from working more than forty (40) hours per week.

(3) Completion of Substance Abuse Counseling and Treatment Plan.

Respondent shall enter into and continue substance abuse counseling with the treating professional pre-approved by the Board until the treating professional shall certify in writing to the Board that such counseling is no longer necessary. Respondent shall comply with the substance abuse treatment plan approved by the Board and the treating professional.

(4) Reports from Treating Professional.

Respondent shall authorize and cause her treating professional to submit to the Board evidence of satisfactory progress with the treatment plan during the effective period of this Consent Order. These reports shall be submitted in writing on forms issued by the Board. The first report is due commencing the month after the date of the commencement of the conditions and subsequent reports are due **monthly** thereafter.

Respondent shall authorize her treating professional to provide all information requested by the Nursing Board, either orally or in writing, at any time during the period this Consent Order is in effect.

(5) Participation in Recovery Group(s).

Respondent shall participate as recommended by her treating professional in substance abuse recovery group(s), and shall submit **quarterly** reports documenting such attendance on forms issued by the Board.

(6) Random Drug and Alcohol Testing.

Respondent shall submit to random drug and alcohol screenings at the request of the Board or its designee. Respondent shall designate a person or entity that has been pre-approved by the Board or its designee to administer random drug and alcohol screens. All testing shall be done on a random, unannounced basis and analyzed by a lab qualified to analyze samples for forensic purposes and approved by the Board. All urine specimens collected for tests shall be collected in an observed setting. All screens shall be negative.

Failure to appear for, refusal to provide, adulteration of, dilution of, or tampering with a sample for any urine screen shall cause that screen to be presumed positive. Any positive screen shall act as a violation of this Order.

(7) Abstain from Drug and Alcohol Use.

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Respondent shall abstain completely from the consumption or possession of alcohol and drugs with the exception of medications as outlined in paragraph A.(8) for the period of time described in A.(2).

(8) Drug Use Exception.

Respondent shall not take controlled substances unless medically necessary. Respondent may take scheduled/controlled medications lawfully prescribed for a bona fide illness or condition by a physician, dentist, or nurse practitioner whose identity shall be made known to the Board in writing by Respondent within forty-eight (48) hours of the prescription. Respondent shall cause the physician, dentist or nurse practitioner to inform the Board, in writing and on appropriate letterhead, of knowledge of Respondent's substance abuse issue(s) within seven (7) days of entering into the practitioner/patient relationship. Moreover, the Respondent shall cause this prescribing practitioner to inform the Board, in writing and on appropriate letterhead, of all scheduled/controlled medications prescribed – and the anticipation of how long such prescriptions will need to be taken – within seven (7) days of the prescription.

The Board or its designee may request at any time that the practitioner document the necessity for the prescribed scheduled/controlled medications or other medications known to have abuse potential. This includes medications to be administered as necessary. It is not anticipated that Respondent would be prescribed scheduled/controlled medication during the term of this Consent Order for a period greater than fourteen (14) days, but if so, then the conditions herein may be revoked by the Board.

Respondent shall provide the Board with a current medication list of any medications taken on a scheduled or as-needed basis on forms issued by the Board within seven (7) days of the date of reinstatement and shall update this list within forty-eight (48) hours of any change in these medications.

(9) Notification to Employers/Nursing School.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Stipulation and Consent Order to all employers in any current or future setting in which Respondent practices as a nurse and inform them of Respondent's conditional license status.

Within ten (10) days of the date of entry of this Consent Order or of any subsequent nursing employment, Respondent shall cause Respondent's immediate supervisor to submit to the Board an employer agreement form approved by the Board, acknowledging receipt of the Stipulation and Consent Order and the ability to comply with the conditions in the Consent Order.

In the event the Respondent is attending a nursing program which has a clinical portion that involves actual patient care, Respondent shall provide a copy of the Stipulation and Consent Order to the Program Director. Respondent shall cause the Program Director to submit to the Board a nursing program agreement form approved by the Board, acknowledging receipt of the Stipulation and Consent Order and the ability of the program to comply with the conditions in the Consent Order during clinical experience.

(10) Reports from Employers/Program Director.

Within one (1) month of the date of reinstatement or within one (1) month of the commencement of nursing employment and **monthly** thereafter, Respondent shall cause

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every nursing employer the Respondent has worked for during the month to submit to the Board an evaluation of Respondent's work performance and attendance during that month. Moreover, on a **quarterly** basis, these reports shall include the results of the employer's medication audits of Respondent's medication administration and practices. These reports shall be submitted in writing on forms issued by the Board. All employer reports shall indicate satisfactory performance (ie., consistently meeting all standards of nursing practice) and attendance.

In the event the Respondent is attending a nursing program, Respondent shall cause the Program Director to submit to the Board, on a monthly basis, a written evaluation of her performance and attendance. These reports shall be submitted in writing on forms issued by the Board. All nursing program reports shall indicate satisfactory performance (ie., consistently meeting all standards of nursing practice) and attendance.

(11) Practice Under Supervision.

Respondent shall practice as a nurse only in a setting where Respondent has direct supervision for the entire shift by a registered nurse that is in good standing with the Board.

(12) Administration of Medications.

Respondent is prohibited from administering any controlled substances. This condition may be removed only by the Respondent filing a petition with the Board after she has worked as a nurse for six (6) months for at least forty (40) hours every two weeks (or the part time equivalent) after the date of reinstatement.

In any such petition, the Respondent must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Nursing Board or its designee, that she can safely and competently administer such medications. In any such petition, the Respondent must include appropriate support from her treating professional and employer or nursing school administrator and a description of the documentation and inventory control procedures in place.

The removal of this prohibition shall not automatically result in the reinstatement of all medication privileges. The Board may gradually restore those privileges through whatever intermediary steps it determines are appropriate.

(13) Types of Employment Prohibited.

Respondent shall not work in a supervisory role. Respondent shall not work for a nurse registry, traveling nurse agency, float-pool, home health care agency, temporary nursing employment agency, or as a private duty nurse or personal care provider requiring a nursing or nursing assistant license during the effective period of this Consent Order.

(14) Interview with the Board or its Designee.

Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the Board or its designee upon request.

(15) Out-of-State Practice.

Before any out-of-state practice can be credited toward fulfillment of these terms and conditions, Respondent shall first obtain approval from the Board prior to Respondent practicing nursing outside the State of Vermont. If Respondent fails to receive such approval before practicing nursing outside the State of Vermont, none of the time spent practicing

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nursing out-of-state will be credited toward the fulfillment of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order. The Board will approve out-of-state nursing practice so long as the Respondent can still comply with the provisions of this Consent Order.

If the Respondent receives discipline on a nursing license held in another state during the conditioned period, the Respondent must inform the Board of such, in writing, within ten (10) days of receiving such discipline.

(16) Notification of Place of Employment/Personal Address/Telephone Number.

Within ten (10) days of the date of entry of this Consent Order, Respondent shall notify the Board, in writing, of her current place of employment, personal address, and telephone number. Respondent shall further notify the Board, in writing, within forty-eight (48) hours of any change in employment (including resignation or termination), personal address, or telephone number.

(17) Notification to Other States.

In the event that the Respondent is licensed in nursing in any other state(s), she must inform the nursing licensing board of the state(s) in which the Respondent is licensed of the conditional status of her Vermont nursing license within thirty (30) days of the date of entry of this Order. If the Respondent fails to provide such notification, it will be considered a violation of this Order.

(18) License Renewal.

If the Respondent's license expires while this Order is still in effect, this Order does not automatically extend the license. In that situation, in order to continue to practice as a nurse, the Respondent must timely apply for renewal, pay the applicable fee and demonstrate that she has otherwise complied with the requirements for license renewal.

(19) Release of Information Forms.

The conditions of this Order require the Respondent to authorize drug and/or alcohol treatment providers to report information in verbal and/or written format and/or to discuss the Respondent and any and all treatment rendered to the Respondent for drugs and/or alcohol with the Board or its designee. The conditions of this Order must allow any and all information from the Respondent's treatment providers to also be provided to the Office of Professional Regulation investigators and that the information may be used for further prosecutions if so warranted or if the Office of Professional Regulation determines that said information violates the terms of this Order or any rules or laws governing the profession of nursing.

The Respondent is entitled to revoke this consent at any time. However, any revocation by the Respondent of such consent to disclosure during the term of this Order shall be considered a violation of this Order.

This consent expires when the conditions are removed from the Respondent's nursing license.

This Stipulation and Consent Order shall constitute a valid written consent pursuant to the requirements of 42 C.F.R. § 2.31.

The Respondent understands that her treatment provider may require her to sign a separate and distinct consent meeting the requirements of 42 C.F.R. § 2.31.

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(20) Costs.

The Respondent shall bear all costs of complying with this Consent Order.

(21) Violation of this Order.

If the Respondent violates the terms of this Order in any respect, the Board, after giving the Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may rescind or modify this Order and impose additional appropriate disciplinary actions. If a complaint of unprofessional conduct is made against the Respondent during the term of this Order, this Order shall be automatically extended until the unprofessional conduct matter is concluded.

(22) Completion of Conditional License Period.

After the conditional license period, the Respondent may petition the Board to remove any and all conditions on her license. The Respondent must present proof that she has fully complied with the terms of this Order. The Respondent must also present proof of successful substance abuse rehabilitation and she must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that she poses no danger to the public or the practice of nursing and that she can safely and competently perform the duties of a licensed nurse.

- B. Notwithstanding any provision above, the Respondent must continue to meet all Nursing Board requirements for maintaining a license, license renewal and license reinstatement.
- C. This Stipulation and Consent Order is a matter of public record and may be reported to other licensing authorities as provided in 3 V.S.A. §129(a).
- D. This Stipulation and Consent Order will remain part of Respondent's licensing file and may be used for purposes of determining sanctions in any future disciplinary matter.

AGREED TO:

Dated: 9/12/11

STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE

By: S. Lauren Hibbert
S. Lauren Hibbert
State Prosecuting Attorney

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MARLEY PARSONS
RESPONDENT

Dated: 9-5-11

By: Marley Parsons
Marley Parsons

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT

Dated: 9/8/11

By: 
Peter Langrock, Esq.

APPROVED AND SO ORDERED:

VERMONT BOARD OF NURSING

Dated: 10-10-11

By: 
Chairperson

Date of Entry: 10/10/11

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**STATE OF VERMONT
BOARD OF NURSING**

In re: Marley Parsons
License No. 025-62988

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Docket No. 2011-233(LPN)

**DECISION ON REQUEST FOR
SUMMARY SUSPENSION ORDER**

Appearances:

for Petitioner, State of Vermont: Lauren Hibbert
for Respondent: did not appear

Presiding Officer: Larry S. Novins

**Summary Suspension Order
FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW,
AND ORDER**

On May 9, 2011 this matter came before the Board of Nursing on the State's Request for a Summary Suspension. Ms. Parsons did not appear. The Board has authority to summarily suspend a license pending further action, if it determines that public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action. 3 V.S.A. § 814(c).

Findings of Fact

Based on a Review of the pleadings and the file, and on evidence presented to the Board at the hearing, the Board finds:

1. Ms. Parsons is licensed as a practical nurse by and subject to the disciplinary authority of this Board. 26 V.S.A. Chapter 28, 3 V.S.A. § 129, the Administrative Rules of the Office of Professional Regulation. 3 V.S.A. § 814(c) permits the Board to summarily suspend a license if it finds that public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order.
2. The State has filed a "Request for Summary Suspension." A copy of the Request is attached to this Decision and Order. The Request alleges that Ms. Parsons stole 24 Hydromorphone tablets from the narcotic cart at her place of employment falsified documents to cover her activity. She has been cited to appear in court in Rutland on June 13, 2011.
3. The State further alleges that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.
4. Notice of this hearing was sent to Ms. Parsons at her last known address via certified mail

dated May 3, 2011. The return receipt indicates that the notice was received and signed for on her behalf on May 5, 2011.

5. The Board finds for purposes of this hearing that Ms. Parsons stole 24 Hydromorphone tablets from her place of employment and falsely noted them as "wasted."
6. The allegations in the Request for Summary Suspension (copy attached) have been established to the necessary degree.
7. The evidence presented does imperatively require emergency action for the public health, safety, and welfare. Specifically, summary suspension is necessary to prevent harm to patients by a drug abusing licensee.

Conclusions of Law

Our Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this Summary Suspension hearing are for purposes of deciding whether *at this time* there is an imperative need to take emergency action. 3 V.S.A. § 814(c). Our Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law herein are for purposes of this Order only.

The State's Request for a Summary Suspension is supported by the evidence presented. The Board concludes that the allegations in the Request for Summary Suspension have been established to the necessary degree. For purposes of this Summary Suspension Hearing, the Findings of Fact above support Summary Suspension of Ms. Parsons's license. There is an imperative need to take emergency action. 3 V.S.A. § 814(c).

Vermont law requires that unprofessional charges be filed promptly with Ms. Parsons being afforded a prompt hearing. At any merits hearing in this matter, the State will bear the burden of proving unprofessional conduct. Our Findings and Conclusions in this matter will not absolve the State or Ms. Parsons from producing or challenging relevant evidence at a merits hearing. The Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law at a contested hearing will be based exclusively on the evidence admitted at that hearing.

Order

The State's Request for Summary Suspension is **Granted**. Ms. Parsons's license is summarily suspended pending proceedings for revocation or other action. These proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined. 3 V.S.A. § 814(c).

APPEAL RIGHTS

This is a final administrative determination by the Vermont Board of Nursing.

A party aggrieved by a final decision of a board may appeal this decision by filing a written Notice of Appeal with the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation, Vermont

Secretary of State, National Life Bldg., North, FL2, 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. To request a stay of the Board's decision, please refer to the attached stay instructions.

Vermont Board of Nursing

By:

Ellen Leff
Ellen Leff, RN, Chair

Date: May 9, 2011

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

DATE OF ENTRY: 5/10/11

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

IN RE:

MARLEY PARSONS

License No. 025.0062988

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Docket No. 2011-233

REQUEST FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Board Authority

1. The Vermont Board of Nursing (the "Board") has jurisdiction to investigate and adjudicate allegations of unprofessional conduct committed by Nurses pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §§ 129, 129a; 26 V.S.A. Chapter 28; the Administrative Rules of the Board of Nursing ("ARBN"); and the Rules of the Office of Professional Regulation.
2. The Board of Nursing is authorized by 3 V.S.A. § 814 to summarily suspend the license of a nurse when it finds that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

Statement of Facts

3. Marley Parsons (the "Respondent") of Castleton, Vermont is licensed by the State of Vermont as a Licensed Practical Nurse under license number 025.0062988. This license was originally issued on or about January 15, 2010 and is currently set to expire on or about January 31, 2012.
4. At all times relevant, Respondent was employed as a Licensed Practical Nurse at The Pines at Rutland (the "Facility"), located in Rutland, Vermont.
5. On or about April 18, 2011 the Office of Professional Regulation received a complaint regarding drug diversion at the Facility. The Facility reported that 25 tablets of Hydromorphone were found missing on or about April 14, 2011.
6. On or about April 29, 2011, in a sworn affidavit, State Investigator June Kelly advised in part the following:
 - a. On or about April 18, 2011, Investigator Kelly was assigned to investigate a possible drug diversion at the Facility.
 - b. On or about April 19, 2011, in an interview with Investigator Kelly, Registered Nurse M.S., who is the Director of Nursing, stated that there are is always one nurse who is assigned to the second floor of the Facility. M.S. stated that on

April 14, 2011 the second floor had the following staffing assignments: Registered Nurse S.H. worked from 11:00 pm to 7:00 am; the Respondent worked from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm; and, Registered Nurse D.M.P. worked from 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

- c. On or about April 19, 2011, M.S. stated that an inventory of the narcotic cart is done at the beginning and end of a shift by two nurses. Additionally, the narcotic cart is locked, M.S. has a back up key, and a narcotic log sheet is maintained to track medication administration. Furthermore, M.S. stated she is responsible for destruction of narcotic medication when a patient is discharged.
- d. On or about April 19, 2011, M.S. stated that on or about April 14, 2011 she could not account for one out of three blister packs for patient O.B., who had been discharged. Initially, M.S. could not locate the narcotic log sheet for twenty four (24) tablets of Hydromorphone; however, she did find the narcotic log sheet and she noticed that on or about March 26, 2011 twenty four (24) Hydromorphone tablets were wasted followed by a line mark and two undecipherable signatures. Additionally, M.S. stated that she could not recognize either signature, although one looked similar to J.C, who is a staff member authorized to destroy medications.
- e. On or about April 19, 2011, in an interview with Investigator Kelly, Registered Nurse D.M.P. stated that on or about April 14, 2011 at approximately 2:45 pm she did a narcotic count with the Respondent as they were changing shifts and noticed that there were two blister packs belonging to the discharged patient O.B. At approximately 4:00 pm, she was notified by Registered Nurse D.P., who was working on a different floor, that an empty blister pack was found. D.M.P. advised that she then noticed that at the 7:00 am narcotic count O.B. had three blister packs.
- f. On or about April 19, 2011, in an interview with Investigator Kelly, Registered Nurse S.H. stated that she worked on the 11 pm to 7 am shift and on or about April 14, 2011 she did a medication count at approximately 7 am with the Respondent. Furthermore, S.H. stated that she noted patient O.B. had three blister packs of Hydromorphone 2 mg tablets and that one blister pack had ten (10) half tablets, second blister pack had thirty (30) half tablets and the third blister pack had approximately eighteen (18) to twenty two (22) tablets. Additionally, S.H. stated that once the 7 am count was completed she secured the narcotic cart and handed the key to the Respondent.
- g. On or about April 20, 2011, in an interview with Investigator Kelly, Registered Nurse J.M., who is the evening supervisor, stated she reviewed the narcotic log and she did not recognize the signatures as any of the staff authorized to destroy medications. Furthermore she stated that it appeared as if someone was attempting to forge J.C's signature and that March 26, 2011 was a Saturday, which is not a normal day for medication to be destroyed.

- h. On or about April 21, 2011, in an interview with Investigator Kelly, J.C., who is the Staff Development Coordinator at the Facility, stated that he reviewed the narcotic log for patient O.B. and the signature by the date of March 26, 2011 is not his and he does not recognize either signature as belonging to someone approved to destroy medications.
- i. On or about April 21, 2011, in an interview with Investigator Kelly at approximately 9:50 am, the Respondent admitted that she stole twenty four (24) Hydromorphone 2 mg tablets from the narcotic cart and noted them as wasted on the narcotics log. The Respondent further stated that she gave eight (8) tablets of Hydromorphone to Licensed Nursing Assistant B.B. and sixteen (16) tablets of Hydromorphone to Licensed Nursing Assistant A.H.
- j. The Respondent is currently cited to appear in Rutland Criminal Court on or about June 13, 2011.

Request for Relief

- 7. The facts as set out above establish that in order to protect the public health, safety, or welfare of the people of the State of Vermont, emergency action is imperative.
- 8. The above acts and circumstances, alone or in combination, violate:
 - a. 26 V.S.A. § 1582(a)(3) (Is unable to practice nursing competently by reason of any cause);
 - b. ARBN Chapter 4, Subchapter 4, Rule II(B)(1) and (2) ("Inability to practice nursing competently" includes: (1) performance of unsafe or unacceptable patient care; and (2) failure to conform to the essential standards of acceptable and prevailing nursing practice);
 - c. ARBN Chapter 4, Subchapter 4, Rule II(C) ("Any cause" includes, but is not limited to, reasons of physical or mental disability or use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of materials);
 - d. 26 V.S.A. § 1582(a)(7) (Engages in conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public) which includes falsifying or altering clinical records or making inaccurate or misleading entries pursuant to ARBN Chapter 4, Subchapter 4, Rule II(D)(3), and diverting supplies, equipment, or drugs for personal or other unauthorized use pursuant to ARBN Chapter 4, Subchapter 4, Rule II(D)(4);

- e. 3 V.S.A. § 129a(a)(7) (Willfully making or filing false reports or records in the practice of the profession; willfully impeding or obstructing the proper making or filing of reports or records; or willfully failing to file the proper reports or records);
- f. 3 V.S.A. § 129a(b)(1) and (2) (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; or (2) failure to conform to the essential standards of acceptable and prevailing practice); and
- g. 3 V.S.A. § 129a(a)(3) (Failing to comply with provisions of federal or state statutes or rules governing the practice of the profession).

WHEREFORE, the State of Vermont respectfully requests that pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 814(c), the Respondent's nursing license number 025.0062988 be summarily suspended, pending a hearing on the merits.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont this 3 day of May, 2011.

STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE

By S. Lauren Hibbert
S. Lauren Hibbert
State Prosecuting Attorney

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