

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
LISA M. LANGE, L.P.N.,	:	LS0804033NUR
RESPONDENT.	:	

[Division of Enforcement Case # 06 NUR 359]

The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

Lisa M. Lange, L.P.N.
N2475 County Road EM
Watertown, WI 53098

Division of Enforcement
Department of Regulation and Licensing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Wisconsin Board of Nursing
Department of Regulation and Licensing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter subject to the approval of the Board of Nursing. The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Lisa M. Lange, L.P.N., Respondent, date of birth March 14, 1965, is licensed by the Wisconsin Board of Nursing as a licensed practical nurse in the state of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 28981, which was first granted May 22, 1987.

2. Respondent's last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is N2475 County Road EM Watertown, WI 53098.

3. Respondent was employed as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) at Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc (BLHS), a facility for the developmentally disabled located in Watertown, Wisconsin.

4. On October 4, 2006, Respondent ordered Tussionex cough syrup from Pinnacle Pharmacy of Madison, the facility's provider pharmacy, stating that the physician had increased the dose for a specific resident. Tussionex is an antihistamine and narcotic pain reliever containing hydrocodone and is a Schedule III controlled substance. The pharmacy sent the medication and it was delivered to BLHS where Respondent signed for it.

5. On October 5, a Pinnacle pharmacist called BLHS regarding a concern that Respondent had called in for a refill of Tussionex when there should have been plenty left on the original prescription with the 5 ml dosage the physician had ordered. Respondent had told the pharmacist that the physician had increased the dosage to 10 ml and the pharmacist was following up because 10 ml is a toxic dosage. When staff looked for the medication, it was discovered missing.

6. An internal investigation was commenced which showed, among other things:
 - a. The delivery sheet for the Tussionex which was signed by Respondent on October 4.
 - b. The Pinnacle delivery log of October 4 included Respondent's signature, indicating the medication had been received by Respondent.
7. BLHS administrators were aware of the following suspicious incidents:
 - a. In February 2006, Tussionex was reported missing.
 - b. On August 13, 2006, Tussionex was reported missing. Respondent was not originally considered a suspect in the investigation. However, upon further review, BLHS administrators learned that at the time of the apparent theft, Respondent was working in another unit.
 - c. On August 28, 2006, \$300 was reported missing. Respondent was working when the theft occurred.
 - d. Administrators became aware of multiple incidents in which Respondent signed for pharmacy deliveries of Tussionex.
8. Administrators suspected that Respondent was involved in taking controlled substances from BLHS for her personal use and contacted local police.
9. Administrators met with Respondent, who denied any involvement with the missing Tussionex. Respondent was suspended pending the results of the investigation.
10. Following the meeting with Respondent, BLHS staff removed approximately 20-25 empty vials of Tramadol from Respondent's locker.
11. Respondent was terminated from her employment on October 9, 2006.
12. On October 16 and again on October 23, Respondent was interviewed by police. After initially denying having taken any medication from BLHS, Respondent admitted that in August 2006, and on October 4, 2006, she took bottles of Tussionex for personal use, without a valid prescription. She explained that, on October 4, she called the pharmacy and requested additional Tussionex for a resident and then took it home with her.
13. On October 23, 2006, BLHS received a handwritten statement, in which Respondent admitted taking Tussionex from the facility for personal use, without a prescription. Respondent expressed remorse, and explained that she worked full time, was raising her grandchildren and suffered physical abuse in her marriage. Respondent stated that she was under the care of a counselor and a psychiatrist.
14. On June 11, 2007, in Jefferson County Circuit Court Case No. 2007CM451, the district attorney charged Respondent with two misdemeanor counts of theft of movable property in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.21(1)(a). The charges are pending.
15. There is no evidence that residents did not receive medications based on Respondent's thefts.

Prior Disciplinary Action

16. On May 5, 1995, the Board issued a Final Decision and Order which indefinitely suspended Respondent's LPN license. Between March 1992 and March 5, 1993, Respondent diverted from her employer, Lutheran Homes of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, unknown quantities of controlled substances, including Darvocet and codeine, for her own use. In addition, Respondent had also engaged in the illicit use of cocaine. In 1999, Respondent requested, and on January 18, 2000, the Board granted reinstatement of Respondent's license to practice nursing. The Board's decision to reinstate Respondent's license was based in part on its review of an AODA assessment which concluded that Respondent was competent to resume the practice of nursing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07 and authority to

enter into this stipulated resolution pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. Respondent, by obtaining a drug other than in the course of legitimate practice and as otherwise prohibited by law as set out above, has committed misconduct and unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Adm. Code § N 7.04(2), and is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1)(d).

3. Respondent, by obtaining a drug other than in the course of legitimate practice and as otherwise prohibited by law as set out above, has violated a law substantially related to the practice of nursing and has committed misconduct and unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Adm. Code § N 7.04(1), and is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1)(d).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the attached Stipulation is accepted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, effective the date of this Order:

SUSPENSION

- A.1. The license of Lisa M. Lange, L.P.N., to practice as a licensed practical nurse in the State of Wisconsin SUSPENDED for an indefinite period.
- A.2. The privilege of Lisa M. Lange, L.P.N., to practice as a licensed practical nurse in the State of Wisconsin under the authority of another state license pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact is also SUSPENDED for an indefinite period.
- A.3. During the pendency of this Order and any subsequent related orders, Respondent may not practice in another state pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact Regulation under the authority of the Wisconsin license, unless Respondent receives prior written authorization to do so from both the Wisconsin Board of Nursing and the regulatory board in the other state.
- A.4. Respondent shall mail or physically deliver all indicia of nursing licensure to the Department Monitor within 14 days of the effective date of this Order.
- A.5. Upon a showing by Respondent of continuous, successful compliance for a period of at least five (5) years with the terms of this Order, including at least 600 hours of active nursing for every year the suspension is stayed, the Board may grant a petition by the Respondent under paragraph D.4. for return of full licensure.
- A.6. The Board may, on its own motion or at the request of the Department Monitor, grant full licensure at any time.

STAY OF SUSPENSION

- B.1. **The suspension shall not be stayed for the first six (6) months**, but any time after six (6) months, the suspension shall be stayed upon Respondent petitioning the Board and providing proof, which is determined by the Board or its designee to be sufficient, that Respondent is in compliance with the provisions of Sections C and D of this Order for the most recent three (3) consecutive months.
- B.2. The Board or its designee may, without hearing, remove the stay upon receipt of information that Respondent is in substantial or repeated violation of any provision of Sections C or D of this Order. Repeated violation is defined as the multiple violation of the same provision or violation of more than one provision. The Board may, in conjunction with the removal of any stay, prohibit Respondent for a specified period of time from seeking a reinstatement of the stay under paragraph B.4.
- B.3. This suspension becomes reinstated immediately upon notice of the removal of the stay being provided to Respondent either by:
 - (a) Mailing to Respondent's last-known address provided to the Department of Regulation and Licensing pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.11; or
 - (b) Actual notice to Respondent or Respondent's attorney.
- B.4. The Board or its designee may reinstate the stay, if provided with sufficient information that Respondent is in compliance with the Order and that it is appropriate for the stay to be reinstated. Whether to reinstate the stay shall be wholly in the discretion of the Board or its designee.

- B.5. If Respondent requests a hearing on the removal of the stay, a hearing shall be held using the procedures set forth in Wis. Admin. Code ch. RL 2. The hearing shall be held in a timely manner with the evidentiary portion of the hearing being completed within 60 days of receipt of Respondent's request, unless waived by Respondent. Requesting hearing does not stay the suspension during the pendency of the hearing process.

CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Treatment Required

- C.1. Respondent shall enter into, and shall continue, in a drug and alcohol treatment program at a treatment facility (Treater acceptable to the Board or its designee. Respondent shall participate in, cooperate with, and follow all treatment recommended by Treater.
- C.2. Respondent shall immediately provide Treater with a copy of this Final Decision and Order and all other subsequent orders.
- C.3. Treater shall be responsible for coordinating Respondent's rehabilitation, drug monitoring and treatment program as required under the terms of this Order, and shall immediately report any relapse, violation of any of the terms and conditions of this Order, and any suspected unprofessional conduct, to the Department Monitor (See D.1., below). If Treater is unable or unwilling to serve as Treater, Respondent shall immediately seek approval of a successor Treater from the Board or its designee.
- C.4. The rehabilitation program shall include individual and/or group therapy sessions at a frequency to be determined by Treater, but not less than twice per month for the first year. Therapy may end only upon a determination by the Board or its designee after receiving a petition for modification as required by D.4., below.
- C.5. Treater shall submit formal written reports to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis, as directed by the Department Monitor. These reports shall assess Respondent's progress in the drug and alcohol treatment program. Treater shall report immediately to the Department Monitor any violation or suspected violation of this Order.

Releases

- C.6. Respondent shall provide and keep on file with Treater, all treatment facilities and personnel, laboratories and collection sites current releases complying with state and federal laws. The releases shall allow the Board, its designee, and an employee of the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement to: (a) obtain all urine, blood and hair specimen screen results and patient health care and treatment records and reports, and (b) discuss the progress of Respondent's treatment and rehabilitation. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department Monitor.

AA/NA Meetings

- C.7. Respondent shall attend Narcotics Anonymous and/or Alcoholic Anonymous meetings or an equivalent program for recovering professionals, at the frequency recommended by Treater, but no less than twice per week. Attendance of Respondent at such meetings shall be verified and reported monthly to Treater and the Department Monitor.

Sobriety

- C.8. Respondent shall abstain from all personal use of alcohol.
- C.9. Respondent shall abstain from all personal use of controlled substances as defined in Wis. Stat. § 961.01(4), except when prescribed, dispensed or administered by a practitioner for a legitimate medical condition. Respondent shall disclose Respondent's drug and alcohol history and the existence and nature of this Order to the practitioner prior to the practitioner ordering the controlled substance. Respondent shall at the time the controlled substance is ordered immediately sign a release in compliance with state and federal laws authorizing the practitioner to discuss Respondent's treatment with, and provide copies of treatment records to, Treater and the Board or its designee.
- C.10. Respondent shall abstain from all use of over-the-counter medications or other substances which may mask consumption of controlled substances or of alcohol, create false positive screening results, or interfere with Respondent's treatment and rehabilitation.
- C.11. Respondent shall report all medications and drugs, over-the-counter or prescription, taken by Respondent to Treater and the Department Monitor within 24 hours of ingestion or administration, and shall identify the person or persons who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered said medications or drugs. If Respondent has not provided a release as required by C.9 above, within 24 hours of a request by Treater or the Board or its designee, Respondent shall provide

releases in compliance with state and federal laws. The releases shall authorize the person who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered the medication to discuss Respondent's treatment with, and provide copies of treatment records to, the requester.

Drug and Alcohol Screens

- C.12. Respondent shall enroll and begin participation in a drug and alcohol monitoring program which is approved by the Department pursuant to Wis. Adm. Code § RL 7.11 ("Approved Program"). A list of Approved Programs is available from the Department Monitor.
- C.13. At the time Respondent enrolls in the Approved Program, Respondent shall review all of the rules and procedures made available by the Approved Program. Failure to comply with all requirements for participation in drug and alcohol monitoring established by the Approved Program is a substantial violation of this Order. The requirements shall include:
- (a.) Contact with the Approved Program as directed on a daily basis, including vacations, weekends and holidays.
 - (b.) Production of a urine specimen at a collection site designated by the Approved Program within five (5) hours of notification of a test.
- C.14. The Approved Program shall require the testing of urine specimens at a frequency of not less than 56 times per year, for the first year of this Order. After the first year, the frequency may be reduced only upon a determination by the Board or its designee after receiving a petition for modification as required by D.4., below.
- C.15. If any urine, blood or hair specimen is positive or suspected positive for any controlled substances or alcohol, Respondent shall promptly submit to additional tests or examinations as the Treater or the Board or its designee shall determine to be appropriate to clarify or confirm the positive or suspected positive test results.
- C.16. In addition to any requirement of the Approved Program, the Board or its designee may require Respondent to do any or all of the following: (a) submit additional urine specimens, (b) submit blood, hair or breath specimens, (c) furnish any specimen in a directly witnessed manner.
- C.17. All confirmed positive test results shall be presumed to be valid. Respondent must prove by a preponderance of the evidence an error in collection, testing or other fault in the chain of custody.
- C.18. The Approved Program shall submit information and reports to the Department Monitor in compliance with the requirements of Wis. Adm. Code § RL 7.11.

Practice Limitations

- C.19. Respondent shall not work as a nurse or other health care provider in a setting in which Respondent has access to controlled substances.
- C.20. Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a licensed nurse or other licensed health care professional approved by the Board or its designee and only in a work setting pre-approved by the Board or its designee. Respondent may not work in a home health care, hospice, pool nursing, or agency setting.
- C.21. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Final Decision and Order and all other subsequent orders immediately to supervisory personnel at all settings where Respondent works as a nurse or care giver or provides health care, currently or in the future.
- C.22. It is Respondent's responsibility to arrange for written reports from supervisors to be provided to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis, as directed by the Department Monitor. These reports shall assess Respondent's work performance, and shall include the number of hours of active nursing practice worked during that quarter.
- C.23. Respondent shall report to the Board any change of employment status, residence, address or telephone number within five (5) days of the date of a change.

MISCELLANEOUS

Department Monitor

- D.1. Any requests, petitions, reports and other information required by this Order shall be mailed, e-mailed, faxed or delivered to:

Department Monitor
Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement

1400 East Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935
Fax: (608) 266-2264
Telephone: (608) 267-3817

Required Reporting by Respondent

- D.2. Respondent is responsible for compliance with all of the terms and conditions of this Order, including the timely submission of reports by others. Respondent shall promptly notify the Department Monitor of any failures of the Treater, treatment facility, Approved Program or collection sites to conform to the terms and conditions of this Order. Respondent shall promptly notify the Department Monitor of any violations of any of the terms and conditions of this Order by Respondent. Additionally, every three (3) months the Respondent shall notify the Department Monitor of the Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Order, and shall provide the Department Monitor with current address and home telephone number.

Change of Treater or Approved Program by Board

- D.3. If the Board or its designee determines the Treater or Approved Program has performed inadequately or has failed to satisfy the terms and conditions of this Order, the Board or its designee may direct that Respondent continue treatment and rehabilitation under the direction of another Treater or Approved Program.

Petitions for Modification of Limitations or Termination of Order

- D.4. Respondent may petition the Board for modification of the terms of this Order or termination, however no such petition for modification shall occur earlier than one year from the date of this Order and no such petition for termination shall occur other than in compliance with paragraph A.3. Any such petition for modification shall be accompanied by written recommendation from Respondent's Treater expressly supporting the specific modifications sought. Denial of petition in whole or in part shall not be considered a denial of a license within the meaning of Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a) and Respondent shall not have a right to any further hearings or proceedings on the denial.

Costs of Compliance

- D.5. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in conjunction with the monitoring, screening, supervision and any other expenses associated with compliance with the terms of this Order. Being dropped from program for non-payment is a violation of this Order.

Costs of Proceeding

- D.6. Prior to any stay of the Suspension of Respondent's license, Respondent shall pay costs of \$625.00 to the Department of Regulation and Licensing.

Additional Discipline

- D.7. In addition to any other action authorized by this Order or law, violation of any term of this Order may be the basis for separate disciplinary action pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07.

Wisconsin Board of Nursing

By: Marilyn Kaufmann
A Member of the Board

4/3/08
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	STIPULATION
LISA M. LANGE, L.P.N.,	:	LS _____ NUR
RESPONDENT.	:	

[Division of Enforcement Case # 06 NUR 359]

It is hereby stipulated and agreed, by and between Lisa M. Lange, L.P.N., Respondent; and Sandra L. Nowack attorney for the Complainant, Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement, as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation of Respondent's licensure by the Division of Enforcement (file 06 NUR 359). Respondent consents to the resolution of these investigations by stipulation and without the issuance of a formal complaint.

2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, she voluntarily and knowingly waives her rights, including the right to a hearing on the allegations against her, at which time the state has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to call witnesses on her behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena; the right to testify herself; the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision; the right to petition for rehearing; and all other applicable rights afforded to her under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and any other provisions of state or federal law.

3. Respondent has been provided an opportunity to obtain advice of legal counsel prior to signing this Stipulation.

4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Board. The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's Order, if adopted in the form as attached.

5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall be returned to the Administrative Law Judge for further proceedings. In the event that this Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Enforcement and any member of the Board ever assigned as a case advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or her attorney, if any, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with the Board's deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such case advisor may vote on whether the Board should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

8. Respondent is further informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order would constitute an agency finding within the meaning of Wis. Stats. §§ 48.685 and 50.065. Should Respondent wish to work in a Wisconsin DHFS-licensed facility, she will need to pass a Rehabilitation Review through DHFS prior to commencement of such employment.

9. The Division of Enforcement joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the

attached Final Decision and Order.

Lisa M. Lange, L.P.N.
Respondent
N2475 County Road EM
Watertown, WI 53098

Date

Sandra L. Nowack
Attorney for Complainant
Division of Enforcement
Department of Regulation and Licensing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Date