

GOVERNOR

## State of Maine Board of Nursing 158 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333-0158

MYRA A, BROADWAY, J.D., M.S., R.N. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN RE: SUZANNE W. MEUB, APRN-CNP
of BIDDEFORD, ME
License No. CNP101007

CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR REPRIMAND & FINE

Complaint No. 2013-26

## INTRODUCTION

)

)

Pursuant to Title 32, Chapter 31, the Maine State Legislature endowed the Board with the power and duty to regulate the practice of nurses licensed by the Board, including issuing licenses and investigating complaints. Pursuant to 10 M.R.S. §8008, the Legislature provided that the sole purpose of the Board is to "protect the public health and welfare" and that "other goals or objectives may not supersede this purpose."

This document is a Consent Agreement ("Agreement") regarding Suzanne W. Meub's license as a certified nurse practitioner ("CNP") in the State of Maine. The parties to this Agreement are Suzanne Meub ("Licensee" or "Ms. Meub"), the Maine State Board of Nursing ("the Board"), and the Office of the Attorney General, State of Maine. A subcommittee of the Board met with the Licensee in an informal conference on August 6, 2013. The parties enter into this Agreement pursuant to 32 M.R.S. §2105-A (1-A) (B), 10 M.R.S. §§8003 (5) (A-1) (4) and 8003 (5) (B) in order to resolve Complaint No. 2013-26.

## **FACTS**

- 1. Suzanne Meub was first licensed to practice as a CNP in Maine on January 29, 2010. Ms. Meub was employed by Concentra in its Lewiston facility during all times relevant to this matter.
- 2. As a condition of her license to practice as a CNP, the Licensee is required to maintain certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center ("ANCC").
- 3. The Licensee's certification through ANCC lapsed on January 10, 2013.
- 4. The Licensee's recertification was granted on January 25, 2013 at approximately 4 p.m.
- 5. Suzanne Meub practiced nursing while her certification had lapsed on the following dates in 2013: January 18, January 19, January 20, January 21, January 23, January 24, and January 25, for a total of seven days of unauthorized practice.
- Prior to the lapse of certification, Board staff had, on several occasions, expressed concern to Ms.
   Meub that the certification required to continue licensing as a CNP was not being reported as complete by the ANCC.
- On February 1, 2013, the Board received notification from Concentra of the Licensee's employment termination. Based on this information, the Board initiated a complaint against Suzanne Meub's nursing license; Board staff docketed the complaint as 2013-26.
- 8. On February 12, 2013 the Board issued a Notice of Complaint to Suzanne Meub relating to Complaint 2013-26, requesting her written response within 30 days.

FRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

- The Licensee was granted an extension for response due to the unavailability of her legal counsel. On May 23, 2013, the Board received the Licensee's written response to its Notice of Complaint.
- 10. On August 6, 2013, a subcommittee of the Board held an informal conference with Suzanne Meub regarding Complaint No. 2013-26. Following the informal conference, the subcommittee voted to offer the Licensee a consent agreement.
- 11. Absent Suzanne Meub's acceptance of this Agreement by signing, dating, and returning it to the Maine State Board of Nursing, 158 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0158 on or before October 28, 2013, the Board will take further action. In the absence of an Agreement on Complaint No. 2013-26, the Board could impose, subsequent to adjudicatory proceedings, greater adverse action on this matter including higher fines, suspension or revocation of the Licensee's license.

## **AGREEMENT**

12. Suzanne Meub admits to the Facts as stated above and admits that such conduct constitutes grounds for the Board to impose discipline against her Maine nursing license under the following laws and regulations:

Board Rules Chapter 4 §2(4)(D) for practicing as a CNP while no longer being certified by the national organization which issued the credentials required for licensing as a CNP.

- 32 M.R.S. §2105-A (2) (H) for violation of a rule adopted by the Board.
- 13. As discipline for the violations admitted to in paragraph 12 above, Suzanne Meub is hereby formally REPRIMANDED. Ms. Meub FURTHER AGREES to pay a civil penalty of \$100 per day for each day that she practiced while her certification had lapsed (total of \$700). Payment shall be by credit card, certified check or money order, the latter made payable to "Treasurer, State of Maine" and submitted to the Maine State Board of Nursing, 158 State House Station, Augusta, Maine.
- 14. Violation of any of the terms or conditions of this Agreement by the Licensee shall constitute grounds for discipline, including but not limited to modification, suspension, or revocation of licensure or the denial of re-licensure.
- 15. Pursuant to 10 M.R.S. §8003(5)(B), the Board and Licensee agree that the Board has the authority to issue an order modifying, suspending, or revoking her license in the event that she fails to comply with any of the terms or conditions of this Agreement.
- Suzanne Meub waives her right to a hearing before the Board or any court regarding all facts, terms and conditions of this Agreement. She agrees that this Agreement is a final order resolving Complaint No. 2013-26. This Agreement is not appealable and cannot be modified orally; it can only be modified by writing and only if signed by all parties to the Agreement and approved by the Office of the Attorney General.
- 17. The Board and the Attorney General may communicate and cooperate regarding the Licensee's practice or any other matter relating to this Agreement.
- 18. This Agreement is a public record within the meaning of 1 M.R.S. §402 and will be available for inspection and copying by the public pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §408.

- 19. This Agreement constitutes an adverse action and is reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB).
- Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to affect any right or interest of any person not a 20. party hereto.
- For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "execution" means that date on which the final 21. signature is affixed to this Agreement.
- The Licensee understands that she does not have to execute this Agreement and has consulted 22. with an attorney before entering into the Agreement.
- The Licensee acknowledges by her signature hereto that she has read this Agreement, that she 23. has had an opportunity to consult with her attorney before executing this Agreement, that she has executed this Agreement of her own free will and that she agrees to abide by all the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.

By signing this Agreement, Suzanne Meub waives any and all objections to, and hereby consents to the presentation of this Agreement to the Board by its legal counsel, Assistant Attorney General Ronald O. Guay, for ratification. Ms. Meub also forever waives any arguments of bias or otherwise against any of the Board members in the event that the Board fails to ratify this proposed Agreement.

DATED: 10 23 13

DATED: 10/21/13

JANET E. MICHAEL, RN, MS, JD Áttorney for Suzanne Meub

FOR THE MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

DATED: 10 24/13

**Executive Director** 

FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATED: 11/13/13

**RONALD O. GUAY Assistant Attorney General** 

Effective Date: 11/13/13