



Arkansas Department of Health

Arkansas State Board of Nursing

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Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Renee Mallory, RN, BSN, Secretary of Health

Jennifer Dillaha, MD, Director

Sue A. Tedford, MNSc, APRN, Director

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TIME AND PLACE:	November 14, 2024 Board Conference Room
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Allie Barker, MSN, RN; Tabitha Lancaster, RN; Jamie Sims; Phillip Petty, RN; Cassie Gonzales, MNSc, APRN, FNP-BC; Veronica Harmon, RN; Barbara Hillman, BSN, RN; Robin Lambert, LNHA, LPN; Lakisha Young, LPN
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Tabitha Lancaster absent after 12:00pm
STAFF ATTENDING AT VARIOUS TIMES:	Sue A. Tedford, Director, MNSc, APRN David Dawson, JD, General Counsel Jennifer Ivory, JD, Attorney Specialist Lisa Wooten, Assistant Director, MPH, BSN, RN Shannon McKinney, Assistant Director, DNP, APRN, WHNP-BC Janet Simpson, ASBN Program Coordinator, MSN, RNP, RNC-MNN Kim Hooks, ASBN Assistant Director- ArNAP, MPH, BSN, RN Udell Ward Jr., Regulatory Board Chief Investigator Tammy Vaughn, Program Coordinator, MSN, RN, CNE Christine Lewis, Executive Assistant to the Director Albert Williams, Information Systems Coordinator Susan Moore, Computer Operator Mindy Darner, Legal Support Specialist Corrie Edge, Administrative Analyst Lisa Mendenhall, Legal Support Specialist Kelly Doppelhammer, Legal Support Specialist Whitney Kinney, Licensing Coordinator LouAnn Walker, Public Information Coordinator Andrea McCuen, Administrative Specialist II
Guests:	Melissa Russenberger, RN, Arkansas Department of Health Hannah Swisher, RN, Arkansas Department of Health Nikki Williams, APRN, ARCARE UCA Student

President Allie Barker called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Guests were welcomed and a flexible agenda was approved.

Educational Session on drug monitoring with Dr. Berry Lubin, M.D., FASAM, MRO, Affinity Medical Review Officer.

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DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

General Counsel, David Dawson, represented the Board. Motions reflect the decisions of the Board reached in deliberation following the hearing of each case.

ADRIENNE MARIE MCKINNEY COTTINGIM, NCSBN ID. 20559872, RN LICENSE NO. 122063

Respondent was present for the proceedings before the Board and was not represented by counsel. Shannon McKinney, DNP, APRN, WHP-BC, RNC-OB, and Terry Kuykendall, Investigator, provided testimony on behalf of the Board. Respondent has been charged with Ark. Code Ann. § 17-87-309(a)(1) and (a)(6) and pleads not guilty to the charges. On July 23, 2024, the Board issued a Letter of Reprimand (LOR) to Respondent for a violation of the Arkansas *Nurse Practice Act*, A.C.A. §17-87-309(a)(1) and (a)(6); the Arkansas State Board of Nursing *Rules*, Chapter 7, Section IV, (A)(1)(f); and Chapter 7, Section IV (A)(6)(d). The LOR required Respondent to complete the *Nurse and Professional Behaviors* class within six (6) months. On or about October 13, 2021, the Board received an anonymous complaint alleging that Respondent accused Resident K.R. of abusing medications and threatened to drug test Resident K.R. An investigation was completed, and these allegations were not able to be substantiated. A second complaint forwarded from the Office of Long-Term Care on or about November 11, 2021, was received by the Board alleging that Respondent instructed an LPN to remove metformin from her medication cart. Respondent then gave the medication to a co-worker to consume. On or about November 24, 2021, Respondent's attorney provided Respondent's written response to the second complaint, to Board investigator, Terry Kuykendall, via email. In the statement, Respondent admitted to the allegations in the second complaint that she did in fact instruct the LPN to remove the metformin from the medication cart and that Respondent gave the medication to a co-worker to consume. On August 13, 2024, Respondent sent a message through the nurse portal message center requesting an appeal of the Letter of Reprimand issued July 23, 2024. On October 14, 2024, Respondent sent a message through the nurse portal message center requesting an update on the status of her appeal and again admitted to misappropriating metformin to an employee.

MOTION: I MOVE that based on the evidence presented and the allegations contained in the Order and Notice of Hearing, the Arkansas State Board of Nursing finds that **ADRIENNE MARIE MCKINNEY COTTINGIM, NCSBN ID. 20559872, RN LICENSE NO. 122063**, has been charged with a violation of Ark. Code Ann. § 17-87-309(a)(6) and that the Letter of Reprimand be Rescinded and a Letter of Warning be issued.

Brought by Cassie Gonzales and seconded by Barbara Hillman.

PASSED

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Following lunch, the Board resumed hearings.

President Allie Barker called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. A flexible agenda was approved.

SARA EVELYN PANKEY THRYSELIUS, NCSBN ID. 20968518, RN LICENSE NO. R082648, LPN LICENSE NO. L046850 (EXPIRED)

Respondent was not present for the proceedings before the Board and was not represented by counsel. Lisa Wooten, MPH, BSN, RN, and Penny Summers, RN, provided testimony on behalf of the Board. An investigation was initiated after the Board received a report from the Assistant Director of Nursing at Baptist Health – North Little Rock, reporting inconsistencies with Respondent's patient medication scanning and documentation. Records from Baptist Health – North Little Rock, indicate that Respondent was hired on February 27, 2023. On April 7, 2023, Respondent was a no call/no show for work and received a written warning due to attendance. On April 14, 2023, Respondent received a coaching due to her failure to scan patients and medications. On May 2, 2023, Respondent received a verbal coaching due to her attendance and that she did not attend a mandatory class. On May 2, 2023, Respondent was also placed on suspension due to her Pyxis activity showing irregular practices, undocumented wastage, unreconciled narcotics, documented medications before withdrawal from Pyxis, and poor scanning

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compliance. At 0545, Respondent was escorted to the lab to submit to a reasonable suspicion/cause urine drug screen. This collection was performed at the end of Respondent's shift. On May 6, 2023, the urine drug screen was reported as positive for amphetamine at 4,813 ng/ml and methamphetamine at greater than 10,000 ng/ml. On May 16, 2023, Respondent's employment was involuntarily terminated from Baptist Health – North Little Rock, due to the positive for cause drug screen at the end of Respondent's shift. Five (5) medical records were reviewed between the dates of April 6, 2023, to April 19, 2023, and a total of 4mg of morphine is unaccounted for. On June 25, 2024, Board staff sent a letter via the nurse portal and certified mail to Respondent's last known mailing address on file with the Board requesting Respondent to obtain a psychological/addiction evaluation by July 16, 2024. The certified letter was returned unclaimed on August 6, 2024, by the Postal Service and marked *Notify Sender of New Address*. Respondent failed to view the message sent through the nurse portal. Board staff attempted to reach Respondent on August 7, 2024, by the last known email address on file with the Board, without success. A second message was sent through the nurse portal and Board staff attempted to contact Respondent by calling the last phone number on file with the Board on August 19, 2024. Respondent failed to view the portal message, and staff were not able to leave a message on Respondent's voicemail. On August 28, 2024, Board staff sent a letter via the nurse portal and certified mail to Respondent's last known mailing address on file with the Board notifying Respondent her case was referred to hearing. The letter was also sent to the address on the label from the Postal Service on the returned letter requesting an evaluation. Both certified letters were returned marked unclaimed, and Respondent failed to view the nurse portal message. Respondent is aware of the nurse portal and has communicated with Board staff in the past regarding obtaining a multistate license. Respondent has previous discipline with the Board as follows: June 13, 2012 - Consent Agreement – Probation x 2 years for violation of ACA §17-87-309 (a)(2), (a)(4), and (a)(6), October 16, 2012 - Voluntary Surrender – Noncompliance, April 1, 2015 - Reinstatement Consent Agreement x 3 years and April 19, 2018 - Consent Agreement Action Cleared Respondent has failed to contact the Board and has not provided a psychological/addiction evaluation. The facts outlined above were supported by the evidence and testimony presented at the hearing.

MOTION: I MOVE that based on the evidence presented and the allegations contained in the Order and Notice of Hearing, the Arkansas State Board of Nursing finds that **SARA EVELYN PANKEY THRYSELIUS, NCSBN ID. 20968518, RN LICENSE NO. R082648, LPN LICENSE NO. L046850 (EXPIRED)**, has been charged with a violation of Ark. Code Ann. § 17-87-309(a)(6) and that based on the evidence presented and the allegations contained in the Order and Notice, the ASBN suspend Sara Evelyn Pankey Thryselius, RN License number R082648 has violated Ark. Code Ann. § 17-87-309(a)(6). Upon the receipt of the Substance Use Disorder evaluation, she may be offered a consent agreement or appear before the Board.

Brought by Cassie Gonzales and seconded by Veronica Harmon.

PASSED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm.



Allie Barker, President



Mindy Darner, Recording Secretary

08 JANUARY 2025

Date Approved