STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

BOARD OF NURSING

In Re: Jessica Mead, RN RN Lic. # 072511-21

Docket No.: 2022-NUR-045

<u>ORDER OF EMERGENCY</u> SUSPENSION – 10/27/22

I. CASE SUMMARY/PROCEDURAL HISTORY:

On 10/27/22, the Board of Nursing ("Board") reviewed a speed memorandum from the National Practitioner Databank (Nursys) alleging that Jessica Mead ("Licensee") surrendered her RN license in the State of California on 10/12/22 in resolution of allegations of professional misconduct stemming from her failure to comply with the conditions of a monitoring agreement and drug screening in the State of Nevada, where she also surrendered her license. Having no way of knowing the status of the Licensee's sobriety and location and her license being active in New Hampshire, the Board voted to suspend the Licensee's license on an emergency basis pursuant RSA 541-A:30(III), RSA 326-B:37(IV), and N.H. Code Admin. R., Title Nur 402.03(a) ("Rules") and schedule a full disciplinary adjudicatory hearing. This Order of Emergency License Suspension follows.

II. <u>LEGAL STANDARD:</u>

"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." RSA 326-B:37, IV. The Board has further interpreted that to mean: "[w]hen the board receives information indicating that a licensee has engaged misconduct that poses an immediate danger to public health, safety, or welfare, the board shall, pursuant to RSA 326-B:37, IV, immediately suspend such person's license ..." Rule 402.03(a).

1

III. EVIDENCE PRESENTED AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

A. Evidence Presented

The Board was presented with a speed memorandum from the National Practitioner Databank (Nursys)¹. The Board also relied on its expertise in the field it regulates. A review of the evidence presented, and the reasonable inferences taken there from, allows the Board to find the following facts.

B. Findings of Fact

The Licensee is actively licensed as an RN in the state of New Hampshire. Before 10/12/22, the Licensee was also licensed in the State of California as an RN. On 10/12/22 the California Board of Registered Nursing issued a Decision and Order accepting the Licensee's voluntary surrender of her license in resolution of a reciprocal disciplinary proceeding taken by the State of California against her license on 03/04/22. The proceeding was initiated based upon allegations that the Licensee had received disciplinary action from the Nevada State Board of Nursing for having violated the terms of a 10/31/19 Agreement for Monitoring related to a positive drug screen for cocaine while on duty as a registered nurse. Subsequently the Licensee tested positive for a metabolite for alcohol consumption while being monitored. Thereafter she submitted two random drug screens that were diluted and then failed to show up for two other drug screenings despite being notified of the tests. Subsequently, the Nevada State Board of Nursing approved a Voluntary Surrender of License in Lieu of Other Disciplinary Action to resolve the allegations.

IV. <u>CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:</u>

¹ This included Disciplinary Case Summary Reports for the Licensee, 10/12/22 Decision and Order issued by the California Board of Registered Nursing, 03/04/22 Cause for Discipline filed by California Board of Registered Nursing Department of Consumer Affairs, and a 07/22/21 Nevada State Board of Nursing Voluntary Surrender of License in Lieu of Other Disciplinary Action Order.

The Board concludes there is a reasonable basis to suspend the Licensee's New Hampshire license

on an emergency basis pursuant to RSA 326-B:37, IV. The central facts are straightforward—the Licensee

is actively licensed in New Hampshire, has a substance use and disciplinary history, and both the

California Board of Registered Nursing and Nevada State Board of Nursing have accepted voluntary

surrenders from the Licensee as the appropriate resolution to the disciplinary allegations. Further the

underlying allegations relate to a failure to comply with the terms of her monitoring agreement, which

was instated to ensure her sobriety and thus the protection of the public she serves as a licensed RN. The

Licensee also appears to have not notified the Board of any of this disciplinary history. Therefore, the

Licensee's alleged conduct, on its face, appears to be misconduct as defined at RSA 326-B:37, II(n), RSA

326-B:37(p), RSA 326-B:37, II(q)(2), and/or RSA 326-B:37, II (r) (see also Rules 402.04(d) and (e)) that

also warrants immediate emergency suspension of his license pursuant to RSA 326-B:37(IV), pending a

disciplinary adjudicatory hearing to be held within 10 business days.

V. **ORDER:**

Pursuant to RSA 541-A:30(III) and 326-B:37(IV), the Board hereby orders the immediate

emergency suspension of Jessica Mead's license as an RN, pending a follow up emergency hearing in this

matter. A Notice of Emergency Hearing with an appropriate date/time shall follow forthwith.

DATED: 10/31/2022

/s/ Nikolas Frye

Hearings Examiner

Authorized Representative of the Board of Nursing-

New Hampshire Office of

Professional Licensure & Certification

7 Eagle Square

Concord, NH 03301

3 of 3