

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS
3421 NORTH CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 505
METAIRIE, LOUISIANA 70002-3715
(504) 838-5791
FAX (504) 838-5279
www.lsbpne.com

November 20, 2013

Jennifer Cleghorn
8450 East Kings Highway, Apt. J2
Shreveport, LA 71115

Dear Ms. Cleghorn:

Enclosed you will find your board order.

You may also go to the Board's website at www.lsbpne.com, at any time to review the Administrative Code pertaining to practical nurses.

If you have any questions or concerns you should submit them in writing to the board office, please include your current address and telephone number with your request.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS**

M. Lynn Ansardi RN

M. Lynn Ansardi, RN
Executive Director

MLA/kp

Jennifer Cleghorn, LPN
License # 270118
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In the matter of: Jennifer Cleghorn
LICENSE #270118
D.O.B 06/01/1982

This cause having come to be heard at a formal hearing conducted at the Board office on June 25, 2013 upon the complaint filed in this matter.

FINDINGS OF FACT

During the Formal Hearing process, the following facts were confirmed:

1. The respondent was issued a license to practice practical nursing in the state of Louisiana on January 25, 2007.
2. On August 12, 2008, the respondent self-reported to the board that she voluntarily entered treatment at the Washington Street Hope Center for an addiction to opiates. The respondent reported that her addiction began during April, 2008. She was discharged on July 28, 2008.
3. After self-reporting her opiate addiction to the board, she entered into a voluntary consent order suspending her practical nursing license on September 8, 2008. During this time, she was to follow stipulations set forth in the consent order.

The board later discovered that the respondent misrepresented and falsified the information provided to the board and Washington Street Hope Center regarding her addiction. She stated that she began her use of opioids during the month of April, 2008, which was inaccurate. She initially started using alcohol and drugs at the age of 12.

4. At the formal hearing the respondent admitted to the allegations contained in the formal complaint (pg. 9 line 17 through pg. 10 line 13 of the hearing transcript (H.T.) and Exhibit X-1). During the formal hearing, the respondent admitted that the report to the board was inaccurate and that her addiction to drugs started at a very early age (pg. 12 lines 5-22 of the H.T.). She also admitted to falsifying the facts related to her addiction by indicating that she was addicted to Lortab only, and her addiction only lasted for a 3 month period (pg. 28 lines 11-14 of the H.T.).

She admitted to drinking for the first time at the age of 12. This incident resulted in the respondent blacking out (pg. 13 lines 1-3 of the H.T.).

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She testified that at the age of 13, she started using her first drug, LSD (pg. 13 lines 4-5 of the H.T.). By the age of 14, she was using IV drugs. She admitted using heroin, crystal meth and cocaine (pg. 13 lines 5-8 of the H.T.).

She admitted that during this period, she also abused alcohol. At the age of 16, she added Ecstasy (pg. 13 lines 12-15 of the H.T.). After the respondent had a child at the age of 19, she quit using. At 26, she again started using drugs, including IV morphine (pg. 14 lines 3-4 of the H.T.). In 2009, the respondent used crack cocaine in IV form, (pg. 18 line 18 through pg. 19 line 3). She now has two children who live with her ex-husband. She stated that she has supervised visitation rights through her mother. The court ordered that she cannot be alone with her children (pg. 14 line 21 through pg. 15 line 15 of the H.T.).

5. She also testified that in October, 2008, she checked herself in at the Red River Addiction Complex for outpatient treatment of her addiction to Roxycontin, Oxycontin and occasional MS Contin. She stayed 7 days, and it was recommended that she go to the Washington Street Hope Center for inpatient care.

Before she entered the Hope Center the day she left treatment at Red River, she used MS Contin IV in the parking lot (pg. 46 lines 3-7 of the H.T.).

On November 17, 2008, the respondent was treated at Choices of Louisiana, a methadone clinic. The respondent reported her drug history as follows:

- IV Roxycontin for a period of 12 years, starting at age 14
- IV Heroin for a period of two years, starting at age 14
- 100mg Lortab once a week, starting at age 20
- 120mg IV Morphine twice a day, starting at age 26
- 30 mg IV and oral Methadone one time use, starting at age 26
- 80mg IV Oxycontin twice a week, starting at age 20
- 20 grams of IV Crystal Methamphetamine twice a week, starting at age 14
- 10mg Xanax/Valium once a month, starting at age 16
- 8 ball IV Cocaine once a month, starting at age 15
- Ecstasy/LSD once a week, starting at age 14
- 1 joint marijuana once or twice in her lifetime, age 14
- 6-pack of alcohol rare, starting at age 12
- 250mg soma four times a day, starting at age 26

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The respondent received her last dose of Methadone on June 11, 2009. She reported being transferred to Brentwood for treatment after her drug screen of June 11, 2009, was positive for opiates. At Brentwood she was psychologically screened. She was treated

for personality disorders, with possible histrionic/narcissistic, borderline and anti-social features. It was determined that the respondent's condition required intense in-patient treatment. The respondent was discharged on June 23, 2009.

6. She testified that she continued to use drugs after leaving Brentwood and again checked into the Red River Addiction Complex on August 14, 2009 (pg. 46 lines 8-11 of the H.T.). She was referred to the Alexandria/Pineville ADC for outpatient treatment. On August 19, 2009, she left the facility against staff advice.

On August 21, 2009, the respondent was admitted on a PEC at Acadia Vermillion. On August 25, 2009, she was discharged after being treated for diagnoses of bipolar disorder and poly-substance dependency.

On October 4, 2009, the respondent was treated at Brentwood Hospital on a PEC. She reported a prior suicide attempt and poly substance dependency. Ms. Cleghorn was diagnosed with bipolar mood, type I, with active suicide ideations, poly-substance abuse dependency, rule out poly-substance withdrawal, rule out chronic pain disorder. The respondent was discharged on October 12, 2009. On this same day, the respondent admitted to being treated at Red River Addiction Complex. During the initial stage of treatment, she left against staff advice.

On January 11, 2010, the respondent was admitted to Acadia Vermillion on a PEC from St. Francis Cabrini Hospital.

On January 25, 2010, she was treated at an addictive disorder clinic. The respondent was considered a high-risk for continued use. She was referred to inpatient treatment.

On February 18, 2010, she was treated at the Red River Addiction Complex. She was discharged with major depressive disorder, NOS, opiate dependence, cocaine dependence, cannabis dependence and antisocial personality features.

Upon discharge from Red River, it was noted in her discharge summary of April, 2010, "while she has a goal to return to nursing (LPN license is suspended), she would do well to consider a different medical career track that does not involve the use of needles due to a long history of intravenous drug use beginning in adolescence". (Exhibit Q-41)

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On January 25, 2011, the respondent was treated due to a relapse on crack cocaine. On February 1, 2011, she entered the Buckhalter Residential Treatment Program. On March 18, 2011, the respondent reports leaving against staff advice. On August 29, 2011, she re-entered detox. After completing her detox, she entered Centerpoint Pines Treatment Center.

On September 7, 2011, she was treated at Center Point Pines Treatment Center. She was discharged on October 5, 2011.

On October 6, 2011, she entered into the Oakwood Home for Women and moved out on June 30, 2012.

7. The respondent also reported that on February 10, 2010, she was incarcerated in Avoyelles Parish Jail until February 17, 2010, on charges of careless operation. On April 6, 2010, she pled guilty to the charge and was sentenced to fines and court costs.

JURISDICTION

The board has jurisdiction over the parties hereto and the subject matter hereof.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. According to the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 46, Part XLVII, Subpart I, Section 306 T. a licensed practical nurse must not violate any provisions of the Nurse Practice Act. Section §306. 3. states that a licensed practical nurse cannot be unfit or incompetent by reason of negligence, habit, or other causes.

It is clear by the evidence presented and undisputed that the respondent is unfit and incompetent because of her habitual drug use/abuse.

2. Section §306. 4. states that a licensed practical nurse cannot be habitually addicted to the use of habit forming drugs.

The uncontested evidence presented shows that the licensee has an addiction to numerous controlled and illegal substances, including alcohol. Her history demonstrates that she has tried unsuccessfully multiple times to treat her drug habit.

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3. Section §306. 8. defines unprofessional conduct to include falsifying records. Ms. Cleghorn admitted to falsifying her narrative statement to the board, as well as falsifying her drug abuse history to several drug rehabilitation centers. This psychological impairment indicates that she poses a great risk to patients in her care, as well as harm to her recovery if she is allowed to remain an LPN.

Based on the facts set forth in the entire record and outlined herein above, the respondent is in violation of:

The Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 37, Chapter 11, Part II, Section 969 A. (4);

- (b) is guilty of a crime;**
- (c) is unfit, or incompetent by reason of negligence habit, or other causes;**
- (d) is habitually intemperate or is addicted to the use of habit forming drugs;**
- (f) is guilty of unprofessional conduct;**
- (g) has violated any provisions of this Part;**

And 978 A (8) Violate any provisions of this Part and B.

As further defined in the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 46, Part XLVII, Subpart 1, Sections §306 T.

- 2. **being guilty of a crime;**
- 3. **being unfit, or incompetent by reason of negligence, habit or other causes;**
- 4. **being habitually intemperate or addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs;**
- 8. **being guilty of unprofessional conduct;**
 - i. **falsifying records;**
 - q. **using or being under the influence of alcohol, while on duty, and/or while making application for employment, or using or being under the influence of drugs which impair judgment while on duty, or using or being under the influence of illegal drugs whether on or off duty;**
 - r. **possess a physical or psychological impairment which interferes with the judgment, skills or abilities required for the practice of practical nursing;**
 - t. **violating any provisions of R.S. 37:961 et seq. (the practical nursing practice act), as amended or aiding or abetting therein.**

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ORDER

The matter of Jennifer Cleghorn #270118, on November 8, 2013 came on for final action by the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, that the license of the respondent, Jennifer Cleghorn, license #270118 be

**REVOKED
AND**

1. That the respondent is to be fined \$500.00, payable by money order/cashier's check only, for the violations detailed in the Conclusions of Law, payable within 90 days of the date of the board order.
2. That a hearing assessment fee of \$500.00, payable by money order/cashier's check only, is to be submitted to the board within 90 days of the date of the board order.

Public Records

This order is public record. All disciplinary actions of the board will be reported to all required data banks and agencies as required by law.

Rendered this 8th day of November, 2013 and signed this 8th day of November, 2013 at Metairie, Louisiana.



MYRON L. COLLINS, LPN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



M. LYNN ANSARDI, RN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rendered this 8th day of November, 2013 and mailed this 20th day of November, 2013 by U.S. postal service certified mail return receipt #7011 3500 0001 1842 3068 and regular mail to the following address:

Jennifer Cleghorn
8450 East Kings Highway, Apt. J2
Shreveport, LA 71115

Jennifer Cleghorn, LPN
License # 270118
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