LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS
131 AIRLINE DRIVE, SUITE 301
METAIRIE, LOUISIANA 70001-6266
(504) 838-5791
FAX (504) 838-5279
www.lsbpne.com

June 20, 2014

Karen Roark
P.O. Box 681
Columbia, LA 71418

Dear Ms. Roark:

Enclosed you will find your Board Order with the stipulations set forth which you **must follow** throughout your Suspension and/or Probation period.

Please read the entire Order **completely and carefully**. Failure to follow **all** stipulations set forth may result in further disciplinary action being taken against your practical nursing license, which may include additional fines, an extended probation period, suspension, revocation and/or denial of licensure.

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, including the Rules and Adjudication, License Suspension and Revocation Proceedings, §306. This information was also included with your Formal Complaint.

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

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In the matter of:

Karen Roark - respondent
License #890294

This cause having come to be heard at a formal hearing conducted at the board office on March 21, 2014 at 1:00 pm. 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 June 7, 1989.

2. While employed as a license practical nurse with HomeCare Resources, the respondent was assigned to care for a two-year old patient with a history of blindness in both eyes, diabetes insipidus, unspecified hypothyroidism, bells palsy and unspecified delayed development. On December 27, 2012 at 6:00 a.m., the respondent returned to care for the patient following a hospital stay of five days. The respondent asked the patient's mother for the discharge paperwork and the mother could not locate the documents. The mother informed the respondent that the patient's Desmopressin had changed and that the patient had not received her 6pm dose. The respondent located an unopened box of Desmopressin and noted the pharmacy directions to give 2ml sq bid (the pharmacy labeled the medication incorrectly). The respondent questioned the order, however, could not call the pharmacy, doctor's office or HomeCare Resources because they were not opened, so she assumed it was a one-time order since the patient had extremely high sodium levels during her hospital stay. The respondent gave the medication as stated on the box. The registered nurse arrived at the patient's home at 10:30 a.m. to obtain labs. The respondent questioned the RN about the new order of Desmopressin on the patient. The registered nurse was not aware of the new order and called the office to confirm. The new orders were sent by text to the RN's phone as Desmopressin .8mcg sq bid. The respondent began to convert the order and realized the dosage ordered was .2ml. The patient was taken to the ER for further evaluation. While at the ER, the patient was noted to be in no distress and sodium results were 148. The patient was released from the ER with an order to hold the 6pm dose of Desmopressin. (Exhibits D1-75,E1-29) (E8)

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3. On December 28, 2012, the respondent returned to care for the patient. She administered .8 ml sq of Desmopressin to the patient. She calculated that 100 mcq = 1ml. When the RN arrived at 8am the respondent gave report and was informed that she gave the patient the incorrect dosage of medication. The patient was taken to the ER for further evaluation. While at the ER the patient's vital signs were within normal limits and she displayed no signs of distress. The respondent was terminated from the facility.(Exhibit E-24)

4. On February 20, 2013, the respondent's practical nursing license was suspended by the board for failure to respond to the board's request for information. On March 12, 2013, the respondent submitted her narrative statement to the board office but failed to submit the $150.00 reinstatement fee. Therefore, her license remains suspended.

5. In her narrative statement to the board office the respondent admits to making the medication error on two occasions. She indicates she has learned never to take a medication order from anyone without seeing the physician order. She states she was under a lot of stress in the home because she filed a report with child protection services on the family due to suspected drug abuse of the mother and the condition of the home. (Exhibit H1-4)

The hearing officer has great concern in regard to the respondent's nursing judgment and ability at this time. The respondent had two medication errors to take place, both causing the pediatric patient to be hospitalized.

JURISDICTION

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

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

(c) is unfit, or incompetent by reason of negligence habit, or other causes;
(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.

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2. The Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 46, Part XLVII, Subpart 1, Sections § 306 T.

3. being unfit, or incompetent by reason of negligence, habit or other causes;
8. being guilty of unprofessional conduct;
a. failure to practice practical nursing in accordance with the standards normally expected;
b. failure to utilize appropriate judgment in administering nursing practice;
t. violating any provisions of R.S. 37:961 et seq. (the practical nursing practice act), as amended or aiding or abetting therein.

ORDER

The matter of **Karen Roark, license #890294,** on **June 20, 2014** 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, **Karen Roark, license #890294**, be **suspended** for no less than **two (2) years** with the following stipulations:

1. **Return license to the board office:**

   A. The respondent shall return his/her current practical nursing license to the board office within **ten (10) days** of the date of this order.

   B. The respondent shall not practice nursing during the period that his/her license is suspended.

2. **Obey all laws:**

   A. The respondent shall obey all laws/rules governing the practice of practical nursing in this state and obey all federal, state, and local laws.

   B. The respondent shall report to the board within **ten (10) days** any misdemeanor and/or felony arrest(s) or conviction(s).

3. **Notify board of change of address/telephone number:**

   A. The respondent shall notify the board in writing within **ten (10) days** of any change in personal address or telephone number.

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4. **Courses:**

The respondent must take and satisfactorily complete board approved courses in the following areas: **1.)Medication Errors and How to Avoid Them and 2.)Dosage Calculations**. Evidence of **completion** of the course(s) is due in the board office prior to any reinstatement request.

5. **Fines/Fees:**

A. The respondent is hereby fined $500.00, **payable by cashier's check or money order only**, for the violations detailed in the conclusions of law, payable within **90 days** of the date of the board order.

B. The respondent is hereby assessed a hearing assessment fee of $500.00, **payable by cashier's check or money order only**, within **90 days** of the date of the board order.

C. The respondent must pay any/all fines/fees owed to the board, including a reinstatement fee, if/when applicable. Fines/fees are **payable by cashier's check or money order only**.

6. **Reinstatement requirements:**

A. All stipulations of the suspension must be successfully fulfilled prior to a request for reinstatement.

B. The respondent is to submit a written request for reinstatement to the board office.

Upon favorable review of the reinstatement stipulations, the license of the respondent may then be placed on probation for a minimum period of **two (2) years**. During this probationary period the respondent shall follow the following stipulations:

1. **License:**

A. The license of the respondent will be stamped "**PROBATION**".

B. The respondent shall return his/her current practical nursing license to the board office, so the license can be stamped with the mandatory probation stamp.

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2. **Fines/Fees:**

A. The respondent is to submit a $500.00 annual probation monitoring fee, **payable by cashier's check or money order only**.

B. The probation monitoring fee is due within **three (3) months** of receiving a probated license and annually thereafter until the probation is satisfactorily completed.

C. Failure to pay this fee in the time allotted will result in the immediate suspension of the respondent's practical nursing license.

3. **Employment:**

A. The respondent shall provide a copy of the entire board order/consent order including the findings of fact and conclusions of law immediately to any/all current employer(s) and at the time of application to any/all prospective employer(s).

i. If the respondent is already employed as an lpn, the respondent and the current employer shall enter into the board's **Employer's Agreement** (form(s) issued by board). The signed form(s) shall be submitted to the board office within **ten (10) days** of the date of the board order/consent order.

ii. Upon obtaining new employment as an lpn, the respondent shall enter into the board's **Employer's Agreement** (form(s) issued by board) with the prospective employer. The signed form(s) shall be submitted to the board office within **ten (10) days** of the date of hire.

B. All current and prospective employers must agree to allow the respondent's direct supervisor to monitor the respondent while on probation as well as timely submission of evaluations.

C. Probation will run concurrent with employment as an lpn.

D. The respondent must be employed a minimum of 80 hours per month.

E. The probationary period will not commence or progress until and unless the respondent is employed and delivering direct patient care as a licensed practical nurse.

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F. Failure to maintain stable employment may be grounds for termination of probation.

G. The respondent must practice under the supervision of a nurse (rn or lpn) or physician whose license is unencumbered and must provide direct patient care as follows:

i. The respondent must be supervised on a regular and consistent basis by his/her assigned supervisor. The supervisor must observe and work closely enough with the respondent to be able to give an informed evaluation of the respondent. The employer must be willing to allow this supervision and provide opportunities for the same supervisor to evaluate the performance of the respondent.

ii. It is the respondent's responsibility to ensure that his/her supervisor submits the evaluation reports quarterly.

a. Reports are due on or before the 10th day of January, April, July, and October of each year. (Note: these forms will be provided to the employer)

b. Only the respondent's direct supervisor may complete the evaluations according to the observations made during the supervision.

H. The respondent is prohibited from working in temporary staffing, as an agency nurse, for a nursing pool and/or in the home health setting, or in any other similar setting including but not limited to working in a teaching capacity, as a travel nurse and/or on an "as needed" basis - prn.

I. The respondent shall notify the board in writing within **ten (10) days** of any change in employment. Changes in employment include accepting a new job, as well as resignation, or termination.

Violations

The respondent is hereby notified that failure to comply with any stipulations of this order of the board may result in any or all of the following:

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a) immediate suspension of license, b) indefinite suspension of license, c) ineligibility for annual renewal of license, d) additional fines/penalties up to $500.00 per occurrence, e) increased probationary period, f) summary suspension and g) revocation.

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 **20th** day of **June, 2014** and signed this **20th** day of **June, 2014** at Metairie, Louisiana.

Myron L. Collins LPN

MYRON COLLINS, LPN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

M. Lynn Ansardi RN

M. LYNN ANSARDI, RN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mailed this **20th** day of **June, 2014**, by U.S. postal service certified mail return receipt **#7014 0150 0001 8287 9261** and regular mail to the following address:

Karen Roark
P.O. Box 681
Columbia, LA 71418