

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

October 10, 2014

Ren Patterson
12006 Pendarvis Ln
Walker, LA 70785

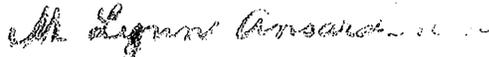
Dear Ms. Patterson:

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, including the rules and adjudication, license suspension and revocation proceedings, §306.

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
Executive Director

MLA/kp

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

In the matter of:

Ren Patterson - respondent

S.S. # ending in 7190

This cause having come to be heard at a formal hearing conducted at the board office on May 28, 2014 at 2:30p.m. to determine if the respondent is eligible for licensure in the state of Louisiana.

1. The respondent was present for the scheduled hearing and did give sworn testimony.
2. There were no witnesses called to testify either by the board or the respondent at the formal hearing.
3. Exhibits A-L were admitted into evidence at the hearing.
4. The hearing officer fully reviewed and considered the transcript of the hearing as prepared and certified by court reporter Dawn H. Hymel, CCR who was present and recorded the hearing.
5. The court records were left open to allow time to obtain random drug screen results from a screening that was performed while the respondent was in school.
6. Exhibits A-M were fully considered by the hearing officer.

The hearing officer, having reviewed all evidence, and being fully advised in the premises, makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

During the formal hearing process, the following facts were confirmed:

Upon enrollment into the practical nursing program at the Compass Career College - Hammond Area Campus, the applicant completed an Evaluation Form for Admission into the Practical Nursing Program, on which she responded "yes" to question #32 which asks:

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

"Have you ever been indicted, charged with, summoned into court as a defendant in a criminal proceeding, arrested (even if you were not taken away in handcuffs or incarcerated), fined, imprisoned, placed on probation or ordered to deposit bail for the violation of any law, police regulation or ordinance, misdemeanor and/or felony offense (except for minor traffic violations) whether or not charges were dismissed and/or refused, or have you ever been convicted (including a nolo contendere plea or guilty plea) of any criminal misdemeanor and/or felony?"

The respondent reported the following arrests:

1. 6/19/2007-Failure to appear in court for no insurance. The respondent admitted to being arrested for not appearing in court on 06/19/2007 for no insurance. (Exhibit B4)
2. 12/29/2005-Possession Xanax and Methamphetamine. The respondent failed to report that she was found in contempt of court for a positive drug screen for marijuana. (Transcript page 7, lines 5-25 and pages 8 and 9)

According to court documents, in 2007 the respondent was ordered to enter into a treatment program at the Hope Center in lieu of prosecution. The respondent was admitted to the Hope Center on June 27, 2007 and was discharged on July 25, 2007. According to Betty Dausat of the Hope Center's evaluation, she believed that "Ren had no significant substance abuse problem at that time". The respondent was noted to have an "alcohol problem of substantial concern, and that treatment was needed". (Exhibit G4)

3. 7/11/2008-Possession of alcohol and marijuana in her car. The respondent failed to report that she was also charged with driving under the influence of drugs, (Lortab and marijuana) and alcohol.

The respondent was arrested for operating a vehicle while under the influence of scheduled drugs, reckless driving, and open container in the vehicle and possession of marijuana. All charges were dismissed. (Exhibit H16)

4. 2/8/2009-Careless operation and possession of marijuana and accidentally hitting another vehicle. The respondent was also charged with D.W.I. The respondent was arrested on February 08, 2009 and charged with DWI, careless operation of a motor vehicle and possession of schedule I-marijuana. All charges were dismissed. (Exhibit I6-7)

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

While the respondent has a history of drug and alcohol abuse the hearing officer is of the opinion that the respondent was young at the time of these arrests and has become more responsible with age. The hearing officer received and reviewed the drug screen results provided by the respondent's practical nursing school, which indicated a negative result. (Exhibit M1-3)

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 the following:

1. The Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 37, Chapter 11, Part II, Section 969 A. (4);
(a) is guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice practical nursing; (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.

2. The Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 46, Part XLVII, Subpart 1, Sections § 306 T.
 1. **being guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice practical nursing;**
 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;**
 - n. **being convicted of a crime or offense which reflects the inability of the nurse to practice practical nursing with due regard for the health and safety of clients or patients or enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a criminal charge regardless of final disposition of the criminal proceeding including, but not limited to, expungement or nonadjudication or pardon;**
 - t. **violating any provisions of R.S. 37:961 et seq. (the practical nursing practice act), as amended or aiding or abetting therein.**

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

ORDER

The matter of **Ren Patterson, applicant for licensure**, on **October 10, 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, **Ren Patterson**, be made **eligible** to take the NCLEX-PN to receive her practical nursing license in the state of Louisiana. Once the respondent has successfully completed the NCLEX-PN, the respondent's license will be immediately placed on **probation** for **two (2) years** with the following stipulations:

1. **License:**

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

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.

D. 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** from the date this order is executed.

E. The respondent is hereby assessed a hearing assessment fee of \$1000.00, **payable by cashier's check or money order only**, within **90 days** of the date of this order.

F. 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.**

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

3. **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).

4. **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.

5. **Select one primary pharmacy:**

- A. The respondent shall notify the board of the name, address, and telephone number of his/her selected pharmacy within **ten (10) days** from the date of this order is executed. If the respondent acquires a new pharmacy, written notification must be received within **ten (10) days** of the first use.

6. **Select one primary care physician:**

- A. The respondent shall notify the board within **ten (10) days** of the date this order is executed, the name, address and telephone number of his/her selected primary care physician. The physician must hold an unencumbered license. All medical care received by the respondent for the duration of this order shall be furnished by the primary care physician or by the referral of the primary physician with the exception of emergency care. In the event emergency medical care is necessary, the respondent must notify the board within **three (3) days** from the date the emergency care was rendered if the treatment included administration of mood-altering, controlled, or addictive substances.
- B. The respondent shall execute the **Release of Information Form** to allow the primary care physician/referred specialist to communicate with and supply information to the board.

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

7. **Abstain from unauthorized drug use and controlled/abuse potential substances (including alcohol):**

The respondent shall abstain at all times from the use of controlled or abuse potential substances, including alcohol and illegal drugs as defined by law, except as prescribed by the primary care physician/referred specialist from whom he/she seeks medical attention.

The respondent shall not consume hemp, poppy seeds, or any product or by-product containing the same, nor shall the respondent consume any product(s) containing alcohol if it is stipulated that the respondent must abstain from alcohol.

- A. The respondent shall present a copy of his/her board order/consent order to include the findings of fact and conclusions of law to their primary care physician/referred specialist at the time of obtaining a prescription for controlled/abuse potential substances.
- B. In the event the respondent obtains a prescription from their primary care physician/referred specialist for any controlled/abuse potential substance, **the respondent shall submit a copy of the prescription to the board within 48 hours**. The prescription must be for a current condition. The respondent must not arbitrarily take medications prescribed for a past illness or take a medication that is prescribed for another person.

No medications from a prescription over **six (6) months old** will be accepted without an updated prescription verification. Using prescribed medication(s) over **six (6) months old** without an updated verification is grounds for further disciplinary action as stated in this order.

- C. The respondent's primary care physician/referred specialist must complete the board's **Medication Form** for controlled medication(s)/abuse potential substances, and the **Board Order Acknowledgement Form**. He/she must submit the forms within **ten (10) days** of the date of the prescription directly to the board office. The forms must come from the provider to the board office by mail. **They may not pass through the respondent's hands. THEY MAY NOT BE SENT BY FACSIMILE.**

The **Medication Form** must contain the identification of the primary care physician/referred specialist along with the condition(s) being treated and the prescription(s) ordered. The condition that warrants the medication must be identified.

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

If prescription medications are refilled, the board must also have a letter from the primary care physician/referred specialist attesting to the continued need for the medication(s) and the **Medication Form** must be updated every **six (6) months**. The form is required to be re-submitted to the board at that time directly from the primary care physician/referred specialist.

The primary care physician/referred specialist must acknowledge in writing and by documenting on the **Medication Form** that said provider has knowledge of the respondent's dependency and/or use of controlled or abuse potential substances. The provider must identify the medication, dosage, and the date the medication was prescribed. **The practitioner must state whether the medication(s) being prescribed will negatively impact the respondent's ability to perform his/her nursing duties.**

- D. In the event of an emergency or referral to a specialist by the primary care physician, the respondent must notify the emergency care provider and/or specialist of any/all medication already being prescribed. Should the respondent obtain any prescriptions from the emergency care provider and/or specialist for controlled medication(s)/abuse potential substance(s), the respondent shall inform his/her primary care physician. Each prescriber/physician/specialist must submit a letter to the board office indicating they are aware that the respondent is being prescribed controlled medication(s)/abuse potential substance(s) by the other provider(s) and include the reason(s). These notices must be received at the board office within **ten (10) days** of the date of the prescription(s) and must include a list of medication(s) being prescribed by each physician.
- E. The respondent, if enrolled in aftercare, shall inform the aftercare counselor of any/all prescriptions, and the aftercare counselor must submit a letter to the board within **ten (10) days** of the prescription date indicating that they are aware of any/all prescriptions.

Failure to follow these procedures when obtaining a prescription may be grounds for further disciplinary action as stated in this order.

8. **Enroll in a drug screening program:**

- A. Within **ten (10) days** of the date of this order, the respondent shall register with the drug screening firm selected by the board. The respondent is required to call into the system immediately upon registering with the drug screening firm.

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

- B. It is the responsibility of the respondent to ensure that he/she has properly registered with the drug screening firm selected by the board.
- C. The respondent shall submit to and pay for random drug and/or alcohol screens. The random testing shall be done at a minimum of once per month but may be required more frequently as requested by the board. All drug screens must be observed. The board may at any time request additional testing, including but not limited to, hair and/or blood samples.
- D. Occurrence of any of the following conditions constitutes noncompliance with this board order: 1) failure to register with the selected drug testing firm within ten (10) days from the date this order is executed; 2) a positive drug screen; 3) failure to contact the testing firm daily; 4) failure to submit a specimen on the date selected for screening; 5) refusal to furnish a specimen; 6) failure to be observed when submitting a specimen or reporting that the facility did not observe screening process; 7) submission of a specimen where the integrity has been compromised, as indicated by the presence of adulterants or submission of a sample that is below acceptable volume or temperature to be tested; 8) failure to follow requested procedure in obtaining a specimen.
- E. Drug screen results indicating an abnormal/dilute specimen, or a result indicating a low specific gravity with low creatinine levels will be considered non-compliant with this board order. Positive screens are grounds for further disciplinary action as stated in this order.
- F. When checking in with the drug testing company daily by telephone, the respondent must listen to the entire message. Failing to complete the call will be considered non-compliant with this order and grounds for further disciplinary action as stated in this order.
- G. Failure to properly fill out or maintain a proper chain of custody form in any way that is not accepted by the drug testing facility will be considered positive and non-compliant with the board order and grounds for further disciplinary action as stated in this order.
- H. The respondent shall adhere to all guidelines set forth by the board and the drug screening firm. The drug screening firm will report any/all violations of their guidelines, policies and procedures to the board.

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

9. **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.
- 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.

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

- 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.
- J. Upon obtaining a prescription for controlled/abuse potential substance(s) while holding a probated license, the respondent is responsible for informing his/her employer within **three (3) days** from the date of the prescription(s).

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:

- 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.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY SECTION OF THIS ORDER RELATED TO DRUG SCREENS, TREATMENT PLANS, AND/OR REGARDING ABUSE POTENTIAL PRESCRIPTION AND/OR ILLEGAL DRUGS MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION OF UP TO A FOUR (4) YEAR PERIOD WITHOUT A HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD.

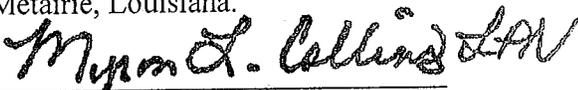
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS
131 AIRLINE DRIVE, SUITE 301
METAIRIE, LOUISIANA 70001-6266
(504) 838-5791
FAX (504) 838-5279
www.lsbpne.com

During the period of suspension, if related to substance abuse, appropriate consistent treatment must be obtained, and the respondent must show evidence of **two (2) consecutive years** of being drug/alcohol free immediately prior to the respondent's initiation of a reinstatement request. If during the **two (2) consecutive years** of sobriety the respondent relapses, the **two (2) consecutive years** of sobriety will re-start on the date of the relapse occurrence, provided that the respondent is in treatment.

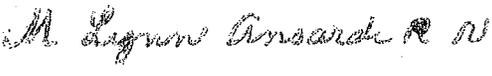
Public Records

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 **10th** day of **October, 2014** and signed this **10th** day of **October, 2014** at Metairie, Louisiana.



MYRON COLLINS, LPN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



M. LYNN ANSARDI, RN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mailed this **10th** day of **October, 2014**, by U.S. postal service certified mail return receipt **#7014 1200 0000 2313 6622** and regular mail to the following address:

Ren Patterson
12006 Pendarvis Ln
Walker, LA 70785