SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE PROCEEDINGS

RE: KATELYNN LARSON, LPN License No. P012197

Licensee.

WHEREAS, Katelynn Larson, LPN (“Licensee”), is licensed to practice as a practical nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds license number P012197; and

WHEREAS, on or about December 27, 2016, the South Dakota Board of Nursing (“Board”) received a complaint from Licensee’s employer, a long term care facility, regarding alleged diversion of hydrocodone; and

WHEREAS, after the complaint, Board staff began their investigation into the complaint received; and

WHEREAS, the Board received additional information from the employer, who reported that two bubble packs of hydrocodone had gone missing from a medication cart. The count was correct at 2:00 p.m. on December 26, 2016, and was incorrect at the 10:00 p.m. count. At those times, Licensee was responsible for the med cart; and

WHEREAS, during the investigation, Licensee denied diversion to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, an informal meeting with the Licensee was held via telephone on January 30, 2017. Licensee denied diverting any medications on the night of the discrepancy of narcotics; and
WHEREAS, Licensee told Board staff that she told the law enforcement investigator that she takes medication for anxiety and depression and recently had health issues that were currently being addressed; and

WHEREAS, when Board staff asked the Licensee if she took narcotics, she said no, but that she had a prescription for a couple days after dental surgery. The Licensee indicated that she had an appointment with the South Dakota Health Professionals Assistance Program ("HPAP") the week of February 6, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Board staff obtained the PDMP on the Licensee which listed multiple prescriptions for oxycodone and hydrocodone; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2017, following a meeting of the Board on February 17, 2017, Licensee was mandated into HPAP as a result of the initial complaint; and

WHEREAS, the Licensee signed a participation agreement with HPAP on April 5, 2017; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2017, the Licensee was issued a letter from HPAP giving her formal notice that she had been discharged from HPAP for failure to cooperate with the individualized participation agreement, and as such would not be eligible for future participation; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017, the Board was notified by law enforcement that the Licensee had been indicted by a Pennington County Grand Jury on May 24, 2017, for felony charges of obtaining controlled substance by theft. Licensee was arrested on June 14, 2017, and
arraigned on July 19, 2017. Licensee was charged with a class four felony (misrepresentation to obtain controlled substance). Her criminal proceedings are underway; and

WHEREAS, based upon the affidavit of Francie Miller and the above stated conduct, the Board has concluded that Licensee’s actions constitute unprofessional conduct and require emergency action, in that Licensee’s actions may endanger the health and safety of those who are or will be entrusted to her care in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Board, has a statutory obligation to protect the health, safety and welfare set forth in SDCL §36-9, including the protection of the public from unsafe nursing practices and practitioners.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That the Board has jurisdiction of the Licensee and the subject matter of this Order.

2. That based on the above, the Board specifically finds that the actions of the Licensee endanger the public health, safety and welfare, and imperatively require emergency action in that Licensee may endanger the health and safety of those persons who are or will be entrusted to her care in the future and that these are matters of a nature that would constitute further grounds for discipline of her license to practice nursing under SDCL § 36-9-49 (5), (6), (7) and (10).

3. Based upon these findings, Licensee’s license to practice nursing in South Dakota is hereby summarily suspended. Licensee may petition according to SDCL § 36-9-57 for reinstatement of her license at any time for “good cause.”
4. Licensee is hereby notified that any practice of or holding herself out as a practical nurse during the terms of this Order for Summary Suspension is a violation of SDCL § 36-9-68.

5. This action is reportable discipline and will be published in the Board's newsletter and posted on its website and reported into the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) as required by law.

The South Board of Nursing met on the 29th day of June, 2017, and approved this Order of Summary Suspension by a vote of 10-0, and issues its Order for Summary Suspension consistent herein as follows:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above is adopted as an Order of the South Dakota Board of Nursing this 19th day of June, 2017.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

Gloria Damgaard, RN, MS
Executive Director

NOTICE OF HEARING

The South Dakota Board of Nursing ("Board") pursuant to SDCL §§ 1-26-16, 1-26-27, and 1-26-29, hereby provides this Notice of Hearing to Katelynn Larson, License No. P012197 ("Licensee") as follows:
1. Hearing on the Order of Summary Suspension will take place before the Board on October 23, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. at the office of the South Dakota Board of Nursing, 4305 S. Louise Avenue, Suite 201, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

2. This matter is an adversarial proceeding and Licensee has the right to be present at the hearing and to be represented by an attorney. These due process rights will be forfeited if they are not exercised at the hearing.

3. The hearing will address the Board’s assertion, as set forth in its Summary Suspension, that the Licensee, by her conduct, violated SDCL § 36-9-49 (5), (6), (7) and (10).

4. At the hearing, the Board will determine whether the Licensee’s license shall be suspended, revoked or subject to other disciplinary action as determined by the evidence presented.

5. Licensee has a right to request that the agency use the Office of Hearing Examiners for this proceeding by giving notice of the request to the Board no later than ten (10) days after the service of this Notice of Hearing on Order for Summary Suspension.

6. A decision issued by the Board after the hearing may be appealed to the circuit court and to the state Supreme Court as provided by law.

Dated this 19th day of July, 2017.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

[Signature]
Gloria Damgaard, RN, MS
Executive Director
SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE PROCEEDINGS

RE: KATELYNN LARSON, LPN
    License No. P012197
    Licensee.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA )
COUNTY OF MINNEHAHA )

1, Francie Miller, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state as follows:

1. That I am a contract employee of the South Dakota Board of Nursing ("Board") and am employed as a Nurse Program Specialist working primarily in the area of investigations and disciplinary issues.

2. That Katelynn Larson, LPN ("Licensee"), is licensed to practice as a practical nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds license number P012197.

3. On or about December 27, 2016, I received a complaint from Licensee’s employer, a long term care facility, regarding alleged diversion of hydrocodone.

4. After the complaint, I began my investigation into the complaint received.

5. I received additional information from the employer, who reported that two bubble packs of hydrocodone had gone missing from a medication cart. The count was correct at 2:00 p.m. on December 26, 2016, and was incorrect at the 10:00 p.m. count. At those times, Licensee was responsible for the med cart.
6. During the investigation, Licensee denied diversion to law enforcement.

7. I held an informal meeting with the Licensee via telephone on January 30, 2017. Licensee denied diverting any medications on the night of the discrepancy of narcotics.

8. Licensee told me that she told the law enforcement investigator that she takes medication for anxiety and depression and recently had health issues that were currently being addressed.

9. When I asked the Licensee if she took narcotics, she said no, but that she had a prescription for a couple days after dental surgery. The Licensee indicated to me that she had an appointment with the South Dakota Health Professionals Assistance Program (“HPAP”) the week of February 6, 2017.

10. I obtained the PDMP on the Licensee which listed multiple prescriptions for oxycodone and hydrocodone.

11. On February 23, 2017, following a meeting of the Board on February 17, 2017, Licensee was mandated into HPAP as a result of the initial complaint.

12. The Licensee signed a participation agreement with HPAP on April 5, 2017.

13. On June 9, 2017, the Licensee was issued a letter from HPAP giving her formal notice that she had been discharged from HPAP for failure to cooperate with the individualized participation agreement, and as such would not be eligible for future participation.

14. On June 1, 2017, I was notified by law enforcement that the Licensee had been indicted by a Pennington County Grand Jury on May 24, 2017, for felony charges of obtaining controlled substance by theft. Licensee was arrested on June 14, 2017, and arraigned on July 19,
2017. Licensee was charged with a class four felony (misrepresentation to obtain controlled substance). Her criminal proceedings are underway.

15. Based upon the above, I conclude that the public health, safety, and welfare imperatively require emergency action in that Licensee’s actions constitute unprofessional conduct that may endanger the health and safety of persons entrusted to her care and that Licensee’s license should be summarily suspended.

Dated this 19th day of July, 2017.

[Signature]
Francie Miller
Nurse Program Specialist

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 19 day of July, 2017.

[Signature]
Notary Public - South Dakota
My commission expires: 01/08/2020