IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND

LIZETTE NGAMALUE * BOARD OF NURSING

Multi-State Licensing Privilege to * OAG Case No.: 22-BP-017

Practice Licensed Practical Nursing (Iowa-License No. P63457)

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF MULTI-STATE LICENSING PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING PURSUANT TO SECTION 10226(c)(2) OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the "Board") hereby orders the **SUMMARY SUSPENSION** of the multi-state licensure privilege of **LIZETTE NGAMALUE**, (the "Respondent"), Multi-State Licensing Privilege to Practice Licensed Practical Nursing (Iowa-License No. P63457). The Board takes this action pursuant to the authority of Maryland Code Ann., State Government Article ("SG") § 10-226(c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.), which provides:

- (2) A unit may order summarily the suspension of a license if the unit:
 - (i) finds that the public, health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action; and
 - (ii) promptly gives the licensee:
 - 1. Written notice of the suspension, the finding and the reasons that support the finding; and
 - 2. An opportunity to be heard.

The Board has reason, as set forth below, to find that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action ("SG") § 10-226(c) (2).

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INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS AND REASONS IN SUPPORT OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Based on investigatory information obtained by, received by and made known to and available to the Board, the Board has reason to believe that the following facts are true:¹

On March 3, 2020, the Iowa Board of Nursing ("Iowa Board") issued the Respondent a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse in the State of Iowa, license number P63457.
 The Respondent's Iowa LPN license is active and scheduled to expire on October 15, 2022.
 The Compact status of the Respondent's Oklahoma LPN is "Multistate."²

INITIAL APPLICATION FOR LPN BY EXAM

- 2. On or about August 15, 2018, the Respondent submitted an online Maryland Application for Exam of LPN License ("LPN Application").
- On the LPN Application, the Respondent indicated that she graduated from an LPN program located in Woodbridge, Virginia (the "LPN School") on February 8, 2013.
- 4. The online LPN Application was submitted by the Respondent who affirmed the following:³

I hereby make an application for examination and registration in Maryland according to the Nurse Practice Act and the regulations of the Maryland Board of Nursing.

¹ The allegations set forth in this document are intended to provide the Respondent with reasonable notice of the Board's action. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in connection with this action.

² Under the Multi-state Licensure Compact ("Compact"), Maryland Nurse Practice Act § 8-7A-01, Iowa is a compact state and the Respondent is allowed to practice under the multi-state licensing privilege in any State that is a party to the Compact. The State of Maryland is a party to the Compact.

³ The on-line application contains the listed affirmation. The applicant selects either a "yes" or "no" response. The applicant's response to the affirmation statement determines the outcome of the on-line application process. A "Yes" response to the affirmation allows the applicant to pay the application fee and submit the application. The application is then imported into the on-premises LARS database for the Board to process and go through the

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I affirm that the contents of this document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

LPN SCHOOL

- 5. On July 21, 2010, the Virginia Board of Nursing approved a <u>Consent Order</u>, ordering that the LPN School be placed on Conditional Provisional Approval for not less than one (1) year, subject to terms and conditions. The <u>Consent Order</u> was signed by LPN School's Program Director ("Director").⁴
- 6. On May 15, 2012, the Virginia Board of Nursing approved a <u>Consent Order</u>, signed by the Director. The May 15, 2012 <u>Consent Order</u> orders that:
 - a. [LPN School's] approval to operate a practical nursing education program in Virginia is WITHDRAWN. [LPN School] shall cease operations no later than June 30, 2013, when all students shall either have graduated or transferred to an approved program.
 - b. [LPN School] shall not admit any new or transfer students.

THE RESPONDENT'S LPN SCHOOL OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

7. On or about August 31, 2021, the Board issued a Subpoena Duces Tecum ("Subpoena") to the Respondent commanding her to produce and provide to the Board copies of transcripts from all schools attended for any LPN program, transcripts from all schools attended for any RN program, clinical rotations documentation from all schools attended for any LPN program, clinical rotations documentation from all schools attended for any RN program, and proof of school attendance.

checklist and workflow. A "No" response to the affirmation statement halts the on-line application process and prevents the applicant from paying the application fee and submitting the application.

⁴ Program Director completed and returned the email-based Certification on the Respondent's LPN Application, as Director of Nursing Program.

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- 8. The Respondent failed to respond to the Board's subpoena.
- 9. The Board's investigator reviewed the <u>Official Transcript</u> the Respondent submitted with her LPN Application which listed the school as the LPN School. It is signed by the Director⁵ and dated February 8, 2013, and provides the following information:

FIRST QUARTER		THIRD QUARTER		
From: 09/19/2011 To: 11/18/2011		From: 04/02/2012 To 07/20/2012		
110m. 07/17/2011 10. 11/10/2011		<u> </u>		
Course Description	Contact	Course Description	Contact	
	Hours		Hours	
Basic Computer	30	Med/Surg I	120	
Medical Terminology	60	Med/Surg II	120	
Anatomy and Physiology	180	Med/Surg Clinical	200	
		Med/Surg Lab	40	
Total Contact Hours	270	Geriatrics Theory	30	
Required		Geriatrics Clinical	40	
		Total Contact Hours Required	550	
		•		
SECOND QUARTER		FOURTH QUARTER		
From: 11/21/2011 To: 03/30/2012		From: 07/23/2012 To: 02/08/2013		
Course Description	Contact	Course Description	Contact	
<u> </u>	Hours		Hours	
Diet and Nutrition	6 0	Pediatric Nursing	90	
Pharmacology	120	Pediatric Nursing Clinical	40	
Nursing Fundamentals	210	Maternity Nursing	90	
Nursing Fundamentals Lab	60	Maternity Clinical	40	
Nursing Fundamentals	40	Mental Health Nursing	30	
Clinical		Mental Health Clinical	40	
	490	Professional Development &	60	
Total Contact Hours		NCLEX Review		
		Total Contact Hours Required	390	

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⁵ On or about July 8, 2021, in the U.S. District Court of Maryland, Director was indicted on charges of Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud; Conspiracy to Commit False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters and False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters. According to the Criminal Complaint, Director conspired with two other individuals and submitted false statements relating to health care matters by working together to sell fraudulent transcripts and diplomas that indicate that various individuals completed necessary courses and clinical hours to obtain nursing degrees and coached these unqualified individuals to pass the nursing board exam.

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Summary of Clinical Agencies/Facilities and dates for each experience

Clinical Courses	Clinical Agency	Clinical Start Date	Clinical End Date	Total Hours
Nursing Fundamentals	Facility 1	3/26/12	3/30/12	40
Medical-Surgical Nursing	Facility 1 Facility 2	6/4/12	7/6/12	200
Geriatric Nursing	Facility 3	7/16/12	7/20/12	40
Maternity Nursing	Facility 4	8/20/12	8/24/12	40
Pediatric Nursing	Facility 4	9/24/12	9/28/12	40
Mental Health Nursing	Facility 5	10/15/12	10/19/12	40

THE BOARD'S INVESTIGATION

- 10. In a letter dated September 8, 2021, the Board's staff was notified by Facility 1, "we regret to inform you that after searching our records, we were unable to locate any school agreement for clinical rotations with [LPN School]."
- 11. On August 5, 2021, a Board Investigator contacted the General Counsel for Facility 2 and Facility 3, requesting information on any agreements with LPN School. On August 5, 2021, the General Counsel responded by email, stating "I searched our contracts database and do not find any contracts with [LPN School]. Additionally, as a skilled nursing facility, I do not believe we would have hosted clinicals for surgical nursing."
- 12. On August 6, 2021, a Board Investigator contacted Facility 4's Executive Director by phone. Executive Director stated that Facility 4 does not offer OB/GYN or pediatric care and that the program offers services to troubled teens, there are no nurses on staff, and the program does not offer any medical services.

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- 13. On August 25, 2021, the Board's staff was notified by email that Facility 5 "does not have any affiliation or contracts with any nursing institute for any clinical hours."
- 14. By letter dated August 31, 2021, the Board notified the Respondent that the clinical sites listed on the Respondent's official transcript from the LPN School "had no affiliation with the nursing program." The Board included a Subpoena Duces Tecum ("Subpoena") to the Respondent commanding her to appear at the Board on September 20, 2021, for an interview. The Respondent was also commanded to produce and provide to the Board copies of transcripts from all schools attended for any LPN program, transcripts from all schools attended for any RN program, clinical rotations documentation from all schools attended for any LPN program, clinical rotations documentation from all schools attended for any RN program, and proof of school attendance. The Respondent was informed that "[f]ailure to cooperate with a lawful investigation by the Board is itself a violation of the Nurse Practice Act (NPA) and could result in additional disciplinary action."
- 15. The Board did not receive a response nor did the Respondent appear for the scheduled interview.

DISCUSSION

16. The Respondent submitted a Maryland LPN application with fraudulent information about her LPN School, including a fraudulent transcript from the school. Based on the information provided, the Respondent did not meet the Board's statutory and regulatory requirements, didactic and clinical training, for LPN licensure by exam, endorsement, or

by multi-state licensure privilege. The Respondent's continued practice poses a serious risk and danger to the public health, safety, and welfare.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based on the foregoing investigative findings and reasons, the Board finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action in this case pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Govt. § 10-226(c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.).

ORDER

It is hereby:

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested in the Board of Nursing by Maryland Code Ann., State Govt. § 10-226(c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.) the Multi-State Licensing Privilege (Iowa – P63457) of LIZETTE NGAMALUE to practice as a licensed practical nurse in the State of Maryland is hereby SUMMARILY SUSPENDED; and be it further

ORDERED that there will be a Show Cause Hearing on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 11:30a.m. before the Board at the Maryland Board of Nursing offices, 4140 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215: and be it further

ORDERED that if, the suspension of the Respondent's Multi-State Licensing Privilege (Iowa – P63457) is continued following a Show Cause Hearing, the Respondent has the right to a full evidentiary hearing before the Board and a hearing will be scheduled before the Board if the Respondent submits a written request for an evidentiary hearing to the Board no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the Board's written decision issued after the Show Cause Hearing; and be it further

ORDERED that if the Respondent does not submit a timely written request to the Board for an evidentiary hearing within 30 days from the date of the Board's written decision issued after

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STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE

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the Show Cause Hearing, the Respondent shall have waived all rights now and in the future to any

hearing on the merits of the summary suspension of the Respondent's Multi-State Licensing

Privilege (Iowa – P63457) and the factual allegations contained in this Order for Summary

Suspension; and it is further

ORDERED that this Order for Summary Suspension shall remain in effect and the

summary suspension of the Respondent's Multi-State Licensing Privilege (Iowa – P63457) shall

continue until further Order of the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that this, "Order for Summary Suspension of Multi-State Licensing Privilege

to Practice Licensed Practical Nurse License Pursuant to Section 10-226(c)(2) of the

Administrative Procedure Act" is a PUBLIC RECORD pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General

Provisions § 4-101 et seq. & § 4-333 (2019).

May 11, 2022

Date

Karen E.B. Evans, MSN, RN-BC

The Executive Director's Signature

Appears on the Original Document

Maryland Board of Nursing