

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE MARYLAND
KELLY HANKERSON	*	BOARD OF NURSING
Multi-State Licensing Privilege to Practice Registered Nursing (Florida-License No. RN9547243)	*	OAG Case No.: 23-BP-058
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ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF MULTI-STATE LICENSING PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-226(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 **KELLY HANKERSON**, (the “Respondent”), **Multi-State Licensing Privilege to Practice Registered Nursing** (Florida-License No. RN9547243). 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

1. On September 28, 2020, the Florida Board of Nursing (“Florida Board”) issued the Respondent a license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Florida, license number RN9547243. The Respondent’s Florida RN license is active and scheduled to expire on July 31, 2024. The Compact status of the Respondent’s Florida RN is “Multistate.”²

NURSYS³

2. NCLEX⁴ registration data shows: the Respondent sat for the NCLEX-RN exam on September 26, 2020; education program: Siena Education Center, LLC; Applicant made eligible by: Florida.⁵
3. NURSYS indicates Siena College of Health, as the RN school connected to the Respondent’s Florida RN license.
4. According to NURSYS, the Respondent only holds an RN license in Florida.

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, Florida 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 A national database provided through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), for verification of LPN/RN licensure, disciplinary action, and practice privilege.

⁴ Licensure examination.

⁵ The information provided via NCLEX department combines personal data, supplied by the applicant to the board on 9/26/2020 during the exam eligibility process, with exam registration data taken.

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BACKGROUND:

U.S District Court – Southern District of Florida

Information:

5. On January 23, 2023, an Information was filed alleging that Eunide Sanon committed Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud.

Change of Plea/Factual Basis in Support of Plea

6. On March 14, 2023, Eunide Sanon entered a plea of Guilty and the Court accepted the plea of guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud.
7. The Court found there was a factual basis for the plea as provided in the Factual Basis in

Support of Plea below:

Defendant Eunide Sanon, a resident of Broward County, was the Owner, Registered Agent, and Manager of Siena Education and Siena College (collectively Siena).

....

From on or about November 17, 2018, through in or around October 2021, in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, Eunide Sanon, ..., and others sold false and fraudulent diplomas and educational transcripts to co-conspirators which falsely represented that the co-conspirators had completed the necessary courses and/or clinical training to obtain nursing degrees from Siena when in fact the co-conspirators had never completed the necessary courses and/or clinical training.

....

Eunide Sanon ..., and others mailed and caused others to mail, by United States Postal Service, fake diplomas, transcripts, and other false and fraudulent documents to co-conspirators and to state licensing agencies, including NYSED, on behalf of the co-conspirators.

....

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Using the false and fraudulent continuing education certifications, diplomas, transcripts, and other fraudulent documents, Eunide Sanon, ..., and others assisted co-conspirators to obtain fraudulent nursing licenses from state licensing agencies, and ultimately employment in the healthcare field.

Co-conspirators used the false and fraudulent diplomas, transcripts and other documents created and distributed by Eunide Sanon and others, to fraudulently obtain employment and benefits at various unwitting health care providers throughout the country.

Affidavit of Eunide Sanon

8. In a notarized affidavit, signed on December 15, 2022, Eunide Sanon declared under penalties of perjury the following information was true and correct:

I owned and operated Siena Education Center, LLC, *doing business as* Siena College of Health (“Siena”) from its incorporation on or about October 20, 2003 to its dissolution on or about September 23, 2022. Siena was located at 7491 Oakland Park Boulevard, Suite 100, Lauderhill, Florida 33319.

Siena was licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Florida Board of Nursing and was authorized to offer medical programs to include a practical nursing program and an Associate in Science degree. The objective of the programs was “to provide quality education to students seeking careers in medically related fields.”

....

Siena was authorized to offer an Associate in Science nursing program. This was a 90-week program consisting of 74 semester hours including at least 50% clinical training. The objective of this program was “to prepare students for employment as Registered Nurses.”

....

From in or around November 2017 to in or around October 2021, Siena College of Health may have issued transcripts and diplomas to 2,016 individuals listed in Attachment B, who did not complete the required program hours and clinical training necessary to obtain either a practical nursing diploma and transcript or a nursing Associate in Science degree and transcript.

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9. The Respondent's name is listed in Attachment B of the Affidavit, along with the Respondent's DOB and SSN indicating that the Respondent did not complete the requisite program hours and clinical training necessary to obtain a nursing Associate in Science degree and transcript.

DISCUSSION

10. The Respondent sat for and passed the NCLEX-RN in September 2020 and identified her education program as Siena Education Center. The Respondent received a RN license by exam in the State of Florida based on, among other things, the information she provided to the Florida Board of Nursing regarding her education program.
11. In a signed affidavit, Eunide Sanon, owner and operator of Siena Education Center, LLC, provided a list of individuals who did not complete the required program hours and clinical training at Siena College of Health, necessary to receive a transcript or a nursing associate in science degree. The Respondent was identified on the list by name, DOB and SSN.
12. The Respondent does not meet the Board's statutory and regulatory requirements for RN licensure in Maryland.
13. The Respondent holds an active RN license in Florida with multistate privilege to practice in Maryland. The Respondent's ability and opportunity to practice as an RN in the State of Maryland and/or any compact state on a fraudulently obtained RN license, 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.).

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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** (Florida – RN9547243) of **KELLY HANKERSON** to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Maryland is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and be it further

ORDERED that there will be a Show Cause Hearing on **Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 1:00 p.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 (Florida – RN9547243) 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 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 (Florida – RN9547243) and the factual allegations contained in this Order for Summary Suspension; and it is further

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ORDERED that this Order for Summary Suspension shall remain in effect and the summary suspension of the Respondent’s Multi-State Licensing Privilege (Florida – RN9547243) 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 Registered 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 4, 2023
Date

Karen E.B. Evans, MSN, RN-BC
The Executive Director’s Signature
Appears on the Original Document

Maryland Board of Nursing