

IN THE MATTER OF * **BEFORE THE**
IYONNA M. ANTHONY, * **MARYLAND BOARD**
PHARMACY TECHNICIAN * **OF PHARMACY**
RESPONDENT *
REGISTRATION NO.: T21741 * **Case No.: 20-478**

* * * * *

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-226(c)(2) (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2019 Supp.) and Md. Code Regs. ("COMAR") 10.34.01.12, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") hereby summarily suspends the registration of **Iyonna M. Anthony, Registration Number T21741** (the "Respondent"), to practice as a pharmacy technician, under the Maryland Pharmacy Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 12-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2019 Supp.). This Order is based on the following investigative findings, which the Board has reason to believe are true:

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS¹

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was registered to practice as a pharmacy technician in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally registered to practice as a pharmacy technician in Maryland on or about November 8, 2018. The Respondent's registration expires on July 31, 2020.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as a pharmacy technician at a national chain pharmacy (the "Pharmacy").²

¹ The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct are only intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis for 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 this matter.

3. On or about May 26, 2020, the Board received a complaint (the “Complaint”) from the Baltimore County Police Department, Narcotics Pharmaceutical Diversion Unit. Enclosed with the Complaint was a Police Report and a written statement signed by the Respondent.

4. The Police Report provided, in part:

[C]overt camera[s] [were installed in the Pharmacy] . . . with a view of the shelf where the Alprazolam³ is kept. . . .

On May 7, 2020, [the Respondent] is seen selecting pill bottles and placing the pill bottles in her right jacket pocket. . . . On May 19, 2020, [the Respondent] is seen selecting a bottle of Alprazolam from it’s [*sic*] place of display on the shelf at approximately 1111 hours. She is then seen putting it back on the self at approximately 1114 hours. [The District Pharmacy Manager] pulled a reported showing what was dispensed on May 19, 2020, which showed that 2mg Alprazolam was not dispensed before 1200 hours on May 19, 2020, but showed that (53) Alprazolam tablets were missing from the count.

During the interview between [Pharmacy] personnel and [the Respondent] she admitted to taking 1mg and 2mg Alprazolam on various dates She stated that her family did not want her to be medicated, so she self-medicated. She then provided a written statement to [Pharmacy] personnel

At 1337 hours, [the Detective and the Corporal] sat down with [the Respondent] at [the Pharmacy] She advised the same details to the detectives that she told [Pharmacy] personnel. She further advised that she would take bottles of Alprazolam 1mg and 2mg off the shelf, put them in her jacket pocket while working, open the lid and pour pills into her pocket and then put the bottle back on the shelf. She would then keep the loose pills and take them with her. She would sell some of them to people and use some of them. . . . She advised that the medication would put her brain in a fog and that’s why her [relative] would not let her get the medication

² For confidentiality and privacy purposes, the names of individuals and facilities involved in this case are not disclosed in this document. Upon written request, the Administrative Prosecutor will provide the information to the Respondent.

³ Alprazolam is a benzodiazepine used to treat anxiety and panic disorder. It is a Schedule IV CDS.

prescribed. Despite that fact, she took it anyway because it helped her to not think about anything. [The Respondent] also admitted to selling the pills to pay for a hotel room, food and her credit card. She said she made \$360.00 from the (53) pills. . . .

. . . [The Respondent] advised that the pills were actually in a container in her purse, which was sitting on the chair next to her. She further advised in a whole that she had been stealing Alprazolam pills from the pharmacy since February of 2019

[The Corporal searched the Respondent's purse and] . . . removed a purple pill bottle like container containing (41) blue pills marked "031", which were identified as 1mg Alprazolam.

. . . The total calculation based on [the Respondent's] records of pills taken/lost from the pharmacy from May 2019 to May 2020 was 2,946 Alprazolam tablets, with a total store loss value of \$183.09.

5. According to the written statement the Respondent provided to the Pharmacy, dated May 20, 2020, the Respondent admitted, in part:

I stole due to anxiety depression. My family doesn't want me on any medication. I was prescribed Alprazolam, but I don't get the prescription. I am not aware of the amount I stole. I believe I have about 100 something.

6. On or about June 4, 2020, the Respondent was charged in the District Court for Baltimore County, Maryland with two (2) criminal misdemeanor counts and one (1) criminal felony count related to the theft from the Pharmacy. The Respondent was charged with the following: one (1) count of CDS: Possession- Not Marijuana; one (1) count of CDS Possession With Intent to Distribute; and one (1) count of Theft: \$100 To Under \$1,500. The case is currently pending.

Pharmacy Internal Investigation

7. By correspondence dated June 12, 2020, the Board received a DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) – 106 – Report of Theft or Loss of Controlled Substances (the "Report") from the Pharmacy related to the loss of Alprazolam.

8. The Report listed the controlled dangerous substances (“CDS”) that were lost/stolen as:

Trade Name	NDC Number	Dosage Str.	Quantity Lost/Stolen
Alprazolam 2 mg Tablet	00228203910	2 mg	244
Alprazolam 2 mg Tablet	51991070701	2 mg	56
Alprazolam 2 mg Tablet	51991070705	2 mg	310
Alprazolam 2 mg Tablet	59762372201	2 mg	9
Alprazolam 2 mg Tablet	65862067901	2 mg	5
Alprazolam 2 mg Tablet	65862067905	2 mg	477
Alprazolam 2 mg Tablet	67253090310	2 mg	70
Alprazolam 1 mg Tablet	00228203150	1 mg	994
Alprazolam 1 mg Tablet	65862067805	1 mg	381
Alprazolam 1 mg Tablet	67253090250	1 mg	417

9. On May 20, 2020, the Pharmacy terminated the Respondent’s employment.

10. Based on the above information, the Board has reason to believe that the Respondent diverted multiple CDS and prescription-only medications over an extended time period.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing investigative findings, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the public health, safety, and welfare imperatively require emergency action in this case, pursuant to State Gov’t § 10-226(c)(2) and COMAR 10.34.01.12.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Investigative Findings and Conclusions of Law, it is this 24th day of July 2020, by a majority of the quorum of the Board, hereby

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2), the Respondent's registration to practice as a pharmacy technician in the State of Maryland under registration number **T21741** is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent is prohibited from practicing as a pharmacy technician in the State of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall immediately return all registrations to the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent has the opportunity to appear before the Board for a post-deprivation show cause hearing. A request for a post-deprivation show cause hearing must be in writing and be made **WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS**; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent fails to request a post-deprivation show cause hearing in writing in a timely manner, or if the Respondent requests a post-deprivation show cause hearing but fails to appear when scheduled, the Respondent's registration will remain **SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that this **ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION** is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014).

July 24, 2020
Date

Deena Speights-Napata
Deena Speights-Napata, Executive
Director, for
Kevin Morgan, Pharm.D.
President
Maryland Board of Pharmacy