

IN THE MATTER OF

*** BEFORE THE**

LISA HENDRIX WHITE, P.D.

*** STATE BOARD**

License No.: 12969

*** OF**

Respondent

*** PHARMACY**

*** Case No. 18-043**

*** * * * ***

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't. (SG) §10-226 (c) (2) (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2017 Supp.), the State Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") hereby suspends the registration to practice as a pharmacist in Maryland issued to **LISA HENDRIX WHITE, P.D.**, (the "Respondent") **License No. 12969**, under the Maryland Pharmacy Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 12-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2017 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 licensed to practice as a pharmacist in Maryland. The Respondent was first licensed on November 18, 1992. The Respondent's license expires on February 28, 2019.

¹The allegations set forth in this Order are intended to provide the Respondent with 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.

BACKGROUND

2. From on or about 2007 – 2009, the Respondent was employed at a pharmacy chain in its Howard County location.

3. On or about October 22, 23, and 26, 2009, the Respondent was observed on the Pharmacy's Closed-Circuit TV removing various quantities of Hydrocodone² from the display and concealing it on her person.

4. On October 27, 2009, the Respondent was interviewed by an investigator, her Pharmacy Supervisor, and a Howard County Police Detective and admitted to the theft, confessing that she had been stealing from her employer for approximately two years.

5. Thereafter, two tablets of Vicoprofen³ were recovered from the Respondent's pants pocket and eighteen tablets were recovered from her purse.

6. Subsequently, she was placed under arrest by the Detective and her vehicle and residence were searched, resulting in further recovery of other Hydrocodone tablets.

7. After her termination from the pharmacy and arrest on criminal charges resulting from the thefts, the Respondent contacted the Board and notified the Administrative Manager that she was addicted to prescription medication.

² Hydrocodone, sold under brand names such as Vicodin and Norco among many others, is a semisynthetic opioid derived from codeine, one of the opioid alkaloids found in the opium poppy. It is a narcotic analgesic used orally for relief of moderate to severe pain, but also commonly taken in liquid form as an antitussive/cough suppressant.¹ Hydrocodone is used to treat moderate to severe pain and as an antitussive to treat cough.

³ The drug combination hydrocodone/ibuprofen is an analgesic medication used in short-term therapy to relieve severe pain. Vicoprofen combines the analgesic and antitussive properties of hydrocodone with the analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and antipyretic properties of ibuprofen.

8. The Respondent pled guilty to possession of CDS and theft under \$100 and received Probation Before Judgment.⁴

9. Based upon the aforesaid, the Board took the following actions:

A. The Board summarily suspended the Respondent's license on June 21, 2010;

B. The Board and the Respondent entered into a Consent Order Terminating Summary Suspension, dated September 1, 2010, suspending the Respondent's license for one year, beginning November 1, 2009, with conditions during the period of suspension;

C. The Board signed an Order of Modification, dated February 10, 2012, which allowed the Respondent to practice as a dispensing pharmacist and allowed her to work in a dispensing role as a floater or for a staffing agency;

D. The Board signed an Order Terminating Probation, dated March 23, 2015.

⁴ Probation Before Judgment ("PBJ") means that a person has been placed on probation before any criminal judgment has been entered against him/her. The provisions regarding PBJ are codified under the Maryland Code of Criminal Procedure, Section 6-220.

CURRENT FINDINGS

10. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as a pharmacist at a pharmacy in Pocomoke City, in Worcester County, Maryland, hereinafter the "Pharmacy".

11. On or about October 13, 2017, the Board received a complaint from a pharmacist at the Pharmacy which stated, *inter alia*, after the Respondent started working at the Pharmacy, he noticed narcotics were missing from the inventory. He noted that anywhere from one to five narcotic tablets were missing from various bottles.

12. The pharmacist stated that, on October 11, 2017, he performed an audit of narcotics he audited on October 5, 2017 and discovered the following:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen ⁵ , 7.5mg/325mg | 3 pills missing |
| Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen, 10 mg/325mg | 11 pills missing |
| Morphine ⁶ , 15 mg | 2 pills missing |
| Oxycodone/Acetaminophen ⁷ , 10mg/325 mg | 9 pills missing |
| Oxycodone, 15 mg | 3 pills missing |
| OxyContin ⁸ , 30 mg | 1 pill missing |

⁵ Hydrocodone is in a group of drugs called narcotic pain relievers. Acetaminophen is a less potent pain reliever that increases the effects of hydrocodone. The combination of acetaminophen and hydrocodone is used to relieve moderate to severe pain. In this combination, there are 7.5 mg of hydrocodone and 325 mg of acetaminophen. (Acetaminophen is the generic name of Tylenol).

⁶ Morphine is an opioid pain medication. An opioid is sometimes called a narcotic. Morphine is used to treat moderate to severe pain.

⁷ Oxycodone is an opioid pain medication. An opioid is sometimes called a narcotic. Acetaminophen is a less potent pain reliever that increases the effects of oxycodone. Acetaminophen and oxycodone is a combination medicine used to relieve moderate to severe pain. In this combination, there are 10 mg of Oxycodone and 325 mg of Acetaminophen.

⁸ OxyContin (oxycodone) is an opioid pain medication, sometimes called a narcotic. OxyContin is used to treat moderate to severe pain. OxyContin extended-release tablets are used for around-the-clock treatment of pain.

13. The pharmacist reported the shortages to the owner of the Pharmacy as well as to the Pocomoke City Police Department. The Police Officer met with the owner who was able to pull up the Closed-Circuit TV video from October 9, 2017. On the video, the Respondent and another employee are observed both leaving the pharmacy at closing.

14. However, approximately 6 minutes later, the Respondent is observed walking back into the closed Pharmacy and into the employee's bathroom. Two minutes later, the Respondent is observed walking to the narcotics cabinet and opening it. The Respondent can then be seen picking up numerous narcotic bottles, opening them and appearing to dump some of the contents into her hand and then putting them into her left back pocket. The Respondent left the Pharmacy four minutes later.

15. The owner of the Pharmacy estimated that the narcotics stolen by the Respondent were valued between \$100-200.

16. Based upon the above, the Respondent was terminated from employment at the Pharmacy and criminal charges were brought against her in the District Court of Maryland for Worcester County. On December 1, 2017, the Respondent pled guilty to Count 1, Theft \$100 to under \$1500. The Respondent received Probation Before Judgment, unsupervised for one year; fines and costs of \$357.50 to be paid by February 1, 2018; and was ordered to complete a substance addiction program.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing, the Board finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, pursuant to SG §10-226 (c) (2).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing, it is therefore this 13th day of August, 2018, by a majority vote of a quorum of the State Board of Pharmacy, by authority granted to the Board by SG §10-226(c) (2), the license held by **LISA HENDRIX WHITE, P.D.**, the Respondent, to practice pharmacy in Maryland, License No. 12969, is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and be it further

ORDERED that, upon the Board's receipt of a written request from the Respondent, a Show Cause Hearing shall be scheduled within a reasonable time of said request, at which the Respondent will be given an opportunity to be heard as to whether the Summary Suspension should be continued, regarding the Respondent's fitness to practice as a Pharmacist and the danger to the public; and be it further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall immediately turn over to the Board her wall certificate and wallet-sized license to practice as a pharmacist issued by the Board; and be it further

ORDERED that this document constitutes a final Order of the Board and is, therefore, a public document for purposes of public disclosure, as required by Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101, *et seq.* (2014 Vol. and 2017 Supp.).



Deena Speights-Napata, Executive Director
Board of Pharmacy

NOTICE OF HEARING

A Show Cause hearing to determine whether the Summary Suspension shall be continued will be held before the Board at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, 21215 following a written request by the Respondent for same.