STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION
BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION
AND NURSING EDUCATION

Vs

MARY BETH HAMMOND, RN (RN21430)

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to Section 5-34-25 the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, 2004 Reenactment, a complaint was filed with the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education (hereinafter referred to as "Board") charging Mary Beth Hammond, RN, Respondent with a violation of Chapter 5-34 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, 2008 Reenactment. After consideration by the Investigating Committee of the Board, it was agreed by and between the parties:

1. Respondent is a registered nurse and able to conduct business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Rhode Island.
2. The Respondent surrendered her registered nurse license for 1 year with treatment and monitoring in 1993.
3. The Respondent's registered nurse license was reinstated with 6 months Probation in 1994, and released from Probation in 1995.
4. The Respondent admits to diverting narcotics (two fentanyl patches) while working at Woodland Health Center in Rhode Island during 2008 and 2009.
5. On or about December 10, 2009 the Respondent voluntarily surrendered her registered nurse license.
6. The Respondent has since returned to counseling and treatment for substance abuse and has demonstrated commitment to such.

7. That Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands that it is a proposal of the Board and is subject to final ratification by the Board. This Consent Order and the contents thereof are not binding on Respondent until final ratification by the Board.

8. Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:

   a) The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Board;

   b) The right to produce witnesses and evidence in her behalf at a hearing;

   c) The right to cross-examine witnesses;

   d) The right to have subpoenas issued by the Board;

   e) The right to further procedural steps except for those specifically contained herein;

   f) Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order;

   g) Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review;

   h) Any objection to the fact that it will be necessary for the board to become acquainted with all evidence pertaining to this matter in order to adequately review this Consent Order;

   i) Any objection to the fact that the Board reviewing this Consent Order may be the same as the Hearing Committee presiding over this matter should it later be brought to an administrative proceeding;

   j) Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of this Consent Order to the Board.

9. This Consent Order shall become part of the public record of this proceeding once it is accepted by all parties and accepted by the Board and Respondent's license shall reflect that the status is probationary.

10. Acceptance by the Respondent and approval by the Board of this Consent Order constitutes an admission of the facts contained herein.

11. Failure to comply with the Consent Order, once signed and accepted, shall subject the Respondent to further disciplinary action.

12. That the Respondent's registered nurse license be placed on a (3) year period of probation subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this order.

13. That said probationary period shall commence upon the date of the execution of this Consent Order by all the parties and will abate for the duration of any period in which Respondent ceases to be employed as a nurse. Upon employment as a registered nurse Respondent shall notify the Board as to the name and address of the employer and the date employment commenced.

14. That, during the period of probation, Respondent shall submit to the Board evaluations from the employer at (3) month intervals relating to Respondent's conduct and performance; that it shall be the responsibility of the Respondent to have the employer submit said reports..

15. That during the period of probation Respondent shall notify the Board forthwith of any changes in employment, including the name and address of the new employer(s) and the reason for said change.

16. That, during the period of probation, Respondent shall not work in a staffing agency and/or pool or in a home health environment.

17. That Respondent shall work under the supervision of a registered nurse at all times, shall never work alone, and not work more than 48 hours per work week.

18. Not administer narcotics.

19. Not work within 12 hours of the previous shift and may not work double shifts.

20. Have time off on a regular basis to attend her treatment program.

21. Not work nights (11-7 PM).

22. Not work in any high stress high access areas such as the (Intensive Care Unit, Coronary Care Unit, Emergency Room, Operating Room, or Recovery Room).

23. The Respondent agrees that she will continue in individual counseling and or treatment for drug and or alcohol abuse approve by the Board approved health care provider, participate in weekly group therapy and submit to random drug and alcohol testing. Respondent must also attend AA and NA meetings.

24. Respondent waives confidentiality of treatment and will direct the healthcare professional rendering treatment to release any progress reports to the Board including, but not limited to, quarterly progress reports and monthly and random urine and drug screening reports for the duration of the Respondent's treatment program.

25. That Respondent's health care providers not prescribe any mood altering and or controlled substances unless there is no other reasonable alternative. In the event that such drugs are may be needed as a legitimate part of the Respondent's care, the Respondent shall notify the Board immediately.

26. The Respondent agrees to give her personal healthcare provider(s) permission to release information to the Board and allows the Board to contact the aforementioned personal healthcare provider(s) as deemed necessary. The Board may require consultation with an addictionologist and the Respondent shall agree to abide by any determination made by the addictionologist.

27. That Respondent agrees to cease <u>all patient care related</u> nursing practice upon relapse, notify her employer of such and immediately return her license to the Board. The Respondent understands she may not practice nursing until cleared to return by the

Board. If the respondent is in a non-patient care nursing position, she will immediately notify the Director of the Board who will evaluate her ability to continue to practice.

28. The Respondent shall give a copy of this Consent Order to the healthcare professional and the Respondent's employer with the understanding that the healthcare provider and employer shall notify the Board of any breach or termination by the Respondent of this consent agreement.

29. The Respondent agrees to obtain at least five (5) contact hours of continuing education per year in one or more of the following areas commencing upon execution of this agreement:

a) psycho-pharmacology of addiction;

b) the disease concept of addiction;

c) denial and other defenses related to substance abuse;

d) relapse prevention;

e) the family disease concept of addiction;

f) the addicted professional.

The Respondent must notify the Board and obtain approval for these courses prior to registering and enrolling in them. The Respondent must submit documentation of attendance at the continuing education program(s) including an outline of the presentation(s) and a certificate of attendance.

30. That should Respondent comply with the laws and regulations governing the practice of nursing during the period of probation and comply with the requirements of this Consent Order, Respondent may apply to the Board for an unrestricted license to practice as a registered nurse.

31. That should Respondent fail to comply with the laws and regulations governing

the practice of nursing and/or fail to comply with the terms of this Order, the license as a registered nurse shall be subject to suspension or other appropriate disciplinary action.

Mary Beth Hammond, RN

Mary Beth Hammond, RN

President, Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education

Ratified as an order of the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education at a meeting held on this 8th day of November 2010.