STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

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

vs.

SHARON KELLER, RN (40819)

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to Section 5-34-24 the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, 2008 Reenactment, a complaint was filed with the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education (hereinafter referred to as "Board") charging Sharon Keller, 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. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board and hereby agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Board.
3. Respondent acknowledges being in treatment for a substance problem.
4. 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.
5. 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 his 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.

6. 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.

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

8. That the Respondent shall serve at least a 30 month period of probation subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this order.

9. 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.

10. That, during the period of probation, Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to all current and future employers. Respondent shall ensure that submit to the Board evaluations from the employer at three (3) month intervals relating to Respondent's conduct and performance; that it shall be the responsibility of Respondent to have the employer submit said reports.

11. 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.

12. That, during the period of probation, Respondent shall not work in a staffing agency and/or pool or in a home health environment. That Respondent shall work under the supervision of a registered nurse at all times and this registered nurse must be physically present in the facility at all times in which Respondent is on duty.

13. That, during the period of probation, Respondent shall not participate in the count of controlled substances nor administer them.

14. The Respondent agrees that he will continue in individual counseling and or treatment for drug and or alcohol abuse approve by the Board, and shall continue such counseling and or treatment programs as the healthcare professional rendering his care deems appropriate including but not limited to, attendance at a minimum of three (3) AA and NA meetings/ week and to include sponsorship, nursing assistance and nurse support groups as needed.

15. 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.

16. Respondent waives confidentiality and allows communication among the health care professional rendering treatment, the Board staff and Respondent's employer.

17. That Respondent shall give a copy of this Consent Order to the healthcare professional which is hereby directed by the Respondent to notify the Board of any breach or termination by the Respondent of his treatment.

18. 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.

19. 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.

Sharon Keller, RN

Sharon Keller, 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 ~~9th~~ 14th day of September 2009.