

**BEFORE THE REVIEW COMMITTEE
OF THE AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD**

In the Disciplinary Matter of:

Stephanie Marie Green Laygo, CNM
Respondent

DECISION

The American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) received written notice of disciplinary action from the Pennsylvania Board of Medicine [Docket No.: 0197-49-14; File No. 13-49-12007] against Stephanie Marie Green Laygo, Respondent.

In accordance with AMCB procedures, the complaint was reviewed by the President of AMCB. It was determined that Respondent's behavior constituted grounds for disciplinary review. Accordingly, by letter dated December 4, 2018, AMCB notified Respondent that it had initiated a disciplinary proceeding to determine whether good cause existed for imposing discipline under the following provisions of the Disciplinary Policy:

A.5 Habitual use of alcohol or any other substance of abuse, or any physical or mental condition that impairs competent and objective professional performance.

A.7. Limitation or sanction by a federal, state or private licensing board, administrative agency, association or health care organization relating to public health, or safety, or midwifery practice.

A.9 Engaging in conduct which is inconsistent with professional standards, including but not limited to (i) any practice that creates unnecessary danger to a patient's life, health or safety; and (ii) any practice that is contrary to the ethical conduct appropriate to the profession that results in termination or suspension from practice. Actual injury to a patient or the public need not be shown under this provision.

The notice requested that Respondent submit a written answer to these charges within 30 days. The Respondent did not respond to AMCB's letter of December 4, 2018.

A Review Committee comprised of a Chair (Mary Barger, CNM, PhD, MPH, FACNM) and two qualified members (Elizabeth Parr, CNM, MSN and Jamie Swietlikowski, CNM) was duly convened.

Findings

Currently Respondent is certified by AMCB until 12/31/2020.

Case comes from the Board of Medicine of the State of Pennsylvania concerning Stephanie Marie Green Laygo [Docket No. 0197-49-14; File No. 13-49-12007]

In February 2008, Respondent experienced a traumatic birth and was prescribed Percocet for pain. She subsequently experienced postpartum depression and this contributed to her development of chemical dependency on Percocet.

In February 2009 she entered Pennsylvania's Voluntary Recovery Program (VRP) as part of the Professional Health Monitoring Program (PHMP) which requires a period of 3 years of monitoring.

In November 2010 Respondent failed a random drug test (positive for ethyl sulfate and ethyl glucuronide).

May 24, 2011 and July 18, 2011 Respondent notified the PHMP she consumed wine on both occasions. She also admitted to wine consumption of August 2011 to escape her abusive marriage. At this time Respondent entered a 30-day inpatient drug treatment program (August to September).

A consent agreement in July 2012 stated she could remain on 3 years probation (retroactive to fall 2011) as long as she remained in an approved monitoring program of the PHMP and made satisfactory progress. She was required to abstain from all controlled substances including prescriptions and drugs of abuse including alcohol.

Her marriage ended in 2013 and she relocated to Georgia around May 2013. She ceased communicating with the PHMP after May 2013 but continued to submit drug screens.

In October 2013, Respondent had a positive random drug screen for alcohol and to which she admitted to drinking beer. From April to November, 2013 she failed to provide monthly documentation of attendance at support group meetings.

February 2014 her period of probation was suspended, and her license revoked for 3 years due to violations of the conditions of the PHMP and failure to communicate with the Board at this time.

In January 2015, she re-enrolled in a monitoring program. In June 2015, she had two positive tests for Benadryl and alcohol. Respondent attributed results to cold medication and not knowing Benadryl was on the banned list of drugs. She re-married in July 2015 to Dr. Laygo and in Georgia was under the care of MD and LCSW specializing in addictions. In addition to drug treatment for her addiction and depression, she regularly attends two different support group meetings and is in a 12-step program. It was noted that since random drug tests were started, 48 out of 51 of Respondent's drug tests have

tested negative. Her providers and Respondent feel she has made substantial progress in her recovery and she should be permitted the ability to practice with close monitoring.

In April 2017 the Pennsylvania Board of Medicine issued a notice of re-instatement of Respondent's nurse-midwifery license (#MW010179) in favor of 5 years probation with strict monitoring requirements, both state and at work, and attendance at support groups. In addition, due to the fact she had not practiced in more than 4 years, the Board stated she would need to meet the ACNM requirements for re-entry into practice through attendance of a refresher program before working again as a nurse-midwife.

Discussion

In this matter we are called upon to decide whether and what discipline is warranted against a CNM who has been unable to meet the stipulations of a prior state sanction on her license to practice nurse-midwifery.

Respondent was found to be in violation of the AMCB Policy **A. 5.** (*Habitual use of alcohol or any other substance of abuse, or any physical or mental condition that impairs competent and objective performance*) and **A.7** (*Limitation or sanction by a federal, state or private licensing board, administrative agency, association or health care organization relating to public health or safety, or midwifery practice*). The committee noted there is no evidence that Respondent's substance use impaired the care of patients.

Sanctions

The committee determines that the following sanctions shall be imposed for the violations found:

1. Suspension of AMCB Certification. Respondent's certification is hereby suspended until December 31, 2023 pending her submission of documentation of completion of an accredited nurse-midwifery refresher program.

Review Committee

Mary Barger, CNM, PhD, MPH, FACNM, Chair
Elizabeth Parr, CNM, MSN
Jamie Swietlikowski, CNM

Linda Hunter, CNM, EdD, FACNM
President, AMCB Board of Directors
Effective: 11-7-2019