



News Release

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State disciplines health care providers

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions, and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 80 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency website. Click on "[Look up a healthcare provider license](#)" in the "How Do I?" section of the [Department of Health website](#) (doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are also encouraged to call and report their complaint.

Clark County

In August 2013 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Jennifer L. Carter** (NA00182552) with unprofessional conduct. Carter allegedly didn't comply with a previous stipulation.

In August 2013 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program conditionally granted a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to **Brian Carl Schwab** (CO60361131) and placed him on probation. In 1998 Schwab was convicted of fourth-degree assault — domestic violence. In 2009 he was convicted of third-degree assault — domestic violence and harassment (felony — death threats) — domestic violence. The same year he was convicted of driving while intoxicated.

Franklin County

In August 2013 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program ended conditions on the credentials of chemical dependency professional trainee **Michelle Marie Welch**, also known as Michelle Marie Hopwood (CO60178525), who may now practice without restrictions.

Grant County

In August 2013 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Bryan P. Blann** (NC10037624) with unprofessional conduct. The Department of Social and Health Services found Blann neglected vulnerable adults. He is no longer allowed to be employed in caring for or having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.

King County

In July 2013 the Naturopathy Board filed an amended statement of charges against naturopathic physician **Ronald Gerard Waling** (NT00000425). It adds details about Waling's alleged sexual relationship with a patient. It also alleges that Waling instructed the patient to sign a statement indicating Waling had done nothing inappropriate as her health care provider, and that he instructed the patient to ask a couple she'd told about the relationship to sign a confidentiality agreement.

In August 2013 the Psychology Board charged psychologist **Harry A. Atlas** (PY00001159) with unprofessional conduct. Atlas allegedly formed a non-therapeutic relationship with a client, meeting and traveling with her outside of work, discussing personal information with her, and asking her to help with his personal taxes and bookkeeping. He also allegedly took part in "bodywork" sessions with her without recognizing she might develop feelings for him. When the client told Atlas she was in love with him, he didn't end the relationship. Atlas allegedly didn't keep adequate records or monitor the progress of the patient's therapy.

In August 2013 the Pharmacy Board charged pharmacy technician **Graham R. Lord** (VA00050833) with unprofessional conduct. Lord allegedly diverted hydrocodone tablets for his personal use from a pharmacy where he worked. Lord hasn't complied with requests from the investigator for a written explanation.

Kitsap County

In July 2013 the Nursing Assistant Program ended probation for certified nursing assistant **Hollie Marie Stevens** (NC10092719). She may now practice without restrictions.

In August 2013 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program ended probation for chemical dependency professional trainee **Lori Michele Rickert** (CO60273755). She may now practice without restrictions.

Lincoln County

In August 2013 the Nursing Assistant Program entered an agreement with certified nursing assistant **Michele L. Henderson** (NC10048147) that reinstated her credential. Henderson must participate in a monitoring program. Her credential was suspended in 2009 after she didn't respond to a statement of charges.

Pierce County

In July 2013 the Nursing Assistant Program entered an agreement with certified nursing assistant **Tina Marie Barber** (NC10037691) that reactivated her expired credential. Barber was reprimanded and ordered to participate in a monitoring program. From 2002 to 2010 Barber was convicted of two felonies and four misdemeanors.

In July 2013 the Dental Commission ended conditions on the credentials of dentist and dentist general anesthesia permit holder **Walter F. Foto** (DE00008264, GA10000320), who may now practice without restrictions.

In August 2013 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program conditionally granted a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to **Jason William Hindman** (CO60363483) and placed him on probation. From 1998 to 2008 Hindman was convicted of three felonies, five gross misdemeanors, and two misdemeanors.

Snohomish County

In August 2013 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Cindy L. Otness** (RN00114305) with unprofessional conduct. Otness allegedly had a romantic and sexual relationship with a patient. She allegedly borrowed or accepted money from the patient when the two went to casinos together, and bought and took possession of items for the patient.

In August 2013 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Deborah A. Cook** (RN00051570) with unprofessional conduct. Cook allegedly didn't comply with a substance abuse referral contract.

In July 2013 the Home Care Aide Program conditionally granted a home care aide credential to **Michael David Burdick** (HM60334735), who must undergo screening for a monitoring program. In 2003 and again in 2008 Burdick was convicted of driving while intoxicated. In 2009 he was convicted of second-degree driving while license suspended or revoked.

In August 2013 the Nursing Commission entered an agreement with registered nurse **Stephanie Michelle Scott** (RN00172953) that requires Scott to participate in a monitoring program. In 2012 she was discharged from a monitoring program for non-compliance. She didn't follow-up on an inquiry about rejoining the program. A hospital where Scott worked fired her when she allegedly refused to take a drug test after being questioned about missing narcotics. A review later showed 88 medications that were unaccounted for had been dispensed to Scott.

In August 2013 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program ended probation for chemical dependency professional trainee **Robin Louise Cannon** (CO60212290).

In August 2013 the Massage Program amended a statement of charges against massage practitioner **Richard M. Oliver** (MA00015442) to reflect that Oliver married a former patient, but no sexual or other inappropriate conduct took place in a health care setting.

In August 2013 the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems Program charged emergency medical technician **Emma K. Bush** (ES01168275) with unprofessional conduct. Bush allegedly has been diagnosed with alcohol and dexamethorphan dependence, major depressive disorder, and posttraumatic stress disorder. While working for an ambulance company, Bush allegedly went on family medical leave and received in-patient substance abuse treatment. After returning to work, Bush allegedly told a health care provider she'd relapsed, drinking about 20 beers and taking about 20 dexamethorphan tablets each day.

Spokane County

In August 2013 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Aurilla Duan Poole** (RN60171659) with unprofessional conduct. A rehabilitation center patient died after being under Poole's care. Poole allegedly didn't follow a physician's order, record the order, or document the patient's condition change.

In August 2013 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program ended probation for chemical dependency professional trainee **Brandy Amber McBride** (CO60205478).

Whatcom County

In August 2013 the Pharmacy Commission charged pharmacist **Jatinder S. Bhatia** (PH00041178) with unprofessional conduct. Bhatia allegedly diverted controlled substances for his personal use from a pharmacy where he worked. He was charged in Whatcom County Superior Court with three counts of unlawful possession of controlled substances. After controlled substances were allegedly found in his vehicle at a border crossing from Canada into Washington, Bhatia signed a written statement indicating his personal pills were mingled with some from the pharmacy.

Yakima County

In July 2013 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program denied a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to **Karen Kay Dixon** (CO60352678), who from 1997 to 2006 was convicted of one felony, nine gross misdemeanors, and one count of disturbing the peace.

Note to Editors: Health care providers charged with unprofessional conduct have 20 days to respond to the Department of Health in writing. The case then enters the settlement process. If no disciplinary agreement can be reached, the case will go to a hearing.

The [Department of Health website](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).