



News Release

For immediate release: June 9, 2016

(16-068)

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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OLYMPIA -- The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.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 health care 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 encouraged to call and report their complaint.

Benton County

In February 2016 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant and certified nursing assistant **Natosha Danielle Percifield** (NA60438915, NC60442296) with unprofessional conduct. Percifield allegedly admitted stealing narcotics from residents of an adult family home where she worked.

Chelan County

In February 2016 the Mental Health Counselor Program charged mental health counselor **John D. Hoyer** (LH00009555) with unprofessional conduct. Charges say Hoyer didn't file a timely report when a client made allegations of sexual abuse.

Clallam County

In February 2016 the Marriage and Family Therapist and Agency-Affiliated Counselor programs charged marriage and family therapist and agency-affiliated counselor **Timothy J. Wyatt** (LF60520195, CG60531703) with unprofessional conduct. While providing therapy to a client, charges say, Wyatt made comments about her appearance, had close physical contact and hugged her, told her about his marriage and sexual history, and admitted he "can't handle boundaries." Wyatt allegedly admitted he "was very misguided and let it go where it shouldn't." Wyatt

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allegedly didn't document or disclose to his supervisor the sexual focus of his therapy, and asked the client to do the same.

Clark County

In February 2016 the Chemical Dependency Professional program charged chemical dependency professional **Matthew Eastman-Pittam** (CP60003457) with unprofessional conduct. Eastman-Pittam allegedly didn't comply with requirements to submit a report from a psycho-sexual evaluation and a supervisor's report.

Grays Harbor County

In February 2016 the secretary of health ended probation for chemical dependency professional trainee and agency-affiliated counselor **Stephanie Lee Becker** (CO60316788, CG60461767).

Island County

In February 2016 the secretary of health ended probation for registered nursing assistant and certified nursing assistant **Cassandra Denise Pendergrass** (NA60414482, NC60489332).

King County

In February 2016 the Massage Program charged massage practitioner **Michelle L. Deshayes** (MA00010934) with unprofessional conduct. Deshayes allegedly didn't supply documentation of having completed continuing education requirements.

In February 2016 the Medical Commission ended an agreement with physician **Michael C. Brown** (MD00028042) that placed conditions on his license.

In February 2016 the Medical Commission entered an agreement with physician **Ravinder S. Nijjar** (MD00040319) that requires him to comply with a substance abuse monitoring contract, apologize to the person who filed a complaint against him, and pay a \$1,000 fine. In 2014 Nijjar received deferred prosecution on charges of hit and run-attended vehicle and driving while intoxicated.

In February 2016 the Agency-Affiliated Counselor Program charged agency-affiliated counselor **Mafabi R. Gidudu** (CG60143466) with being unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety because of a mental condition. Charges say an examination determined Gidudu has a mental condition that, if treated properly, would allow him to practice safely.

In February 2016 the secretary of health conditionally granted an agency-affiliated counselor credential to **Virginia Ann Lord** (CG60594669), placed her on probation and ordered her to undergo evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. Between 1992 and 2009, Lord was convicted of 17 criminal counts. In 2013 she entered into a drug diversion agreement on three felony counts.

In February 2016 the secretary of health conditionally granted a chemical dependency

professional trainee credential to **Rahmaud Ruebin Lawrence** (CO60615201), placed him on probation and ordered him to undergo evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. Between 1997 and 2014, Lawrence was convicted of five felonies and four gross misdemeanors.

In February 2016 the Pharmacy Commission entered an agreement with **Jollys Pharmacy Inc.** (CF60065440) that reprimands the pharmacy and requires it to end its controlled substance takeback program. Without the commission's approval, the pharmacy accepted the return of unused controlled substances from long-term care facilities.

In February 2016 the Dental Commission conditionally granted a dentist credential to **Jacob Anthony Kerst** (DE00007451). Kerst, whose practice will be monitored for five years, must pay a \$30,000 fine. Kerst's dentist license was revoked in 2010 in connection with drug diversion, including a guilty plea to a federal charge of unlawfully acquiring a controlled substance.

In February 2016 the secretary of health ordered **Zhen Zhen Chen** to cease and desist from practicing massage without a license, and pay a \$1,000 fine. Chen, who doesn't have a massage practitioner license, offered to perform full-body massage.

In February 2016 the secretary of health ordered **Christine Christensen** to cease and desist from practicing reflexology without a license, and pay a \$1,000 fine. Christensen, who doesn't have a reflexology license, advertised foot massage and admitted treating patients.

Pierce County

In February 2016 the Counselor Program charged marriage and family therapist, mental health counselor, and chemical dependency professional **John L. Castele Jr.** (LF00001490, LH00006610, CP00002471) with unprofessional conduct. In a divorce action for a couple Castele had counseled, Castele allegedly disclosed confidential information.

In February 2016 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Regina Winston** (LP60230105) with unprofessional conduct. Winston allegedly didn't keep documentation about the care of a patient who, after being transferred out of Winston's adult family home, was found to have a cancerous lesion.

Snohomish County

In February 2016 the Massage Program charged massage practitioner **Trisha Lynn Stubblefield** (MA00025227) with unprofessional conduct. Stubblefield allegedly didn't supply documentation of having completed continuing education requirements.

Spokane County

In February 2016 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Drucilla M. Maupin** (NC60042137) with unprofessional conduct. Maupin allegedly took money from a client without permission and didn't return the full amount.

Thurston County

In February 2016 the secretary of health conditionally granted a medical assistant-phlebotomist credential to **Kenya Dezmeion Michelle Taylor** (PC60598104) and placed her on probation for at least two years. In 2016 Taylor pleaded guilty to obstructing a law enforcement officer.

Walla Walla County

In February 2016 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Melissa A. Eronemo** (RN60154735) with unprofessional conduct. Eronemo, who was convicted in 2016 of violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act – possession of Demerol, allegedly didn't comply with a substance abuse monitoring contract.

Out of State

California: In February 2016 the Medical Commission ended an agreement with physician **Mian M. Shah** (MD60010649) that placed him on probation.

California: In February 2016 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Kristin L. Beck** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Allegations are that Beck has no license as a nursing assistant or home care aide, but gave medication to residents at an assisted living facility where she worked, making a medication error in the process.

Idaho: In February 2016 the Chiropractic Commission charged chiropractor **Burk Aaron Thomas** (CH60190293) with unprofessional conduct. In 2016 Thomas was convicted on a federal charge of manufacturing hashish oil.

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://doh.wa.gov) (doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*.

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