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OLYMPIA -- The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.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

Asotin County

In December 2016 the Denturists Board ended probation for denturist Clinton Jerrod Olson (DN00000046).

Chelan County

In January 2017 the Dental Commission conditionally granted a dental assistant credential to Sara Nicole Phipps (D160714764), who in 2015 was convicted of third-degree theft.

In January 2017 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant Nichole A. Klingenberg (NC10054775) with unprofessional conduct. In 2016 Klingenberg was convicted of second-degree identity theft. Upon finding that Klingenberg financially exploited a vulnerable adult, the state Department of Social and Health Services will not allow her to be employed in caring for or having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.
Clallam County

In January 2017 the Secretary of Health charged dentist Aben L. Riojas (DE00010763) with unprofessional conduct. Riojas allegedly had sexual intercourse with a patient. Charges say he also met the patient at a bar, threw her against a wall, and began to kiss and grope her. Riojas allegedly doesn’t remember any sexual encounter with the patient because of his alcohol use.

In December 2016 the secretary of health conditionally granted a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to Caron Elizabeth Wallace (CO60696850), placed her on probation, and ordered her to undergo an evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. In 2005 Wallace was convicted of third-degree theft. In 2008 she was convicted of second-degree trespass. In 2013 she was convicted of possession of a controlled substance other than marijuana – methamphetamine. In 2014 she was convicted of fourth-degree assault – domestic violence.

Clark County

In January 2017 the Nursing Commission lifted the suspension on the registered nurse credential of Stanton Geo Miller Jr. (RN00098105) and ordered him to undergo an evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. Miller’s license was suspended in 2016 after he admitted diverting controlled substances from a facility where he worked.

In January 2017 the Medical Assistant Program charged certified medical assistant Amanda Suzanne Reinders (NC60421042) with unprofessional conduct. Charges say Reinders admitted using a physician’s Drug Enforcement Administration number and another clinic worker’s name to call in controlled substance prescriptions for her own use.

Cowlitz County

In December 2016 the secretary of health conditionally granted a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to Angela Lynn Dunn (CO60637197), placed her on probation, and ordered her to undergo an evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. Between 2012 and 2013, Dunn was convicted of three felonies and two misdemeanors.

Island County

In January 2017 the secretary of health ordered licensed marriage and family therapist Arely Jimenez (LF00002661) to cease and desist from practicing medicine or naturopathy without a license, reprimanded her, placed her on probation, and fined her $5,000. Jimenez misrepresented herself, and offered treatment her license didn’t qualify her to provide.

King County

In January 2017 the Chiropractic Commission charged chiropractor Jeffrey Lee Matheny (CH00003438) with unprofessional conduct. Matheny allegedly didn’t respond to renewal notices for his X-ray registration, nor to requests for an explanation.
In December 2016 the secretary of health conditionally granted an agency-affiliated counselor credential to Jeanette Lanell Anderson (CG60699701), placed her on probation, and ordered her to undergo an evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. In 2013 Anderson pleaded guilty to fourth-degree assault, first-degree criminal trespass, and third-degree malicious mischief.

**Kitsap County**

In December 2016 the Medical Commission modified an agreement with physician Steven J. Bernick (MD60206990) that removes a chaperone requirement when Bernick treats female patients. The requirement was put in place in 2015 in connection with Bernick’s interactions with a female patient.

In January 2017 the Nursing Commission ended conditions on the credential of licensed practical nurse Joyce Marie Henning (LP00047808).

In January 2017 the Respiratory Care Practitioner Program charged respiratory care practitioner Elizabeth Vazquez Strand (LR60242051) with being unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety. Charges say that after Strand reported having a brain injury, a psychological exam indicated she isn’t able to practice safely.

**Kittitas County**

In January 2017 the Nursing Commission agreed to reinstate the registered nurse credential of Nancy A. Grossman (RN00078146), placed her on probation, and ordered her to undergo an evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. Grossman’s license was suspended in 2012 after she didn’t comply with a substance abuse monitoring program.

**Lewis County**

In January 2017 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant Deseree Yvonne Donahe (NC10072630) with unprofessional conduct. Donahe allegedly bought narcotics from a vulnerable adult patient for whom she provided in-home care.

**Mason County**

In January 2017 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant Christopher Scott Guthrie (NA00189214) with unprofessional conduct. In 2016 Guthrie was convicted of fourth-degree assault – domestic violence, and of no-contact order violation.

**Pierce County**

In January 2017 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant Edwin Nieves (NC60066793) with unprofessional conduct. While working at Western State Hospital, Nieves allegedly let a patient use his phone, which she used to take a nude photo of herself. Charges say Nieves saved the photo until it was discovered and reported to his superiors.

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In January 2017 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant Ann L. Tolliver (NC10090109) with unprofessional conduct. Tolliver allegedly diverted drugs from a resident of an adult family home where she worked, prompting the state Department of Social and Health Services to issue a financial exploitation finding.

In January 2017 the Nursing Commission agreed to reinstate the licensed practical nurse credential of Valle Theresa Baker (LP00042473), placed her on probation, and ordered her to undergo an evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. Baker’s licensed practical nurse credential was suspended in 1996 in connection with drug diversion.

In January 2017 the Dental Commission charged dental assistant Rena C. Gibson (D160053253) with unprofessional conduct. Gibson allegedly misused alcohol and drugs.

In January 2017 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program filed an amended statement of charges against chemical dependency professional Clarence F. Farmer (CP00005381) involving client treatment, recordkeeping and billing.

In January 2017 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant Simon N. Waiyaki (NA60298567) with unprofessional conduct. Waiyaki allegedly took and withdrew money without permission from an elderly dementia patient for whom he provided in-home care services.

**Snohomish County**

In January 2017 the Massage Practitioner Program charged massage practitioner Angela Lavon Bushman (MA60141834) with unprofessional conduct. Charges say Bushman didn’t submit criminal charge information when she applied to activate her expired license, but later disclosed five felony charges and one gross misdemeanor charge.

In January 2017 the Massage Practitioner Program charged massage practitioner Charles G. Crawford (MA00024388) with unprofessional conduct. Crawford allegedly improperly touched three patients.

In January 2017 the Pharmacy Commission charged pharmacy assistant and pharmacy technician Troy Damon Langdon (VB60064770, VA60255800) with unprofessional conduct. On his applications, charges say, Langdon denied having been convicted of a crime. In 2004 he was convicted in Arizona of attempt to commit fraudulent schemes and artifices.

**Spokane County**

In January 2017 the Nursing Assistant Program reinstated the registered nursing assistant credential of Kimberly Ann Godsey (NA60042770) and ordered her to undergo an evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. Godsey’s license was suspended in 2011 after she failed a drug test.

**Stevens County**

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In January 2017 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant Desiree Quintell Hegney (NC10087931) with unprofessional conduct. In 2016 Hegney was convicted of third-degree theft.

**Thurston County**

In January 2017 the Mental Health Counselor Program charged mental health counselor Katie L. Knust (LH00011106) with unprofessional conduct. Knust allegedly didn’t coordinate the client’s treatment with other providers and developed a relationship with the client outside the treatment setting, including traveling to Hawaii together.

**Whatcom County**

In January 2017 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program agreed to reinstate the chemical dependency professional credential of R Russ (CP00000957) and placed him on probation. His credential was suspended in 2016 after he failed an ethics program required under an earlier order.

In September 2016 the secretary of health denied a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to Alischa Nicole Hatfield-Anderson (CO60683849). Between 2010 and 2015, Hatfield-Anderson was convicted of one felony and seven gross misdemeanors.

**Out of State**

**California:** In January 2017 the secretary of health ended probation for massage practitioner Zhengang Qi (MA60225808).

**California:** In December 2016 the Unlicensed Practice Program ordered Jianmei Wei to cease and desist from practicing massage without a license, and pay a $1,000 fine. Wei doesn’t have a massage practitioner license, but made arrangements to provide massage.

**Nebraska:** In January 2017 the Nursing Commission agreed to reinstate the licensed practical nurse credential of Tracy R. Perkins (LP00047810), placed her on probation, and ordered her to undergo an evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. Her license was suspended in 2005 after she didn’t abide by an agreement.

**Oregon:** In January 2017 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified Kyram Singleton, also known as Rubina Lava, of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Singleton allegedly advertised massage despite having no massage practitioner license.

**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 (doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information.* Also, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

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