INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

In the Matter of the Investigation of MELISSA TERESA CANDRILLI, RRT, License No. RC1511.

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

The Investigative Committee\(^1\) (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) hereby IMMEDIATELY SUMMARILY SUSPENDS the license of Melissa Teresa Candrilli, RRT (Licensee) from the practice of respiratory therapy, pursuant to the Board's authority to regulate the practice of respiratory therapy in Nevada pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 630.

The IC issues this Order of Summary Suspension (Order) based on its determination that Licensee's acts put the health, safety or welfare of the public at risk of imminent harm pursuant to NRS 630.326(1).

Prior to the preparation of this Order, Board staff presented to the IC the following:

1. Licensee is a respiratory therapist (RC1511) licensed to practice in Nevada.

\(^1\) The Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners is composed of Board members Rachakonda D. Prabhu, M.D., Chairman, Victor M. Muro, M.D., and Ms. April Mastroluca.
2. Pursuant to NAC 630.540, a practitioner of respiratory care is subject to discipline or denial of licensure by the Board if, after notice and hearing in accordance with NAC Chapter 630, the Board finds that the practitioner of respiratory care:

1. Willfully and intentionally made a false or fraudulent statement or submitted a forged or false document in applying for a license or renewing a license.

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4. Disobeyed any order of the Board or an investigative committee of the Board or violated a provision of this chapter.

5. Is not competent to provide respiratory care services.

6. Lost his or her certification by the National Board for Respiratory Care or its successor organization.

7. Failed to notify the Board of loss of certification by the National Board for Respiratory Care or its successor organization.

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9. Rendered respiratory care to a patient while under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance or in any impaired mental or physical condition.

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23. Violated any provision that would subject a practitioner of medicine to discipline pursuant to NRS 630.301 to 630.3065, inclusive, or NAC 630.230.

3. Pursuant to NRS 630.254, each licensee of the Board shall maintain a permanent mailing address with the Board to which all communications from the Board to the licensee must be sent. A licensee who changes his or her permanent mailing address shall notify the Board in writing of the new permanent mailing address within 30 days after the change. If a licensee fails to notify the Board in writing of a change in his or her permanent mailing address within 30 days after the change, the Board may impose a fine and initiate disciplinary action against the licensee as provided pursuant NRS 630.306(1)(j).

4. On May 31, 2018, Licensee’s certification as a respiratory therapist by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) expired.

5. Licensee did not notify the Board of the expiration of her NBRC certification.

6. On June 6, 2018, the Board suspended Licensee’s license to practice respiratory care due to the expiration of her NBRC certification.

7. On June 11, 2018, an Order of Suspension was mailed to Licensee’s address on record,
which Order was returned to the Board as "unclaimed."

8. On June 26, 2018, the Board reinstated Licensee’s license to practice respiratory care upon being provided proof of renewal of her NBRC certification.

9. On information and belief, on or about January 21, 2019, Licensee reported to work at the Complex Care Hospital at Tenaya (CCHT) under the influence of alcohol. Supervisory staff of CCHT requested, and Licensee submitted to, a breathalyzer test.

10. On or about January 25, 2019, Licensee was notified by CCHT staff that she was suspended from duty as a respiratory therapist pending the results of an investigation of allegations of being under the influence of alcohol during work hours.

11. On information and belief, Licensee’s employment was subsequently terminated by CCHT.

12. On or about June 28, 2019, Licensee submitted to the Board a biennial license renewal application (Application).

13. On the Application, Licensee denied that during the period of July 1, 2017, through July 1, 2019, she had been “… a) asked to respond to an investigation; b) notified that you were under investigation for; c) investigated for … any violation of a statute, rule or regulation governing your practice as a practitioner of respiratory care by any … hospital ….” Licensee answered “no” to the inquiry, and thereby failed to report on her Application that she had been under investigation by CCHT for allegations of being under the influence of alcohol during work hours, which would be a violation of, including but not limited to, NAC 630.540(9).

14. On information and belief, Licensee’s failure to report on her Application the CCHT investigation, involving a possible violation of NAC 630.540(9), was willful and intentional.

15. On or about July 24, 2019, Licensee was arrested by the North Las Vegas Police Department for a misdemeanor charge of providing a false statement/obstruction of a public officer. The police had been called for a possible case of domestic violence. At the time she was arrested, the police observed Licensee to be inebriated. Licensee’s fiancee was arrested due to an outstanding warrant, and Licensee then became verbally and physically aggressive with the police officers.

16. On or about August 26, 2019, Licensee pled no contest to the aforementioned charge.
and paid fees and a fine totaling $405.

17. On or about August 6, 2019, Licensee was again arrested by the North Las Vegas Police Department for a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence (DUI), first offense, and a misdemeanor charge of failure to maintain lane/improper lane change.

18. On or about October 7, 2019, Licensee pled no contest to the DUI charge and was ordered to attend a mandated drug and alcohol program. The failure to maintain lane charge was dismissed.

19. On December 3, 2019, pursuant to NAC 630.550, the IC issued to Licensee an Order for Competency Evaluation and Fitness To Practice (Order), whereby Licensee was ordered to undergo an evaluation at 12:00 noon on December 13, 2019, at Montevista Hospital at 5900 W. Rochelle Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89103.

20. Licensee was personally served with the Order on December 5, 2019.

21. On December 13, 2019, Licensee met with Larry Espadero, LADC, and underwent an evaluation as ordered.

22. On December 16, 2019, Mr. Espadero communicated his report to the Board, wherein he opined that Licensee was unfit to practice.

23. Based on the foregoing, the IC finds that the health, safety and welfare of the public is at imminent risk of harm if Licensee is permitted to continue practicing, and that an immediate summary suspension of Licensee’s license in the State of Nevada is necessary for the protection of the public. NRS 630.326(1).
ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the license of Melissa Teresa Candrilli, RRT (RC1511) is SUMMARILY SUSPENDED until further order of the IC or Board, and Licensee is prohibited from engaging in any acts that constitute the practice of respiratory therapy; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a hearing on this matter is set for the 18th day of February, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., at the Board’s office located at 9600 Gateway Drive, Reno, NV 89521, to determine whether this suspension may continue, unless the parties mutually agree in writing to a different time. NRS 630.326(2).

DATED this 19th day of December, 2019.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: Rachakonda D. Prabhu, M.D., Chairman