IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND

HENRY EZUEZUEMEH * BOARD OF NURSING

Multi-State Licensure Privilege to * OAG Case No.: 23-BP-057

Practice Registered Nursing

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF MULTISTATE LICENSURE PRIVILEGE TO PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-226(c)(2) OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the "Board") hereby orders the **SUMMARY SUSPENSION** of the Multistate Licensure Privilege to Practice Registered Nursing (Florida – license number RN9523731) of **HENRY EZUEZUEMEH** (the "Respondent") in the State of Maryland. The Board takes this action pursuant to the authority of Maryland Code Ann., State Government Article ("SG") § 10-226 (c) (2) (2021 Repl. Vol.), which provides:

- (2) A unit may order summarily the suspension of a license if the unit:
 - (i) finds that the public, health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action; and
 - (ii) promptly gives the licensee:
 - 1. Written notice of the suspension, the finding and the reasons that support the finding; and
 - 2. An opportunity to be heard.

The Board has reason, as set forth below, to find that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action ("SG") § 10-226(c) (2).

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS AND REASONS IN SUPPORT OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Based on investigatory information obtained by, received by, made known to and available to the Board, the Board has reason to believe that the following facts are true:¹

¹ The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct identified herein are intended to provide the Respondent with reasonable notice of the asserted facts. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent, a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent.

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- 1. On October 29, 2019, the Respondent was issued a Registered Nurse ("RN") license, license number RN9523731 in the State of Florida. The Respondent's RN license has a status of "Active-Compact²" and is due to expire on April 30, 2025.
- 2. On November 12, 2019, the Respondent was issued a temporary registered nurse license, license number T20191436, in the State of Maryland. The Respondent's temporary RN license is inactive and expired on February 10, 2020³.

MARYLAND APPLICATION FOR ENDORSEMENT OF RN LICENSE ("RN APPLICATION")

- 3. On or about November 6, 2019, the Respondent submitted an on-line Application for Endorsement of RN license. The Respondent indicated on the RN Application that he received his <u>basic nursing education</u>⁴ from Siena College of Health in Lauderhill, Florida, and graduated on May 26, 2019 with an associate degree. The Respondent further indicated that Florida was his state of original licensure by exam.⁵
- 4. On November 12, 2019, the Respondent was issued a Temporary Registered Nurse license, T20191436, in the State of Maryland, which expired on February 10, 2020.

² The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) is an agreement between Boards of Nursing in party states that allows nurses to have one Multistate nursing license with the ability to practice in their home state and other party states. In accordance with the Nurse Licensure Compact, Md. Code. Ann., Health Occ. §8-7A-01.3(h) and §8-7A-01.3(m) respectively, "Home State" means the party state that is the nurse's primary state of residence and, "Party State" means any state that has adopted this Compact.

³ The Respondent was not issued an RN in the State of Maryland.

⁴ The <u>Basic Nursing Education</u> question as it appears on the Board's online application: "Please enter and verify your basic nursing education and school information. The basic nursing education is when you received your initial nursing education."

⁵ Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.27.01.10 provides, in part:

A. An Applicant licensed to practice registered nursing ...in another state, territory, or country is eligible for licensure without examination if the applicant:

⁽³⁾ Submits the following verifications directly to the Board from the appropriate authority:

⁽a) That at the time that [the] applicant graduated from the nursing education program, it was approved as a registered nursing education program in that state, territory, or country;

⁽b) That the applicant meet[s] the educational qualifications of this State at the time of the applicant's graduation from the nursing education program.

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5. On his application, the Respondent agreed with the following statement: "I affirm that the

contents of this document are accurate to the best of my knowledge" and was advised that

"providing false or misleading information may result in disciplinary action by the Board and

may result in denial of licensure."

NURSYS⁶

6. NCLEX⁷ registration data shows: the Respondent sat for the NCLEX-RN exam on

October 28, 2019; Education Program: Siena Education Center, LLC; Applicant Made Eligible

By: Florida.8

7. On October 29, 2019, the Respondent was issued an RN license by Exam in Florida,

license number RN9523731. NURSYS indicates Siena College of Health, as the RN school

connected to the Respondent's Florida RN license.

8. On November 12, 2019, the Respondent was issued a temporary Maryland RN license by

endorsement⁹.

9. According to NURSYS, the Respondent only holds an RN license in Florida.

BACKGROUND:

U.S District Court – Southern District of Florida

Information:

8. On January 23, 2023, an Information was filed alleging that Eunide Sanon committed

Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud.

Change of Plea/Factual Basis in Support of Plea

⁶ A national database provided through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), for verification of LPN/RN licensure, disciplinary action, and practice privilege.

⁷ Licensure examination.

⁸ The information provided via NCLEX department combines personal data, supplied by the applicant to the nursing board during the exam eligibility process, with exam registration data taken.

⁹ The Respondent was not issued an RN by the Maryland Board of Nursing.

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- 9. On March 14, 2023, Eunide Sanon entered a plea of Guilty and the Court accepted the plea of guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud.
- 10. The Court found there was a factual basis for the plea as provided in the <u>Factual Basis in Support of Plea</u> below:

Defendant Eunide Sanon, a resident of Broward County, was the Owner, Registered Agent, and Manager of Siena Education and Siena College (collectively Siena).

. . . .

From on or about November 17, 2018, through in or around October 2021, in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, Eunide Sanon, ..., and others sold false and fraudulent diplomas and educational transcripts to co-conspirators which falsely represented that the co-conspirators had completed the necessary courses and/or clinical training to obtain nursing degrees from Siena when in fact the co-conspirators had never completed the necessary courses and/or clinical training.

. . . .

Eunide Sanon ..., and others mailed and caused others to mail, by United States Postal Service, fake diplomas, transcripts, and other false and fraudulent documents to coconspirators and to state licensing agencies, including NYSED, on behalf of the coconspirators.

• • • •

Using the false and fraudulent continuing education certifications, diplomas, transcripts, and other fraudulent documents, Eunide Sanon, ..., and others assisted co-conspirators to obtain fraudulent nursing licenses from state licensing agencies, and ultimately employment in the healthcare field.

Co-conspirators used the false and fraudulent diplomas, transcripts and other documents created and distributed by Eunide Sanon and others, to fraudulently obtain employment and benefits at various unwitting health care providers throughout the country.

Affidavit of Eunide Sanon

11. In a notarized affidavit, signed on December 15, 2022, Eunide Sanon declared under penalties of perjury the following information was true and correct:

I owned and operated Siena Education Center, LLC, doing business as Siena College of Health ("Siena") from its incorporation on or about October 20, 2003 to its dissolution on

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or about September 23, 2022. Siena was located at 7491 Oakland Park Boulevard, Suite 100, Lauderhill, Florida 33319.

Siena was licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Florida Board of Nursing and was authorized to offer medical programs to include a practical nursing program and an Associate in Science degree. The objective of the programs was "to provide quality education to students seeking careers in medically related fields."

. . . .

Siena was authorized to offer an Associate in Science nursing program. This was a 90-week program consisting of 74 semester hours including at least 50% clinical training. The objective of this program was "to prepare students for employment as Registered Nurses."

. . . .

From in or around November 2017 to in or around October 2021, Siena College of Health may have issued transcripts and diplomas to 2,016 individuals listed in Attachment B, who did not complete the required program hours and clinical training necessary to obtain either a practical nursing diploma and transcript or a nursing associate in science degree and transcript.

12. The Respondent's name is listed in Attachment B of the Affidavit, along with the Respondent's DOB and SSN.

THE RESPONDENT'S RESPONSE TO THE BOARD'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

13. On or about March 24, 2023, the Respondent, submitted a response to the Board's request for information. The Respondent's response includes the following:

[What is the name of the nursing education program from which you received a diploma or degree?] Siena College of Health, Lauderdale, Florida

[What is the date you enrolled in your nursing education program?] Siena College of Health – December, 2018

[What is the date that you received a diploma or degree from your nursing education program?] Siena College of Health – June, 2019¹⁰

¹⁰ The NCLEX registration information supplied by the applicant states that he graduated from Siena College in May 2019.

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[What state did you reside in while attending the nursing education program?] 16 Chapletowne Circle, Nottingham, Maryland 21236.

[Did you attend any clinicals in person as part of your nursing education program(s)?] Yes.

[If you answered "yes" please list all of the courses for which you received clinical experience.] (1) Adult health Nursing (In person and simulation lab); (2) Psychiatric nursing (and the other clinicals were done in simulation lab.)

[Please provide all the names and contact information for the facilities at which you completed your clinical experience.] Facility 1, Fort Lauderdale Florida; Facility 2, Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Facility 3 Boynton Beach, Florida.

[For all course listed in response to question 8a., please provide the number of days and number of hours for each day that you attended the course.] I can't recall the exact number of hours or days.

[Please provide the dates that you completed your clinical experience(s).] I can't recall the dates.

The Respondent submitted an Official Transcript [signature dated June 25, 2015] from Siena College of Health which includes the following information:

Completion Date: 5/15/2019

<u>Course & Title (includes)</u>: NUR 303 Fund. of Nurs. – Final Grade A; NUR 304 Pharmacology – final grade B; NURS 306 Adult Health I – final grade A; NUR 308 Maternal and Child Nrsg – final grade B; NUR 309 Adult Health II – final grade B; NUR 310 Psych Nursing – final grade B.

<u>Clinical/Lab (includes)</u>: NUR 303L and 303C – final grade P; NUR 306L and 306C – final grade P; NUR 308L and 308C – final grade P; NUR 309L AND 309C – final grade P.

TC: Transfer Credits: 3.

The Respondent provided a Siena College of Health diploma which indicates that on June 25, 2019, the Respondent was conferred an Associate of Science in Nursing degree.

BOARD INVESTIGATOR'S INTERVIEW

14. The Respondent did not participate in an interview with the Board Investigator.

DISCUSSION

15. The Respondent sat for and passed the NCLEX-RN in October 2019 and identified his education program as Siena Education Center, LLC. The Respondent received an RN license by exam in the State of Florida based on, among other things, the information he provided to the Florida Board of Nursing regarding his education program.

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16. In 2019, the Respondent submitted an application for licensure by endorsement in the

State of Maryland and identified Siena College as his basic education program. The Respondent

provided false information about his RN basic education.

17. In a signed affidavit, Eunide Sanon, owner and operator of Siena Education Center, LLC,

provided a list of individuals who did not complete the required program hours and clinical

training at Siena College of Health, necessary to receive a transcript or a nursing associate in

science degree. The Respondent was identified on the list by name, DOB and SSN.

18. The Respondent does not meet the Board's statutory and regulatory requirements for RN

licensure in Maryland.

19. The Respondent holds an active, compact RN license and the Respondent's ability and

opportunity to practice as an RN in the State of Maryland and/or any compact state on a

fraudulently obtained RN license, poses a serious risk and danger to the public health, safety, and

welfare.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based on the foregoing investigative findings and reasons, the Board finds that the public

health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action in this case pursuant to Md.

Code Ann., State Govt. § 10-226 (c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.).

ORDER

It is hereby:

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested in the Board of Nursing by Maryland

Code Ann., State Govt. § 10-226 (c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.), the Multistate Licensure Privilege to

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EZUEZUEMEH (the "Respondent") in the State of Maryland is hereby SUMMARILY

SUSPENDED; and be it further

ORDERED that there will be a Show Cause Hearing on May 23, 2023, at 2:00 PM

before the Board at the Maryland Board of Nursing offices, 4140 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore,

Maryland 21215: and be it further

ORDERED that if, the suspension of the Respondent's multistate licensure privilege is

continued following a Show Cause Hearing, the Respondent has the right to a full evidentiary

hearing before the Board and a hearing will be scheduled before the Board if the Respondent

submits a written request for an evidentiary hearing to the Board no later than thirty (30) days

from the date of the Board's written decision issued after the Show Cause Hearing; and be

it further

ORDERED that if the Respondent does not submit a timely written request to the

Board for an evidentiary hearing within 30 days from the date of the Board's written decision

issued after the Show Cause Hearing, the Respondent shall have waived all rights now and in the

future to any hearing on the merits of the summary suspension of the Respondent's multistate

licensure privilege and the factual allegations contained in this Order for Summary Suspension;

and it is further

ORDERED that this Order for Summary Suspension shall remain in effect and the

summary suspension of the Respondent's multistate licensure privilege shall continue until

further Order of the Board; and it is further

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ORDERED that this, "Order for Summary Suspension of Multistate Licensure Privilege to Practice Registered Nursing" is a **PUBLIC RECORD** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions § 4-101 *et seq.*& § 4-333 (2019 Repl. Vol.).

May 10, 2023
Date

Karen E.B. Evans, MSN, RN-BC The Executive Director's Signature Appears on the Original Document