

substances, as required by 21 U.S.C. 827(a)(1) and 21 CFR 1304.11; and failure to preserve DEA order forms, as required by 21 CFR 1305.13.

Pursuant to an April 20, 2004, Stipulation and Order with DOPL, Dr. Poulter's state license to handle controlled substances and his dental license were revoked. However, the revocation orders were stayed as to both licenses and he was placed on probation for a term of five years. He was again ordered to abstain from personal use of controlled substances and his Anesthesia Permit was restricted to certain enumerated drugs.

Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 824(a)(2), the Deputy Administrator may revoke a DEA Certificate of Registration and deny any pending applications for such a certificate upon a finding that the registrant has been convicted of a felony related to controlled substances under state or Federal law. The Deputy Administrator finds Dr. Poulter has been convicted of a state felony relating to controlled substances and that revocation of his registration is appropriate under 21 U.S.C. 824(a)(2).

Additionally, the Deputy Administrator may revoke a DEA Certificate of Registration and deny any pending applications for such certificate if she determines that the issuance of such registration would be inconsistent with the public interest, as determined pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 823(a)(4) and 823(f). Section 823(f) requires the following factors be considered:

- (1) The recommendation of the appropriate state licensing board or professional disciplinary authority.
- (2) The applicant's experience in dispensing, or conducting research with respect to controlled substances.
- (3) The applicant's conviction record under Federal or State law relating to the manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of controlled substances.
- (4) Compliance with applicable State, Federal, or local laws relating to controlled substances.
- (5) Such other conduct which may threaten the public health or safety.

As a threshold matter, it should be noted that the factors specified in section 823(f) are to be considered in the disjunctive: The Deputy Administrator may properly rely on any one or a combination of the factors, and give each factor the weight she deems appropriate, in determining whether a registration should be revoked or denied. See Henry J. Schwarz, Jr., M.D., 54 FR 16,422 (1989).

With regard to the public interest factors of 21 U.S.C. 823(f), as to factor one, recommendation of the state licensing board/disciplinary authority,

it is noted that the Utah DOPL took disciplinary action against Dr. Poulter. However, it allowed his state dental license and Anesthesia Permit to continue in a probationary status, with certain enumerated conditions. Accordingly, to the extent that Utah has allowed Dr. Poulter to continue practicing dentistry and handle some controlled substances, that weighs in favor of continued registration with DEA. However, "inasmuch as State licensure is a necessary but not sufficient condition for a DEA registration * * * this factor is not dispositive." See Edson W. Redard, M.D., 65 FR 30616, 30619.

Regarding factors two, three, four and five, the conduct and actions discussed earlier which resulted in his felony and misdemeanor convictions are all relevant and adverse to Dr. Poulter. While the controlled substances were apparently being diverted for personal use and not for others, the record reflects that simple opportunities and leniency were extended Dr. Poulter by the state criminal justice system and Utah's licensing authorities. He had an excellent chance to address his substance abuse problems with minimal personal and professional impact. Nevertheless, despite crystal clear notice of the consequences of violating the Plea in Abeyance Agreement and the benefits of a rehabilitative and monitoring program for impaired professionals, Dr. Poulter threw away the opportunities afforded him.

Instead of getting his personal and professional life back on track, he chose to resume abusing controlled substances and while doing so, endangered the public by operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs. Through his inability to refrain from criminal and self-abusive behavior, Dr. Poulter has demonstrated poor judgment, questionable character and an inability to comply with the responsibilities of a DEA registrant.

In light of the foregoing, the Deputy Administrator finds that Dr. Poulter's registration would be inconsistent with the public interest, as that term is used in 21 U.S.C. 823(f) and 824(a)(4).

Accordingly, the Deputy Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to the authority vested in her by 21 U.S.C. 823 and 824 and 28 CFR 0.100(b) and 0.104, hereby orders that DEA Certificate of Registration BP7418177, previously issued to John S. Poulter, D.D.C., be, and it hereby is, revoked. The Deputy Administrator further orders that any pending applications for renewal or modification of such registration be, and

they hereby are, denied. This order is effective June 9, 2005.

Dated: May 2, 2005.

Michele M. Leonhart,
Deputy Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Drug Enforcement Administration

Robert A. Smith, M.D.; Revocation of Registration

On September 29, 2004, the Deputy Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), issued an Order to Show Cause/Immediate Suspension of Registration to Robert A. Smith, M.D. (Dr. Smith) who was notified of an opportunity to show cause as to why DEA should not revoke his DEA Certificate of Registration AS2502284 under 21 U.S.C. 824(a)(4) and deny any pending applications for renewal or modification of that registration under 21 U.S.C. 823(f). Dr. Smith was further notified that his registration was being immediately suspended under 21 U.S.C. 824(d) as an imminent danger to the public health and safety.

The Order to Show Cause alleged in relevant part, that Dr. Smith diverted controlled substances for a substantial time by knowingly issuing fraudulent prescriptions to individuals, without a bona fide doctor-patient relationship or legitimate medical purpose. The Order to Show Cause also notified Dr. Smith that should not request for a hearing be filed within 30 days, his hearing right would be deemed waived.

On October 20, 2004, a DEA investigator personally served the Order to Show Cause/Immediate Suspension of Registration on Dr. Smith's attorney at Respondent's medical office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Since that date, DEA has not received a request for a hearing or any other reply from Dr. Smith or anyone purporting to represent him in this matter.

Therefore, the Deputy Administrator of DEA, finding that (1) thirty days having passed since personal delivery of the Order to Show Cause/Immediate Suspension of Registration to the registrant and (2) no request for hearing having been received, concludes that Dr. Smith is deemed to have waived his hearing right. See David W. Linder, 67 FR 12579 (2002). After considering material from the investigative file in this matter, the Deputy Administrator now enters her final order without a hearing pursuant to 21 CFR 1301.43(d) and (e) and 1301.46.

The Deputy Administrator finds that Dr. Smith is registered with DEA as a practitioner under Certificate of Registration AS2502284 with a registered location at 1420 Locust Street, Suite 200, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In May 2003, DEA began investigating Dr. Smith as a result of complaints from area pharmacies that were encountering large numbers of young, seemingly healthy individuals, filling prescriptions issued by Dr. Smith for OxyContin and Percocet, both schedule II controlled substances. These individuals paid cash for their prescriptions and appeared to be traveling long distances to have them prescribed and filled.

On June 27, 2003, Independence Blue Cross (IBC) insurance investigators interviewed IBC beneficiary "H.B." regarding prescriptions for OxyContin, Percocet and Methadone which had been issued by Dr. Smith under her name and insurance data. H.B. had never seen or heard of Dr. Smith and had no medical conditions warranting the prescriptions. It was also established that H.B.'s son's father, "M.P.," was a heroin addict and that M.P.'s sister, "L.P.," who also had a history of narcotic's abuse, worked for Dr. Smith as his office assistant.

On July 9, 2003, IBC investigators interviewed "C.P.," who was L.P.'s sister. IBC's records reflected that on May 10, 2003, Dr. Smith issued prescriptions for Percocet and Alprazolam (Xanax), a schedule IV controlled substance, using C.P.'s name and policy, which were then paid for by insurance company. Investigators determined C.P. had never met or been examined by Dr. Smith, that she did not receive the prescriptions written in her name and had no medical conditions warranting them.

On November 6, 2003, DEA Diversion Investigators responded to the Lombard Apothecary in Philadelphia to interview "D.N.," who had attempted to fill a prescription for Oxycontin issued by Dr. Smith using D.N.'s mother's name and insurance. D.N. admitted that her mother had no knowledge of the prescription and was a patient of Dr. Smith. D.N. had asked Dr. Smith to issue her fraudulent prescriptions, as she had no medical insurance of her own. He also had written her a prescription for Oxycontin, using her brother's name and insurance data. D.N. then used the Oxycontin to feed her personal narcotics addiction.

On November 26, 2003, "J.S." was interviewed by local law enforcement authorities, with DEA Division Investigators present. She admitted receiving seven to ten prescriptions for Oxycontin from Dr. Smith, per visit, on

a weekly basis. These prescriptions would be written in J.S.'s name, as well as her father's and fiancée's names. She paid \$65.00 per visit and an additional \$100.00, each time, to ensure Dr. Smith would continue providing her fraudulent prescriptions. Additionally, Dr. Smith would ask J.S. for sexual favors during her office visits. While she personally declined to fulfill his requests, as a substitute, she paid another woman \$100.00 to perform a sexual act upon Dr. Smith. J.S. also reported that Dr. Smith's office assistant, L.P., had provided her blank prescriptions in return for \$40.00 and Oxycontin pills.

Dr. Smith also wrote prescriptions for "A.D.," who had heard of Respondent's "street" reputation for providing controlled substance prescriptions. A.D. was first seen by Dr. Smith in February 2003 and the only examination involved measuring A.D.'s blood pressure. In March and April 2003, Dr. Smith issued prescriptions for Oxycontin and Percocet, using both A.D.'s and his wife's names. In February 2004, Dr. Smith also wrote ten prescriptions for A.D. using A.D.'s name, his wife's name and a friend's name.

On February 22, 2004, "S.K." was found, apparently unresponsive, by her mother-in-law, who called 911. S.K. died of a drug overdose and few weeks later S.K.'s mother-in-laws contacted DEA Diversion Investigators and advised that S.K. had been addicted to narcotics and Dr. Smith was the source of her prescriptions. The Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office provided DEA investigators 31 prescription bottles recovered from S.K.'s residence. All of their labels indicated they were prescribed by Dr. Smith and the majority was for schedule II and IV controlled substances.

On May 20, 2004, a confidential Source (CS) was provided \$400.00 to purchase fraudulent prescriptions written by Dr. Smith. The CS used that money to obtain twelve separate prescriptions from an individual who, in turn, had received them from Dr. Smith.

On May 27, 2004, Diversion Investigator's interviewed "J.G." who, for six or eight months, had been seeing Dr. Smith on a weekly basis. J.G. would give Dr. Smith a list of fictitious names and types of controlled substances he desired and Dr. Smith would issue three prescriptions under each name, usually for Percocet, OxyContin and Xanax. Dr. Smith issued between nine and fifteen fraudulent prescriptions for controlled substances per visit and received \$100.00 for each set of three prescriptions. J.G. then sold the

prescriptions to a third party who, in turn, sold the drugs on the street. Dr. Smith was aware of and knowingly participated in this scheme.

On June 1, 17 and 19, 2004, a CS visited Dr. Smith's medical office. On each occasion, he obtained fraudulent prescriptions for Xanax, OxyContin and Percocet, paying Dr. Smith \$500.00 for fifteen prescriptions, written under five different fraudulent identities.

On June 29, 2004, Diversion Investigators were contacted by Family Meds, a mail order pharmacy in Connecticut. On June 22, 2004, the pharmacy received five prescriptions for controlled substances written by Dr. Smith for "M. B." Family Meds had contacted Dr. Smith, who verified issuing the prescriptions. However, the pharmacy ultimately refused to fill them and verified that on June 6, 2004, M. B. had filled identical prescriptions issued by Dr. Smith at another pharmacy.

A review of reports from the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Narcotics Investigation and Drug Control showed that from January 14, 2002, to April 30, 2004, Dr. Smith issued over 6,500 prescriptions for schedule II narcotic controlled substances. These prescriptions constituted a significant portion of the total schedule II prescriptions filled in the Philadelphia and New Jersey area.

Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 823(f) and 824(a)(4), the Deputy Administrator may revoke a DEA Certificate of Registration and deny any pending applications for renewal of such registration, if she determines that the continued registration would be inconsistent with the public interest. Section 823(f) requires that the following factors be considered in determining the public interest:

- (1) The recommendation of the appropriate state licensing board or professional disciplinary authority.
- (2) The applicant's experience in dispensing, or conducting research with respect to controlled substances.
- (3) The applicant's conviction record under federal or state laws relating to the manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of controlled substances.
- (4) Compliance with applicable state, federal, or local laws relating to controlled substances.
- (5) Such other conduct which may threaten the public health or safety.

These factors are considered in the disjunctive; the Deputy Administrator may rely on any one or a combination of factors and may give each factor the weight she deems appropriate in determining whether a registration should be revoked or an application for

registration denied. See *Henry J. Schwartz, Jr., M.D.*, 54 FR 16422 (1989).

As to factor one, the recommendation of the appropriate state licensing board or professional disciplinary authority, there is no evidence in the investigative file that the State of Pennsylvania has yet taken adverse action against Dr. Smith's medical license. However, "inasmuch as State licensure is a necessary but not sufficient condition for a DEA registration * * * this factor is not dispositive." See *Edson W. Redard, M.D.*, 65 FR 30616, 30619 (2000).

With regard to factors two and four, Respondent's experience in handling controlled substances and his compliance with applicable controlled substance laws, the investigative file contains overwhelming evidence that Dr. Smith unlawfully prescribed and diverted controlled substances over an extensive period of time. He knowingly prescribed controlled substances to individuals without bona fide doctor-patient relationships and issued fraudulent prescriptions destined to feed the recipient's personal addiction or to be sold on the street. He did so in a calculated manner, for financial gain, violating multiple state and federal laws and abysmally failing to meet the rudimentary responsibilities of a physician and registrant. Thus, factors two and four weigh in favor of a finding that continued registration would be inconsistent with the public interest.

Factor three, the applicant's conviction record under federal or state laws relating to the manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of controlled substances, is not relevant for consideration, as there is no evidence Dr. Smith has yet been convicted of any crime related to controlled substances. However, it is noted the investigation has been provided to Federal authorities for possible initiation of criminal charges.

With respect to factor five, other conduct that may threaten the public health and safety, Respondent's actions discussed above are also relevant under this factor. The Deputy Administrator is particularly troubled by Dr. Smith's efforts to enrich himself at the expense of the public health and safety. Not only has a large quantity of controlled substances been diverted over an extensive period of time as a result of this illegal activities, at least one patient has died of a drug overdose after taking medications prescribed by Dr. Smith.

The exact degree of suffering and costs, both social and economic, stemming from Dr. Smith's activities will never be known. Suffice it to say, his unprofessional and criminal conduct

has resulted in the diversion of large quantities of controlled substances in the Philadelphia area for a lengthy period of time, with correspondingly severe consequences for public health and safety.

In sum, Dr. Smith's cavalier disregard for the law and abandonment of his responsibilities as a physician and registrant cannot be tolerated. They weigh, irresistibly, in favor of a finding that continued registration would not be in the public interest.

Accordingly, the Deputy Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to the authority vested in her by 21 U.S.C. and 28 CFR 0.100(b), and 0.104, hereby orders the DEA Certificate of Registration AS2502284, issued to Robert A. Smith, M.D., be, and it hereby is, revoked. The Deputy Administrator further orders that any pending applications for renewal or modification of such registration be, and they hereby are, denied. This order is effective June 9, 2005.

Dated: May 2, 2005.

Michele M. Leonhart,
Deputy Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Combating Exploitive Child Labor Through Education in Guyana

May 10, 2005.

AGENCY: Bureau of International Labor Affairs, Department of Labor.

Announcement Type: New. Notice of Availability of Funds and Solicitation for Cooperative Agreement Applications.

Funding Opportunity Number: SGA 05-02.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: Not applicable.

DATES: Key Dates: Deadline for Submission of Application is July 11, 2005.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, will award up to U.S. \$2 million through one or more cooperative agreements to an organization or organizations to improve access to and quality of education programs as a means to combat exploitive child labor in Guyana. Projects funded under this solicitation will provide educational and training opportunities to children as a means of removing and/or preventing

them from engaging in exploitive work or the worst forms of child labor. The activities funded will complement and expand upon existing projects and programs to improve basic education in the country. Applications must respond to the entire Statement of Work outlined in this solicitation. In Guyana, activities under these cooperative agreements will provide the direct delivery of quality basic education to working children and those at risk of entering work, and will result in their enrollment, persistence, and completion of an education or training program.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), announces the availability of funds to be awarded by cooperative agreement to one or more qualifying organizations for the purpose of expanding access to and quality of basic education and strengthening government and civil society's capacity to address the education needs of working children and those at risk of entering in work in Guyana. The overall purpose of USDOL's Child Labor Education Initiative, as consistently enunciated in USDOL appropriations FY 2000 through FY 2005, is to work toward the elimination of the worst forms of child labor through the provision of basic education. Accordingly, entities applying under this solicitation must develop and implement strategies for the prevention and withdrawal of children from the worst forms of child labor, consistent with this purpose. ILAB is authorized to award and administer this program by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Public Law 108-447, 118 Stat. 2809 (2004). The cooperative agreement or cooperative agreements awarded under this initiative will be managed by ILAB's International Child Labor Program (ICLP) to assure achievement of the stated goals. Applicants are encouraged to be creative in proposing cost-effective interventions that will have a demonstrable impact in promoting school attendance and completion in the geographical areas where children are engaged in or are most at risk of working in the worst forms of child labor.

1. Background and Program Scope

A. USDOL Support of Global Elimination of Exploitive Child Labor

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimated that 211 million children ages 5 to 14 were working around the world in 2000. Full-time child workers are generally unable to