



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Corporal Wendy McGinnis
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

Re: Hope Pain Management Group Meets Operation No Hope

Date: November 1, 2011

Case Number: 2011-37037

SUSPECT: Lynn Renee Hutchinson DOB: 09/10/65
3256 Gulf Winds Cir. Hernando Beach, FL

SUSPECT: Harold Edward Sleight DOB: 03/14/41
340 Segovia Dr. Punta Gorda, FL

On November 01, 2011 at approximately 9:00 am, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Unit conducted a search warrant at the Hope Pain Management Group located at 1250 Mariner Blvd in Spring Hill. After an 18 month investigation, it was determined that the group has been allowing the owner to practice medicine without a license. This investigation utilized several undercover detectives and confidential informants going into the clinic as "patients". The "patients" were sent for MRI's without ever seeing the doctor, they were also given physical exams, and issued prescriptions for pain medicine. All of these activities were done by the owner of the clinic, Lynn Hutchinson, who has no medical license in the state of Florida and has no legal right to prescribe these procedures, conduct physicals, or prescribe medicine. The listed medical director for the clinic, Doctor Harold Sleight, knew of this activity and allowed it to occur. Doctor Sleight condoned these practice and did nothing to curtail the illegal acts. Doctor Sleight took part in this activity by pre-signing blank prescription forms for Lynn Hutchinson, even though he did not personally evaluate the patients. The signed prescriptions would then be filled out by Lynn Hutchinson and provided to the "patients".

A search warrant was also served at Lynn Hutchinson's residence located at 3256 Gulf Winds Circle, Hernando Beach, Hernando County, FL. This search was for additional paperwork and records related to the ongoing criminal activity at the business.

Lynn Hutchinson was arrested for the following charges:
Case #2010-15403, WARRANT, bond \$25,000

- Unlicensed Practice of a Health Profession
- Unlawful Practice of Medicine
- Fraudulent Representation of Practitioner to Obtain Controlled Substance

Case #2010-15669, WARRANT, bond \$10,000

- Unlicensed Practice of a Health Profession
- Unlawful Practice of Medicine

Case #2011-33409, WARRANT, \$10,000

- Unlicensed Practice of a Health Profession
- Unlawful Practice of Medicine

Case #2011-34663, PC AFFIDAVIT, \$5,000

- Criminal Use of Personal Identification

Doctor Harold Sleight was arrested for the following charges:

Case #2011-33409, WARRANT, \$10,000

- Principle to Unlicensed Practice of a Health Profession
- Principle to Unlawful Practice of Medicine

Case #2010-15403, PC AFFIDAVIT, \$10,000

- Principle to Unlicensed Practice of a Health Profession
- Principle to Unlawful Practice of Medicine

Case #2010-15669, PC AFFIDAVIT, \$10,000

- Principle to Unlicensed Practice of a Health Profession
- Principle to Unlawful Practice of Medicine

Additional charges are pending for both Lynn Hutchinson and Doctor Sleight based on the interviews and the evaluation of the records obtained at both the business and the residence.

“This business did not fall into the typical definition of a ‘pill mill’,” said Sheriff Al Nienhuis. “Even though they did not dispense controlled substances, they were no less dangerous. The investigation revealed that the business appeared to use at least one unlicensed person to issue hundreds of prescriptions and another doctor to prescribe hundreds of additional prescriptions that were questionable at best. These office visits were almost exclusively paid for in cash. It is businesses like these that are driving our prescription drug epidemic, as well as many of our property crimes.”