BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse

License Number 677751

issued to KARRIE LYN NELSON

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board matter of KARRIE LYN NELSON, Registered Nurse License Tred to as Respondent. considered the matter of KARRIE LYN NELSON, Registered Nurse License Number 6777 hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on August 28, 2011, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these Findings of Fact was served on Respondent and Respondent was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license(s).
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
- 3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
- 4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa, Oklahoma, on May 1, 1995. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 12, 2001.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes: Unknown

1995-1998

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

12/1998-11/1999

Staff Nurse

St. Mary's Hospital

Enid, OK

12/1999-11/2000

Charge Nurse

Central Washington Hospital

Wenatchee, WA

12/2001

Unknown

01/2001-12/2001

Agency Nurse

Professional Independent Nurses

Still Water, OK

07/2001-12/2001

Travel Agency RN

Travel Nursing Agency

Boca Raton, FL

12/2001-02/2009

Charge Nurse

Conroe Regional Medical Center

Conroc, TX

03/2009-Present

Unknown

- 6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Nine (9), Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Conroe Regional Hospital, Conroe, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately eight (8) years.
- 7. On or about August 3, 2009, Respondent submitted a License Renewal Affidavit to the Texas Board of Nursing in which she provided false, deceptive, and /or misleading information in that she answered "No" to the following question:

Have you, within the past 24 months or since your last renewal, for any criminal offense, including those pending appeal:

- A. been convicted of a misdemeanor?
- B. been convicted of a felony?
- C. pled nolo contendre, no contest, or guilty?
- D. Received deferred adjudication?
- E. Been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not

adjudicated guilty?

- F. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? court ordered confinement?
- G. been arrested or have any pending criminal charges?
- I. been <u>cited</u> or charged with any violation of the law?
- J. been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?

On April 6, 2008, Respondent was arrested by the Conroe Police Department, Conroe, Texas, and charged with (THEFT PROP >= \$20 < \$500 BY CHECK). Respondent's conduct was deceiving to the Board and may have affected their decision to renew her license.

- 8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7) Respondent states that she was confused regarding her arrest date, believing that it took place at least two years earlier. Respondent adds that restitution was paid and the charges were dismissed.
- 9. On or about February 11, 2009, while employed with Conroe Regional Medical Center, Conroe, Texas, Respondent exceeded her scope of practice as a Registered Nurse in that Respondent, who was visiting and not assigned to care for Patient MR# 607954, administered "Normal Saline 500 ml" to her without a physician's order. Respondent's actions may have exposed Patient MR# 607954 to the risk of harm to include but not limited to fluid overload or electrolyte imbalance.
- 10. On or about February 11, 2009, while employed with Conroe Regional Medical Center, Conroe, Texas, Respondent misappropriated "Normal Saline 500 ml" belonging to said facility and administered said fluids to Patient MR# 607954. Respondent's action was likely to defraud the facility and/or a patient of the cost of the medication.
- On or about February 11, 2009, while employed with Conroe Regional Medical Center, Conroe, Texas, Respondent violated facility policy in that she obtained "Normal Saline 500 ml" by using the electronic access of employee SH into the Accudose medication dispensation system. Respondent's actions were deceptive in that the facility would have an inaccurate record of the dispensation of said medication.
- 12. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Nine (9), Ten (10), and Eleven (11), Respondent states that since she was already employed as a Charge Nurse at Conroe Regional Medical Center on another floor, she simply wanted to assist the nurse caring for Patient MR# 607954, who appeared to be very busy. Respondent adds that Patient MR# 607954, who was receiving Intravenous (IV) antibiotics at the time of the incident, was required to receive "Normal Saline 500 ml," post antibiotic infusion, per facility policy. Respondent denies misappropriating fluids or accessing the Accudose machine using SH's electronic access, and states that Nurse SH obtained "Normal Saline 500 ml" upon Respondent's request.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
- 3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violation of Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(A), (1)(C)&(1)(J) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4)& (6)(G).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 677751, heretofore issued to KARRIE LYN NELSON, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS AND A FINE, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §211.1 *et seq.* and this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that, while under the terms of this Order, this Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license(s) is/are

encumbered by this Order, Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a nurse licensure compact privilege without the written permission of the Texas Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that:

- (1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include nurses. It shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, documentation of care, principles of nursing ethics, confidentiality, professional boundaries, and the Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies regarding: Sexual Misconduct; Fraud, Theft and Deception; Nurses with Substance Abuse, Misuse, Substance Dependency, or other Substance Use Disorder; and Lying and Falsification. Courses focusing on malpractice issues will not be accepted. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Office of the Board to verify RESPONDENT'S successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure. Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address: http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.
- (2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order successfully complete a course in medication administration. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval

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of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is <u>not</u> being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The didactic portion of this course shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course shall contain a minimum twenty-four (24) hour clinical component which is to be provided by the same Registered Nurse who provides the didactic portion of this course. The clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of medication administration only. In order for the course to be approved, the course's content shall include: a review of proper administration procedures for all standard routes; computation of drug dosages; the five (5) rights of medication administration; factors influencing the choice of route; and possible adverse effects resulting from improper administration. The course description shall indicate goals and objectives for the course, resources to be utilized, and the methods to be used to determine successful completion of the course. RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete both the didactic and clinical portions of the course to satisfy this stipulation. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the office of the Board to verify RESPONDENT'S successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure. Board-approved courses may be following Board website address: foundthehttp://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order successfully complete the course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills," a 3.6 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Learning Extension. In order

- (4) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Ordesuccessfully complete a course in "Respecting Professional Boundaries," a 3.9 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Learning Extension. In order to receive credit for completion of this program, RESPONDENT SHALL SUBMIT the continuing education certificate of completion for this program to the Board's office, to the attention of Monitoring. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure. *Information regarding Board-approved courses may be found at the efollowing Board website address in the efollowing Board website address in the efollowing Board and the efollowing Board website address in the efollowing Board and the efollowing Board website address in the efollowing Board and the efollowing Board website address site and the efollowing Board website address the efollowing Board and the efollowing Board website and the ef*
- (\$250) dollars. RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty five (45) days of entry of this Order. Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, RESPONDENT WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING AND

RESPONDENT MUST WORK IN SUCH SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS FOR ONE (1) YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWELVE (12) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A REGISTERED NURSE (RN) OR A VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) LICENSE, AS APPROPRIATE, WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:

- (6) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license(s). RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each present employer within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license(s). RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.
- (7) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.
 - (8) For the remainder of the stipulation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised

by a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Registered Nurse, or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse, who is on the premises. The supervising nurse is not required to be on the same unit or ward as RESPONDENT, but should be on the facility grounds and readily available to provide assistance and intervention if necessary. The supervising nurse shall have a minimum of two (2) years experience in the same or similar practice setting to which the Respondent is currently working. RESPONDENT SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.

(9) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the Respondent by the Board, periodic reports as to RESPONDENT'S capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by the nurse who supervises the RESPONDENT. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month period for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas and RESPONDENT shall be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order is subject to ratification by the Board. When this Order is ratified, the terms of this Order become effective, and a copy will be mailed to me. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including revocation of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 5th day of All Cumple 2011.

KARRIE LYN NELSON, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5 day of Decentary, 20/1.

SAFE OF TEAS

Notary Public in and for the State of Jeks

Effective this 19th day of January, 2012.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board