# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



is on file or is of record in the of Texas Board of Nursing.

\*\*Texas Board of Nursing.\*\*

\*\*Executive Director of the Board Executive Director Office Directo

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

In the Matter of Vocational License

§ AGREED

Number 110449 issued to

§

JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY

§ ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Boar considered the matter of JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY, Vocational License Number 110449, 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 informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on November 15, 2011, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, 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 informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
- 3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Vernon Regional Junior College, Wichita Falls, Texas, on January 22, 1985. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on June 2, 1985.
- 5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:

06/85 - 05/06

Unknown

06/06 - 09/09

LVN

West Oaks Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center

Austin, Texas

Respondent's vocational nursing employment history continued:

10/09 - 12/09 Unknown

01/10 - 03/10 LVN Southwood Care Center

Austin, Texas

04/10 - Present Unknown

- 6. On or about March 4, 2003, Respondent's license to practice as a licensed vocational nurse in the State of Texas was REPRIMANDED by the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners, Austin, Texas. A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Agreed Order, dated March 4, 2003, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this order.
- 7. On or about February 24, 2009, Respondent was issued an Agreed Order by the Texas Board of Nursing, Austin, Texas, ordering her to enroll in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Agreed Order, dated February 24, 2009, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this order.
- 8. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a licensed vocational nurse with West Oaks Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, Austin, Texas, and had been in this position for three (3) years and three (3) months.
- 9. On or about September 21, 2009, while employed as the charge nurse with West Oaks Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, Austin, Texas, Respondent administered Vancomycin to Patient ID Number 0066239 in excess frequency and/or dosage of the physician's order in that Respondent administered Vancomycin 1 gram IV instead of Vancomycin 750mg IV as ordered. Respondent's conduct may have injured the patient in that the administration of medications in excess frequency and/or dosage of the physician's order could result in the patient suffering from adverse reactions.
- 10. In response to Finding of Fact Number Ten (10), Respondent states that on September 21, 2009, she had only just returned to practice as a nurse pursuant to a return to work agreement with TPAPN, after a period of not working as a nurse while she completed the initial stages of the TPAPN program. Respondent states that if this medication error did in fact occur, it was likely a mistake associated with her recent return to practice and re-acclimation to a work environment. Respondent states that no patient harm occurred and given the nature of the medication, an antibiotic, this should not call into question her continued sobriety."
- 11. On or about March 3, 2010, Respondent was dismissed from the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) and referred to the Texas Board of Nursing, due to poor nursing practice.

- 12. On or about October 18, 2011, Respondent was convicted of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED 2<sup>ND</sup>, (a Class A Misdemeanor offense committed on February 20, 2007), in the County Court at Law No. 6 of Travis County, Texas, under Cause No. C1CR07-202885. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to five (5) days confinement in the county jail.
- 13. The Board finds that there exists serious risks to public health and safety as a result of impaired nursing care due to intemperate use of controlled substances or chemical dependency.

### **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),(B)&(C) and 217.12(1)(A), (1)(B),(4),(9)&(13).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational License Number 110449, heretofore issued to JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY, 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 Vocational Nurse License Number 110449, previously issued to JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY, to practice vocational nursing in Texas is hereby SUSPENDED for a period of two (2) years with the suspension STAYED and Respondent is hereby placed on PROBATION for two (2) years with the following agreed terms of probation:

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 the 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.

- (1) 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.
- (2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, 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 110449:119 Closp

has for relicensure. Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address: http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, successfully complete a course in medication administration. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval 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 at the following Board website address: found http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.

- (4) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, 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 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 following Board we bsite address: address: http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.
- (5) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of the suspension being stayed. 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 PROBATION CONDITIONS FOR TWO (2) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWENTY-FOUR (24) 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 10449:119

#### PERIOD:

- (6) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the probation conditions 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 probation conditions 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 first year of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly 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. Direct supervision requires another nurse, as applicable, to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). The 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) For the remainder of the probation 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.
- (10) 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 two (2) year(s) of employment as a nurse.
- (11) RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the consumption of alcohol, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates, and/or the use of controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the licensed practitioner to submit a written report identifying the medication, dosage and the date the medication was prescribed. The report shall be submitted directly to the office of the Board by the prescribing practitioner, within ten (10) days of the date of the prescription. In the event that prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods

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of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and RESPONDENT SHALL submit to a pain management and/or chemical dependency evaluation by a Board approved evaluator. The performing evaluator must submit a written report meeting the Board's requirements to the Board's office within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.

(12) RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol. For the first three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per week. For the next three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month. For the next six (6) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month. For the remainder of the probation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) months. All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Screens obtained through urinalysis are the sole method accepted by the Board.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines

Barbiturates

Benzo diaze pines

Cannabinoids

Cocaine

Ethanol

tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)

Meperidine

Methadone

Methaqualone

Opiates

Phencyclidine

Propoxyphene

A Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT'S place of employment at any time during the probation period and require RESPONDENT to produce a specimen for screening.

All screens shall be properly monitored and produced in accordance with the Board's policy on Random Drug Testing. A complete chain of custody shall be maintained for each specimen obtained and analyzed. RESPONDENT SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random drug screening during the probation period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription or failure to report for a drug screen, which may be considered the same as a positive result, will be regarded - 9 - Closp

as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action including EMERGENCY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of Respondent's license(s) and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

(13) RESPONDENT SHALL attend at least two (2) support group meetings each week, one of which must be for substance abuse and provided by Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or another comparable recovery program that has been pre-approved by the Board. RESPONDENT SHALL provide acceptable evidence of attendance. Acceptable evidence shall consist of a written record of at least: the date of each meeting; the name of each group attended; and the signature and printed name of the chairperson of each group attended by RESPONDENT. RESPONDENT SHALL submit the required evidence on the forms provided by the Board at the end of every three (3) month period. No duplications, copies, third party signatures, or any other substitutions will be accepted as evidence.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that if during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against the Respondent's license(s), the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

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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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

## RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. 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	day of	rember 20 11.
Man	Elizabet	Berther
JOAN ELIZABET	TH GENTRY	, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

SEAL

Notary Public in and for the State of Jexa

Approved as to form and substance.

Dan Lype, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 12 day of Documber, 2011.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the <u>9th</u> day of <u>December</u>, 20<u>11</u>, by JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY, Vocational License Number 110449, and said Order is final.

Effective this 19th day of January, 2012.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSE EXAMINERS

STATE OF TEXAS

VS.

JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY

**COUNTY OF TRAVIS** 

## **AGREED BOARD ORDER**

On this day came to be considered by the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners the matter of vocational nurse license number 110449 held by JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY, hereinafter called Respondent.

By letter, the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners sent preliminary notice to Respondent of its intent to take disciplinary action with respect to said license held by Respondent, as a result of a complaint and subsequent investigation. Said investigation produced evidence indicating that Respondent has engaged in unprofessional or dishonorable conduct that, in the Board's opinion, is likely to deceive, defraud, or injure the public, in violation of Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 302, Section 302.402 (a) (10), in the following manner:

ı.

- a. On or about November 4, 2002, Respondent submitted her License Renewal to the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas. On said License Renewal, Respondent answered "yes" to the question asking: "Were you convicted of a misdemeanor other than a minor traffic violation since your last renewal?"
- b. On or about January 7, 2002, Respondent was convicted of the misdemeanor offense of DWI, in the County Court at Law No. 6 in Travis County, Texas under Cause No. 591138. As a result of said conviction, Respondent was placed on probation for a period of two (2) years.

AGREED BOARD ORDER
RE: JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY, LVN #110449
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c. Respondent has been convicted of a crime, which the Board considers to be directly related to the duties and responsibilities of a Licensed Vocational Nurse. Said conviction is inconsistent with the basic duties and responsibilities inherent in the occupation of vocational nursing in that said occupation requires knowledge and familiarity of drugs, and compliance with drug laws.

By Respondent's signature on this Order, Respondent neither admits nor denies the truth of the matters previously set out in this Order with respect to the above-mentioned investigation. By Respondent's signature on this Order, Respondent acknowledges that they have read and understood this Order and have approved it for consideration by the Board.

By their notarized signature on this Order, Respondent does hereby waive the right to a formal Complaint, Notice of Hearing and a Public Hearing held before an Administrative Law Judge with the State Office of Administrative Hearings, and to judicial review of this disciplinary action. Notice of this disciplinary action will appear in the Board's newsletter sent to Texas employers.

#### ORDER OF THE BOARD

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that license number 110449, heretofore issued to JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is hereby REPRIMANDED.

## AGREED BOARD ORDER RE: JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY, LVN #110449 PAGE 3

This Agreed Order shall not be effective or take effect and become enforceable in accordance with its terms until ratified by a majority of the Board present and voting, at its next regularly called session.

Dated this the day o	i February	, 2003.
<b>,</b>	Chan /	Gently
	Signature of Respondent	U
	6505 Rac	shy Ln.
	Current Address	739
	City, State and Zip	. /
	3 5121 301	0554
	Area Code and Telephone	Number /
The State of Texas County of Travis  Before me, the undersigned ELIZABETH GENTRY, who bein above for the purpose therein co	ng duly sworn by me stated that	at he or she executed the
SWORN TO AND SUBSCR		the 1th day of
tebruary	, 2003.	
MY COMMISS	F. ELIZONDO	Plijando
I AMEN MOVEWR	THE STATE OF TEXAS	FOR

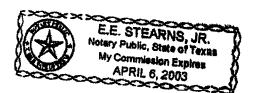
AGREED BOARD ORDER

RE: JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY, LVN #110449

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Terrie L. Hairston, R.N., C.H.E., Agent for the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on this the 04 day of MARCH , 2003.



NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

**BOARD ORDER** 

RE: JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY, LVN #110449

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WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Board Order, notarized on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2003 by JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY, license number 110449 and that Said Order is Final.

Effective this 4th day of March, 2003.

Terrie L. Hairston, R.N., C.H.E.,

Executive Director

On Behalf of Said Board

**BOARD ORDER** 

RE: JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY, LVN #110449

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

hereby certify that on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2003, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **BOARD ORDER** was served by placement in the U.S. Mail first class mail, and addressed to the following person(s):

JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY 6505 BACK BAY LANE AUSTIN, TEXAS 78739

Terrie L. Hairston, R.N., C.H.E.,

**Executive Director** 

Agent for the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners

## BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Vocational Nurse § AGREED
License Number 110449 §
issued to JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY, Vocational Nurse License Number 110449, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(9),(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on December 31, 2008, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 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.
- Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
- Respondent is currently licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
- Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Vernon Regional Junior College, Wichita Falls, Texas, on January 22, 1985. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on June 2, 1985.
- 5. Respondent's complete vocational nursing employment history is unknown.

- 6. On March 4, 2003, Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing was REPRIMANDED by the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas. A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Agreed Board Order, dated March 4, 2003, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.
- 7. On or about February 20, 2007, Respondent was arrested by Travis County Sheriff's Department, Austin, Texas, for DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED 2nd. The Prosecutor subsequently changed the charge to DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED 3rd or More (a 3rd Degree Felony offense), and the matter is still pending prosecution.
- 8. In Response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states: She rear-ended a vehicle at a stop light, both parties called the police and Respondent was arrested for Driving While Intoxicated. She met a friend for lunch, had a few beers and believed that she was okay to drive. Since the arrest, she voluntarily enrolled in, and successfully completed an out-patient alcohol program. She attends group meetings, sees a counselor on a regular basis and is once again active in AA attending meetings 2-3 times weekly. Respondent states "I have been sober since the arrest" and she has an Interlock Device installed on her vehicle.
- The Respondent's conduct described in the preceding Finding of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.
- 10. The Board finds that there exists serious risks to public health and safety as a result of impaired nursing care due to intemperate use of controlled substances or chemical dependency.
- 11. Respondent's conduct described in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7) resulted from Respondent's impairment by dependency on alcohol.
- 12. Respondent's compliance with the terms of a Board approved peer assistance program should be sufficient to protect patients and the public.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.455, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
- Notice was served in accordance with law.
- 3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violations of Section 301.452(b)(9), (10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12 (13).

- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 110449, heretofore issued to JOAN ELIZABETH GENTRY, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 5. The Board may, in its discretion, order a nurse to participate in a peer assistance program approved by the Board if the nurse would otherwise have been eligible for referral to peer assistance pursuant to Section 301.410, Texas Occupations Code.

#### ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT, in lieu of the sanction of Revocation under Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code, SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for RESPONDENT to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN):

- (1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within forty-five (45) days following the date of entry of this final Order, apply to TPAPN and SHALL, within ninety (90) days following the date of entry of this final Order, sign and execute the TPAPN participation agreement, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) payable to TPAPN.
- (2) Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, RESPONDENT SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN participation agreement to the Texas Board of Nursing.
- (3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term and SHALL keep her license to practice nursing in the State of Texas current.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED, RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, Section §§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 this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license is encumbered by this Order, Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the Texas Board of Nursing and the Poard of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT fail to comply with this Order or the terms of the participation agreement with the TPAPN, such noncompliance will result in further disciplinary action including revocation of Respondent's license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

### 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. I do acknowledge possessing a diagnosis that deems me eligible to participate in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Conditions One (1) through Four (4) of this Order to obtain disposition of the allegations through peer assistance and to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order becomes effective upon acceptance by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, 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 to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4 day of

Notary Public in and for the State of

Entered and effective this 24 day of Fruency 2009.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN Executive Director on behalf

of said Board