#### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse

§

AGREED

License Number 655932

**ORDER** 

§ § issued to SUSAN RENEE JONES

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Boa considered the matter of SUSAN RENEE JONES, Registered Nurse License Number 655932, 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 July 23, 2010, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

#### 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.
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
- 3. Respondent holds a license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas which is delinquent status.
- 4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Crowder College, Neosha, Missouri, in May 1994. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on October 21, 1998.
- 5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

05/94 - 01/98

Unknown

Executive Director of the Board

Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

02/98 - 09/98	RN	St. John's Regional Medical Center Joplin, MO
03/98 - 09/98	RN	Heartcare Associates Joplin, MO
10/98 - 03/07	RN	Medical City Dallas Hospital Dallas, TX
04/07 - Present	Unknown	

- 6. At the time of the incident described in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Medical City Dallas Hospital, Dallas, Texas, and had been in this position for seven (7) years and eleven (11) months.
- 7. On or about September 2006, through March 2007, while employed with Medical City Dallas Hospital, Dallas, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Fentanyl and Versed belonging to the facility and patients thereof, or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients of the cost of the medications.
- 8. On or about September 2006, through March 2007, while employed with Medical City Dallas Hospital, Dallas, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Fentanyl and Versed in that she admitted to taking the medications for her own personal use. The use of Fentanyl and Versed by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.
- 9. The Respondent's conduct described in the preceding Findings 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. In response to the conduct described in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent discloses that she is in a treatment program in the State of Washington and is scheduled to complete the program in about nine (9) months.

- 12. Formal Charges were filed on April 28, 2010.
- 13. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on May 12, 2010.
- 14. Respondent's conduct described in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8) resulted from Respondent's dependency on chemicals.
- 15. 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.
- 2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
- 3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violation of Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(5),(6)(G),(8),(10)(A)&(11)(B).
- 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 655932, heretofore issued to SUSAN RENEE JONES, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice professional 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):

RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to SUSAN RENEE

JONES, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days from the date of ratification of this Order.

- (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.

## Washington Health Professional Services (WHPS) as an Alternative to TPAPN

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, and ORDERED that this order constitutes written permission for Respondent to participate in the Washington Health Professional Services for chemical dependency in lieu of the TPAPN option provided Respondent applies and is accepted within ten (10) days following the date of entry of this final Order, and remains enrolled in Washington Health Professional Services until successful completion. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice in any other party state during the term of the alternative program without prior written authorization from the Texas Board of Nursing.

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 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 is 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, 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 EMERGENCY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of Respondent's license and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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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. 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 nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 31 day of 31, 20/0.

SUSAN RENEE JONES, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3 day of 10, 2010.

NOTARY

PUBLIC

OF WASHINGTON

Mich W. Julieta

Notary Public in and for the State of Washington

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept and enter the Agreed Order that was signed on the 31st day of July, 2010, by SUSAN RENEE JONES, Registered Nurse License Number 655932, and said Order is final.



Entered and effective this 19th day of August, 2010.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board