



Respondent's vocational nursing employment history continued:

08/82 - 10/92	LVN	Coastal Bend Blood Bank Corpus Christi, Texas
11/92 - 07/95	LVN	Alameda Oaks Nursing Center Corpus Christi, Texas
06/95 - 02/97	LVN	IHS Hospital Corpus Christi, Texas
02/97 - 06/03	LVN	MSN Nursing Agency Corpus Christi, Texas
01/03 - Present	LVN	Elite Nursing Agency Corpus Christi, Texas
02/04 - 02/08	LVN	Christus Spohn Medical Center Corpus Christi, Texas
02/08 - Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a licensed vocational nurse with Christus Spohn Medical Center, Corpus Christi, Texas, and had been in this position for three (3) years and ten (10) months.
7. On or about December 2007 to February 2008, while employed with Christus Spohn Health System, Corpus Christi, Texas, Respondent removed medications from the Pyxis medication dispensing system for patients, without a valid physician's order, as follows:

Date	Patient MR#	Physician's Order	Medication Dispensing System Record Time and Quantity	Medication Administration Record	Nurses Notes
12-26-07	628936	Nubain 5mg IV push q 4 hrs PRN itching or q 2 hrs PRN pain > 4 <i>D/C order set @ 0030 on 12-26-07</i>	Nalbuphine Hcl 10mg/1ml Amp 2352 (1)	No Entry	No Entry
1-1-08	626242	Morphine Sulfate 2mg IV Push q 2 hrs PRN pain > 4 <i>D/C order set at 2230 on 12-31-07</i>	Morphine Inj. 2mg/1ml Syringe 0511 (1)	No Entry	No Entry

2-6-08	632577	Morphine Sulfate 2mg IV Push q 2 hrs PRN pain > 4 <i>D/C order set at 0030 on 2-6-08</i>	Morphine Inj. 2mg/1ml Syringe 0056 (1)	0111 - Morphine Inj. 2mg/ml Syr.	No Entry
2-6-08	632577	Morphine Sulfate 2mg IV Push q 2 hrs PRN pain > 4 <i>D/C order set at 0030 on 2-6-08</i>	Morphine Inj. 2mg/1ml Syringe 0626 (1)	0630 - Morphine Inj. 2mg/ml Syr.	0600 - c/o pain, Motrin & Morphine given.
2-12-08	144259	Morphine Sulfate 2mg IV Push q 2 hrs PRN pain > 4 <i>D/C order set at 1231 on 2-12-08</i>	Morphine Inj. 2mg/1ml Syringe 2143 (1)	No Entry	No Entry

Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that the administration of controlled substances without a valid physician's order could result in the patients suffering from adverse reactions.

8. On or about December 2007 to February 2008, while employed with Christus Spohn Health System, Corpus Christi, Texas, Respondent removed medications from the Pyxis medication dispensing system for patients, and failed to completely and accurately document the administration of said medications in the patients' medical records and/or nurse's notes, as follows:

Date	Patient MR#	Physician's Order	Medication Dispensing System Record Time and Quantity	Medication Administration Record	Nurses Notes
12-26-07	628936	Nubain 5mg IV push q 4 hrs PRN itching or q 2 hrs PRN pain > 4 <i>D/C order set @ 0030 on 12-26-07</i>	Nalbuphine Hcl 10mg/1ml Amp 2352 (1)	No Entry	No Entry
1-1-08	626242	Morphine Sulfate 2mg IV Push q 2 hrs PRN pain > 4 <i>D/C order set at 2230 on 12-31-07</i>	Morphine Inj. 2mg/1ml Syringe 0511 (1)	No Entry	No Entry
2-12-08	144259	Morphine Sulfate 2mg IV Push q 2 hrs PRN pain > 4 <i>D/C order set at 1231 on 2-12-08</i>	Morphine Inj. 2mg/1ml Syringe 2143 (1)	No Entry	No Entry

2-18-08	77229	Morphine Sulfate 2mg IV Push q 2 hrs PRN pain > 4 <i>D/C order set at 0802 on 2-19-08</i>	Morphine Inj. 2mg/1ml Syringe 2223 (1)	No Entry	No Entry
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Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patients which could result in an overdose and placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act).

9. On or about December 2007 to February 2008, while employed with Christus Spohn Health System, Corpus Christi, Texas, Respondent removed medications from the pyxis medication dispensing system for patients, and failed to follow the facility's policy and procedure for wastage of the unused portions of the medications, as follows:

Date	Patient MR#	Physician's Order	Medication Dispensing System Record Time and Quantity	Medication Administration Record	Nurses Notes	Wastage
12-26-07	628936	Nubain 5mg IV push q 4 hrs PRN itching or q 2 hrs PRN pain > 4 <i>D/C order set @ 0030 on 12-26-07</i>	Nalbuphine Hcl 10mg/1ml Amp 2352 (1)	No Entry	No Entry	Not Documented
1-1-08	626242	Morphine Sulfate 2mg IV Push q 2 hrs PRN pain > 4 <i>D/C order set at 2230 on 12-31-07</i>	Morphine Inj. 2mg/1ml Syringe 0511 (1)	No Entry	No Entry	Not Documented
2-12-08	144259	Morphine Sulfate 2mg IV Push q 2 hrs PRN pain > 4 <i>D/C order set at 1231 on 2-12-08</i>	Morphine Inj. 2mg/1ml Syringe 2143 (1)	No Entry	No Entry	Not Documented
2-18-08	77229	Morphine Sulfate 2mg IV Push q 2 hrs PRN pain > 4 <i>D/C order set at 0802 on 2-19-08</i>	Morphine Inj. 2mg/1ml Syringe 2223 (1)	No Entry	No Entry	Not Documented

Respondent's conduct was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy and placed them in violation of Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act).

10. On or about December 2007 to February 2008, while employed with Christus Spohn Health System, Corpus Christi, Texas, Respondent misappropriated, and/or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation of Morphine and Nubain from the facility and patients thereof. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients of the cost of the medications.
11. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) to Ten (10), Respondent states:  
  
"I did remove Morphine Sulfate IV from the pyxis medicine machine on or about February 12, 2008. I did not document removing Morphine and I did not call the doctor. The patient did not have an order. I did not take the morphine for me or my personal use, it was given to the patient. When I was called to the Manager's office about the morphine, [G. G.], RN accused me of taking the morphine; she insinuated that I took it. When I asked her & the administrator to drug test me they both refused saying the morphine sulfate IV leaves the system very quickly so they didn't. She suspended me for 2 days then terminated me. I am not a drug addict like I was accused, nor have I ever used any kind of illicit drug."
12. 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)&(D) and 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(6)(G),(10)(B),(10)(C)&(11)(B).
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 84264, heretofore issued to CHRISTINA D. BECERRA, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice vocational 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 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 this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice nursing in compact states.

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 Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to CHRISTINA D. BECERRA, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days from the date of ratification of this Order.

(2) 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>.*

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in medication administration. 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. 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 found at the following Board website address:*  
<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html>.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in nursing documentation. 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. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length of classroom time. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: nursing standards related to accurate and complete documentation; legal guidelines for recording; methods and processes of recording; methods of alternative record-keeping; and computerized documentation. RESPONDENT SHALL cause the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Board's office 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>

(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 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 VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) LICENSE 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. 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. 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) RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse or 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 Registered Nurse or Licensed Vocational 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.

(10) 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 of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and RESPONDENT SHALL submit to an evaluation by a Board approved physician specializing in Pain Management or Psychiatry. The performing evaluator will submit a written report to the Board's office, including results of the evaluation, clinical indications for the prescriptions, and recommendations for on-going treatment within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.**

(11) 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. All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Screens obtained through urinalysis is the sole method accepted by the Board.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines	Meperidine
Barbiturates	Methadone
Benzodiazepines	Methaqualone
Cannabinoids	Opiates
Cocaine	Phencyclidine

Ethanol  
tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)

Propoxyphene

A Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT's place of employment at any time during the stipulation 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 stipulation.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action by this Board. Failure to report for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result and may result in further disciplinary action by this Board.

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

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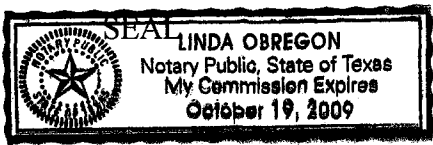
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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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

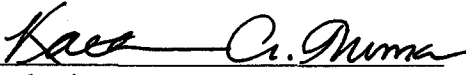
Signed this 1 day of June, 2009  
Christina D. Becerra  
CHRISTINA D. BECERRA, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2009  
Linda Obregon  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2009, by CHRISTINA D. BECERRA, Vocational Nurse License Number 84264, and said Order is final.

Effective this 23rd day of July, 2009.

  
Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN  
Executive Director on behalf  
of said Board

