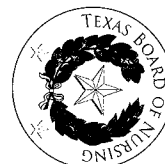


BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the Matter of Vocational Nurse License Number 186522
issued to JULIE MARIE PATRICK

§ AGREED
§ ORDER



I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate, and true copy of the document which is on file or is of record in the offices of the Texas Board of Nursing.
Katherine A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter refer to as the Board, considered the matter of JULIE MARIE PATRICK, Vocational Nurse License Number 186522, 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 conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on November 9, 2006, 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 conference, 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 Tyler Junior College, Tyler, Texas, on August 9, 2002. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on October 31, 2002.
5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:

09/02 - 04/06	GVN/LVN	Trinity Mother Frances Hospital Tyler, Texas
04/06 - 05/06	Not Employed in Nursing	

Respondent's vocational nursing employment history (continued):

06/06 - Present

LVN

Reunion Plaza Nursing and Rehab
Tyler, Texas

6. At the time of the incidents, Respondent was employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, Tyler, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately three (3) years and seven (7) months.
7. On or about April 6, 2006, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, Tyler, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice vocational nursing in that Respondent was observed by several employees with behavior that was consistent with an individual being impaired, to-wit: she made slow, deliberate movements with uncoordinated steps; she was crying; and she was not able to focus her attention on her tasks. Respondent's condition could have affected her ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions, and could have affected her ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.
8. On or about April 6, 2006, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, Tyler, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Benzodiazepine and Marijuana, in that Respondent produced a specimen for a drug screen which resulted positive for Benzodiazepine and Marijuana. Possession of Benzodiazepine and Marijuana is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Benzodiazepine and Marijuana by a Licensed Vocational 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. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent states: "Up until a year ago, I was a recovering alcoholic. I moved into an apartment complex with lots of drinking and I relapsed.

On April 6, 2006, I was at work at Trinity Mother Frances in Labor and Delivery. I was extremely hung over and it was 7:00 a.m. I was observed "staggering" and my "behaviors were impaired." My supervisor was notified and came to the unit to observe my behavior. At noon, I was taken for a drug screen. I wasn't worried, I knew I wasn't drunk. I gave urine for a specimen, and took a breathalyzer test. Unfortunately, two days prior to the drug screen, in a "blackout," I smoked Marijuana with my neighbor. I had no memory of it. My neighbor informed me after the drug screen. Obviously, I tested positive for Marijuana, and I also tested positive for Benzodiazepine. I had a valid prescription for Valium, because I had been suffering from anxiety. The Valium was prescribed 2.5mg bid, but I normally only took 2.5mg hs. I was terminated from my job, and I knew I couldn't stop drinking on my own. I

entered outpatient treatment on 04-13-06 and completed the treatment on 05-11-06. I stopped taking my prescribed Valium when I entered treatment, and I have not taken any since. I attended aftercare throughout a "good part of June 2006," and I was attending AA daily, but now I am only able to attend 3-4 days per week. I found a new job and I am trying to clean up my mess. Please allow me to enter the TPAPN."

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Respondent's conduct described in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8) resulted from Respondent's dependency on chemicals.
13. 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 violations of Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(E),(5),(10)(A)&(D).
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 186522, heretofore issued to JULIE MARIE PATRICK, including revocation of Respondent's vocational 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.

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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 and be accepted into the TPAPN, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) payable to TPAPN.

(2) Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, RESPONDENT SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN contract to the Board of Nurse Examiners.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN contract during its term.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Board of Nurse Examiners of any violation of the TPAPN contract.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED, RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Texas Occupations Code, Section §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 *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 vocational 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 State of Texas 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 revocation of Respondent's license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice vocational 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 Board of Nurse Examiners, 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 29 day of December, 2006

Julie Marie Patrick
JULIE MARIE PATRICK, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29 day of December, 2006.

SEAL

Codi M. Pike

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, does hereby accept and enter the Agreed Order that was signed on the 29th day of December, 2006, by JULIE MARIE PATRICK, Vocational Nurse License Number 186522, and said Order is final.

Entered and effective this 24th day of January, 2007.



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