### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



In the Matter of

AGREED

Vocational Nurse License Number 171359

issued to WESLEY WAGNER BERRY

ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of WESLEY WAGNER BERRY, Vocational Nurse License Number 171359, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(13) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on November 14, 2012, 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).
- Respondent waived 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.
- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Northwest Missouri Technical School of Practical Nursing, Maryville, Missouri, on July 19, 1998. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on March 3, 1999.
- 5. Respondent's complete vocational nursing employment history includes:

03/1999-02/00

Unknown

03/00-08/04

LVN

Plano Specialty Hospital

Plano, Texas

Executive Director of the Board

Respondent's complete vocational nursing employment history continued:

08/04-08/06

LVN

LifeCare Hospital of Plano
Plano, Texas

09/06-11/09

LVN

LifeCare Hospital of San
Antonio, San Antonio, Texas

12/09-Present Unknown

- 6. On or about October 22, 2009, through November 3, 2009, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with LifeCare Hospitals of San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent withdrew Hydromorphone, Morphine, and Fentanyl from the Medication Dispensing System for patients but failed to document, or completely and accurately document the administration of, including signs, symptoms and responses to the medication in the patients' Medication Administration Record and/or nurses notes. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that subsequent care givers would rely on his documentation to further medicate the patient which could result in an overdose.
- 7. On or about October 22, 2009, through November 5, 2009, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with LifeCare Hospitals of San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent withdrew Hydromorphone, Morphine, and Fentanyl from the Medication Dispensing System for patients but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedures for wastage of any of the unused portions of the medications. 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).
- 8. On or about October 23, 2009, through November 2, 2009, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with LifeCare Hospitals of San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent falsely documented that he administered Hydromorphone to patients in that the medication was not withdrawn from the medication dispensing system associated with the dates and times Respondent documented medications given. Respondent's conduct created an inaccurate medical record which was likely to deceive subsequent care givers who would rely on the documentation to provide ongoing medical care.
- On or about October 22, 2009, through November 5, 2009, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with LifeCare Hospitals of San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Hydromorphone, Morphine, and Fentanyl from the facility or 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.

- 10. In response to Finding of Fact Numbers Six (6) through Nine (9), Respondent acknowledges that he apparently made quite a few documentation errors regarding the administration and wasting of medication during the time period of October 22, 2009, through November 5, 2009, though he unequivocally denies any allegations that he used or diverted the medications. Respondent states that he faced long hours and fatigue, and ultimately he became overwhelmed and prone to mistakes.
- 11. On or about October 22, 2009, through November 5, 2009, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with LifeCare Hospitals of San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Valium in that Respondent refused a urine drug screen stating that he took a dose of Valium without a prescription. Unlawful possession of Valium is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Valium 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 patients 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.
- 12. In response to Finding of Fact Number Eleven (11), Respondent denies being on any other non-prescribed medications at the time of his termination and while he did refuse a drug screen, he did not state he would test positive for other non-prescribed medications.
- 13. On or about October I, 2012, Respondent completed a chemical dependency evaluation performed by J. Ray Hays, Ph.D., J.D. Dr. Hays concludes that based on results from the clinical interview and psychological test data, it is in his opinion, that Respondent is capable of avoiding behaviors that constitute unprofessional conduct as a licensed nurse in the State of Texas and no recommendation on behalf of Respondent are being made.
- 14. Formal Charges were filed on March 13, 2012.
- 15. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on March 14, 2012.

## **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(s) of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(A),(1)(B)&(1)(D) and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(5), (10)(A),(10)(B)&(10)(C) and (11)(B).

4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 171359, heretofore issued to WESLEY WAGNER BERRY, 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 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, 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 <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. 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: <a href="http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html">http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html</a>.

(2) 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 <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 found at the following Board website address: http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.

(3) 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 <u>not</u> 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: <a href="http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html">http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html</a>.

(4) 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 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. Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address: <a href="http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html">http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html</a>.

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:

- 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.
- (6) 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.
- (7) 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.

(8) 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.

(9) 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 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.

(10) RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol. For the twelve (12) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month. 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 Meperidine Methadone Benzodiazepines

Cannabinoids

Cocaine

Ethanol

Methaqualone

Opiates

Phencyclidine

Propoxyphene

tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)

A Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT'S place of employment at any time during

the stipulation 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 stipulation period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription or refusal

to submit to a drug or alcohol screen 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. Further, failure to report for a drug screen, excessive dilute specimens,

or failure to call in for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result or refusal to

submit to a drug or alcohol screen.

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 have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) 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 mursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 5 day of February, 2013.

Wesley Wagner Berry, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this	<u>5</u> day of	Febr	vary,	20/3
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Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



Approved as to form and substance.

DARRIN DEST, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 12 day of February, 2013.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 5th day of February, 20 13, by WESLEY WAGNER BERRY, Vocational Nurse License Number 171359, and said Order is final.

Effective this 19th day of March, 2013.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

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Executive Director on behalf

of said Board