# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



In the Matter of § AGREED

Registered Nurse License Number 781024 §
issued to LINDSEY MORGAN NEWTON § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of LINDSEY MORGAN NEWTON, Registered Nurse License Number 781024, 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)(2),(9),(10)&(13), 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 January 27, 2014, 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas.
- 4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler, Texas, on December 18, 2009. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on February 9, 2010.
- Respondent's professional nursing employment history is unknown.
- On or about June 1, 2007, Petitioner's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas was issued an Order of Conditional Eligibility, to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Agreed Order dated June 1, 2007 is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.

is on file or is of record in the office:

Texas Board of Nursing.

Executive Director of the Board

- 7. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse through Da Vinci Staffing Agency and assigned to East Texas Medical Center, Tyler Texas, and has been in this position for three months.
- 8. On or about February 3, 2011, Respondent submitted a License Renewal Form to the Texas Board of Nursing, in which she answered "Yes" to the question: "Have you, within the past 24 months or since your last renewal, for any criminal offense, including those pending appeal:
  - A. been convicted of a misdemeanor?
  - B. been convicted of a felony?
  - C. pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
  - D. received deferred adjudication?
  - E. been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
  - F. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? court-ordered confinement?
  - G. been granted pre-trial diversion?
  - H. been arrested or any pending criminal charges?
  - I. been cited or charged with any violation of the law?
  - J. been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation, or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?"

Respondent disclosed that, on or about November 10, 2010, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to and was convicted of DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE, a misdemeanor offense committed on March 6, 2010, in the Oxford Municipal Court of Oxford, Mississippi, under Cause No. TA10-72988.

- 9. On or about January 23, 2012, Respondent became non-compliant with the Order of Conditional Eligibility issued to her by the Texas Board of Nursing on June 1, 2007. Noncompliance is the result of her failure to comply with Stipulation Number Three (3) of the Order which reads, in pertinent part:
  - (3) PETITIONER SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN contract during its term.

Specifically, on or about January 21, 2012, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Hydrocodone in that Respondent stated her UDS result would be positive as she took a Hydrocodone from a prescription she received in December. Possession of Hydrocodone is prohibited by Chapter 481 to the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substance Act). The use of Hydrocodone 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.

- 10. On or about May 16, 2012 through May 17, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse through Da Vinci Staffing Agency and assigned to East Texas Medical Center, Tyler Texas, Respondent withdrew Hydrocodone from the automated medication dispensing unit (Pyxis) for patients, but failed to accurately document the administration of the medications in the patients' Medication Administration Record and/or nurse's notes. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patient which could result in an overdose.
- 11. On or about May 16, 2012 through May 17, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse through Da Vinci Staffing Agency assigned to East Texas Medical Center, Tyler Texas, Respondent withdrew Morphine Sulfate from the automated medication dispensing unit (Pyxis) for patient #70062013, but failed to follow the hospital's policy and procedures for wastage of unused portions of narcotics. 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 Substance Act).
- 12. On or about May 16, 2012 through May 19, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse through Da Vinci Staffing Agency assigned to East Texas Medical Center, Tyler Texas, Respondent misappropriated Hydrocodone, Morphine Sulfate, Oxycontin and Dilaudid from the facility and patients thereof, or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation. Respondent's conduct was likely todefraud the facility and patients of the cost of the medications.
- 13. On or about May 25, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse through Da Vinci Staffing Agency assigned to East Texas Medical Center, Tyler Texas, lacked fitness to practice professional nursing in that she appeared sleepy and drowsy. Respondent's conduct 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 patents in potential danger.
- 14. On or about May 25, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse through Da Vinci Staffing Agency assigned to East Texas Medical Center, Tyler Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Opiates in that Respondent produced a specimen for a drug screen which resulted positive for Opiates. Possession of Opiates is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substance Act). The use of Opiates by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate, assessments, judgments, and decision regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.
- On or about February 9, 2013, Respondent submitted a License Renewal Form to the Texas Board of Nursing, in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that she answered "No" to the question:

"In the Past 5 years, have you been diagnosed with or treated or hospitalized for schizophrenia or other psychotic disorder, bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder? (you

may answer "No" if you have completed and/or are in compliance with TPAPN for mental illness <u>OR</u> you've previously disclosed to the Texas Board of Nursing and have remained compliant with your treatment regime and have had no further hospitalization since disclosure.)"

Respondent is presently under patient care for the treatment of major anxiety disorder and depression.

- In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through fifteen (15), Respondent voluntarily enrolled in TPAPN and was in compliance for approximately eighteen (18) months. Respondent did not complete the program due to being prescribed three medications and not properly informing TPAPN about the medications even though she advised her TPAPN advocate of the medication. Respondent always followed hospital's policy and procedure regarding wastage and protocols of the facility and acted within the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Nursing Peer Review Act. Respondent documented all withdrawals from the Pyxis and documented them on the patients' nurse's notes and medication administration records. Respondent followed doctor's orders related to pain medications that she believed were efficacious for the patients. Respondent suffers from chronic low back pain related to a back injury she received when she lifted a patient in November 2008. As a result, she occasionally takes hydrocodone, prescribed by her primary care physician, especially after being on her feet for 12 or more hours. Respondent took one the night before reporting to duty.
- 17. 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(s) of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.11 (1)(B)&(D), and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12 (1)(A),(4),(6)(G),(9),(10)(B),(10)(C), (10)(E)&(11)(B).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(2),(9),(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 781024, heretofore issued to LINDSEY MORGAN NEWTON, 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 Registered Nurse License Number 781024, previously issued to LINDSEY MORGAN NEWTON, to practice nursing in Texas is/are hereby SUSPENDED and said suspension is ENFORCED until Respondent completes a treatment program approved by the Board, provides documentation of successful completion, and has obtained twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety. Any relapse prior to the completion of the twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety will result in an extension of the enforced suspension until such twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety and additional treatment have been attained.

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.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, upon verification of successful completion of the approved treatment and twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety as set out in this Order, the Suspension will be STAYED, and RESPONDENT will be placed on PROBATION for three (3) years with the following agreed terms of probation:

- (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 pay all re-registration fees, if applicable, and RESPONDENT'S licensure status in the State of Texas will be updated to reflect the applicable conditions outlined herein.
- (3) 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 has for relicensure. Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address: http://www.bon.texas.gov/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. 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>.
- (5) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750). 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 THREE (3) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH THIRTY-SIX (36) 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:

- (6) 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 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 NOT practice as a nurse on the night shift, rotate shifts, work overtime, accept on-call assignments, or be used for coverage on any unit other than the identified, predetermined unit(s) to which Respondent is regularly assigned for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.
- (9) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse in any critical care area for one (1) year of employment as a nurse. Critical care areas include, but are not limited to, intensive care units, emergency rooms, operating rooms, telemetry units, recovery rooms, and labor and delivery units.
- (11) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT administer or have any contact with controlled substances, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.
- (12) 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) months for three (3) years of employment as a nurse.

- (13) 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.
- (14) 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 and their metabolites:

Amphetamines

Barbiturates

Benzodiazepines

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 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.

(15) RESPONDENT SHALL participate in therapy with a "professional counselor" possessing credentials approved by the Board. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the therapist to submit written reports, on forms provided by the Board, as to the RESPONDENT'S progress in therapy, rehabilitation and capability to safely practice professional nursing. The report must indicate whether or not the RESPONDENT'S stability is sufficient to provide direct patient care safely. Such reports are to be furnished each and every month for three (3) months. If therapy is

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recommended for beyond three (3) months, the reports shall then be required at the end of each three (3) month period for the duration of the probation period, or until RESPONDENT is dismissed from therapy.

(16) 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) months. 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, 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 may 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 nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 21 day of February 20 14.	
LINDSEY MORGAN NEWTON, Respondent	/
LINDSEY MORGAN NEWTON, Respondent	

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21 day of Felinary, 20

KAREN VAUGHAN
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
JULY 28, 2015

Notary Public in and for the State of /EX

Approved as to form and substance.

Patricia Blair, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 24 day of February 2014.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 21st day of February, 2014, by LINDSEY MORGAN NEWTON, Registered Nurse License Number 781024, and said Order is final.

Effective this 18th day of March, 2014.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

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#### BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the Matter of ORDER OF LINDSEY MORGAN HAZELTON CONDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY ş PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure as a Registered Nurse

On the date entered below, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Declaratory Order and supporting documents filed by LINDSEY MORGAN HAZELTON, hereinafter referred to as PETITIONER, together with any documents and information gathered by staff and PETITIONER's Certificate contained herein. Information received by the Board produced evidence that PETITIONER may have violated Section 301.452 et seg., Texas Occupations Code.

PETITIONER waived representation by counsel, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on April 9, 2007, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

- On or about January 30, 2007, Petitioner submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order in 1. compliance with Section 301.257 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.
- Petitioner waived representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review. 2.
- Petitioner is not currently enrolled in a professional nursing program. 3.
- Petitioner completed the Petition for Declaratory Order and answered "yes" to Question Number Five (5), which reads as follows: "Within the past five (5) years have you been addicted to and/or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?"
- Petitioner provided a letter dated February 11, 2004, from Debbie Ross, LCDC, Tyler, Texas, 5. confirming that the Petitioner was seen from December 2, 2003 thru February 11, 2004 at The Beginning, an outpatient treatment center. In Ms. Ross' opinion, Petitioner has worked

on her identified treatment issues and has made good progress. In an updated letter dated September 15, 2006, submitted to the Board by Ms. Ross, she states that at the time of her discharge, Petitioner appeared to have made healthy changes in her life.

- 6. In a written statement to the Board, Petitioner states that she was dismissed from the Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Program at the University of Texas at Arlington after testing positive for Darvocet.
- 7. The safety of patients and the public requires that all persons licensed to practice nursing be fit, sober, and able to consistently practice nursing in autonomous roles under demanding and stressful conditions.
- 8. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's substance abuse as provided in §213.29, 22 Texas Administrative Code.
- 9. The Executive Director's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of the information provided by Petitioner:
- 10. Petitioner has sworn that, with the exception of matters disclosed in connection with the petition, her past behavior conforms to the Board's professional character requirements. Petitioner presented no evidence of behavior which is inconsistent with the Board's character requirements in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.27.
- 11. On or about April 9, 2007, the Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the character factors set out in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for good professional character.
- 12. In consideration of Petitioner's past conduct and subsequent evidence of rehabilitation, the Executive Director finds that Petitioner should be declared conditionally eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.
- 13. Petitioner'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. The Board of Nurse Examiners has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 301,453, Texas Occupations Code.
- 2. Petitioner has submitted a petition in compliance with Section 301.257 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.

- 3. Petitioner shall immediately notify the Board of any fact or event that could constitute a ground of ineligibility for licensure under Section 301.452, Texas Occupations Code.
- 4. The Board of Nurse Examiners may license an individual who has a history of substance abuse, after consideration of the criteria set out in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.29, the Board determines the Petitioner does not currently pose a direct threat to the health and safety of patients or the public.
- The Board may, in its discretion, order a Petitioner, upon initial licensure as a registered 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

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that upon meeting the requirements for graduation and payment of any required fees, LINDSEY MORGAN HAZELTON, PETITIONER, is CONDITIONALLY ELIGIBLE to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN® Examination). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be eligible for temporary authorization to practice as a Graduate Nurse in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that PETITIONER SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Texas Occupations Code §§301.001 et seq., the Rules and Regulations Relating to Professional Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 et seq., and this Order.

IN ADDITION, IT IS THEREFORE FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that PETITIONER, upon initial licensure, SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for PETITIONER to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN):

(1) PETITIONER SHALL, within forty-five (45) days of initial licensure, apply to

and be accepted into the TPAPN, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) payable to TPAPN.

- (2) Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, PETITIONER SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN contract to the Board of Nurse Examiners.
- (3) PETITIONER SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN contract during its term.
- (4) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Board of Nurse Examiners of any violation of the TPAPN contract.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Petitioner's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Petitioner's license is encumbered by this Order, Petitioner 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 Petitioner wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

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## PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION

I am the Petitioner in this matter. I have fully and truthfully disclosed all relevant information in conformity with Rule 213.29 at Texas Administrative Code. I certify that my past behavior, except as disclosed in my Petition for Declaratory Order, has been in conformity with the Board's professional character rule. I have provided the Board with complete and accurate documentation of my past behavior in violation of the penal law of any jurisdiction which was disposed of through any procedure short of conviction, such as: conditional discharge, deferred adjudication or dismissal. I have no criminal prosecution pending in any jurisdiction.

In connection with my petition, I acknowledge that I have read and I understand Section 301.257, Texas Occupations Code, Section 301.452 (a), (b) and (c), Texas Occupations Code, and Chapter 53, Section 53.001 et seq., Texas Occupations Code, and Board Rules 213.27, 213.28, and 213.29 at 22 Texas Administrative Code. I agree with all terms of this Order, including the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and any stipulations set out in this Order. I acknowledge that this Order is stipulated and I understand that I am not eligible to receive a Graduate Nurse Permit to practice. I agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to registering for the NCLEX-RN® Examination or accepting any permit or license from the Board of Nurse Examiners.

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

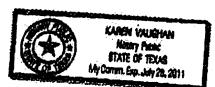
I understand that I can be represented by an attorney in this matter. I waive representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review of this Order and request that the Executive Director of the Board of Nurse Examiners enter this Order.

Signed this and

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

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Notary Public in and for the State of



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WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director on behalf of the

Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Order of Conditional Eligibility that was signed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2007, by LINDSEY MORGAN HAZELTON, PETITIONER, for Petition for Declaratory Order, and said Order is final.

Entered this 1st day of June. 2007.

BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

By:

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN

Executive Director on behalf of said Board

I certify this to be a true copy of the records on file with the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas.

Date: 6/4/01

Signed