# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

In the Matter of
Registered Nurse License Number 704630
issued to SUSAN EVON HOPPE



## ORDER OF THE BOARD

On this day, the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, accepted the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 704630, issued to SUSAN EVON HOPPE, hereinafter referred to as Respondent. This action was taken in accordance with Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived informal proceedings, notice and hearing.

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
- 2. Respondent waived informal proceedings, notice and hearing.
- 3. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois, on December 13, 1986. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on April 26, 2004.
- 4. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

01/87 - 08/88	RN	Children's Hospital at Washington University St. Louis, Missouri
09/88 - 05/91	RN	University of Minnesota Hospital Minneapolis, Minnesota
06/91 - 05/92	RN	Saginaw General Hospital Siginaw, Michigan

Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

06/92 - 08/92	Unknown	
09/92 - 05/96	RN	St. Mary's Medical Center Saginaw, Michigan
06/96 - 01/04	Not Employed in Nur	rsing
02/04 - 06/06	RN	Methodist Sugar Land Hospital Sugar Land, Texas
07/06 - 08/06	Unknown	
09/06 - Unknown	RN	Houston Methodist St. Catherine Katy, Texas
09/07 08/10	RN	St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital Houston, Texas
09/10 - 11/10	Unknown	
12/10 - 02/11	RN	Memorial Hermann Memorial City Houston, Texas
03/11 - Present	Unknown	

- 5. On or about May 8, 2006, through June 20, 2006, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, Sugar Land, Texas, Respondent withdrew eighteen (18) Meperidine 100mg syringes from the medication dispensing system (PYXIS) for patients without valid physicians' orders. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that the administration of medications without a valid physician's order could result in the patients suffering from adverse reactions, and Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 6. On or about May 8, 2006, through June 29, 2006, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, Sugar Land, Texas, Respondent withdrew twenty (20) Meperidine 100mg syringes from the medication dispensing system (Pyxis) for patients, but failed to document or accurately and completely document the administration of the medications in the patients' Medication Administration Record (MAR) 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 patients which could result in an overdose, and Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

- 7. On or about May 8, 2006, through June 29, 2006, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, Sugar Land, Texas, Respondent withdrew twenty-six (26) Meperidine 100mg syringes from the medication dispensing system (Pyxis) for patients, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedure for wastage of the unused portions of the medications. Respondent's conduct left medications unaccounted for, was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy, and placed the pharmacy in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 8. On or about May 8, 2006, through June 29, 2006, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, Sugar Land, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Meperidine from the facility and patients thereof, or failed to take precautions to prevent the misappropriation of Meperidine from the facility and patients thereof. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients thereof of the cost of the medications.
- 9. On or about July 30, 2010, through August 15, 2010, while employed in the Emergency Department at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston, Texas, Respondent withdrew twelve (12) Hydrocodone 325-5mg tablets, nine (9) Hydromorphone 2mg injections, and one (1) Promethazine 25mg injection from the medication dispensing system (AcuDose) for patients, without valid physician's orders. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that the administration of medications without a valid physician's order could result in the patients suffering from adverse reactions, and Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 10. On or about July 30, 2010, through August 15, 2010, while employed in the Emergency Department at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston, Texas, Respondent withdrew twelve (12) Hydrocodone 325-5mg tablets, nine (9) Hydromorphone 2mg injections, and one (1) Promethazine 25mg injection from the medication dispensing system (AcuDose) for patients, but failed to document or accurately and completely document the administration of the medications in the patients' Medication Administration Record (MAR) 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 patients which could result in an overdose, and Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 11. On or about July 30, 2010, through August 15, 2010, while employed in the Emergency Department at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston, Texas, Respondent withdrew twelve (12) Hydrocodone 325-5mg tablets, nine (9) Hydromorphone 2mg injections, and one (1) Promethazine 25mg injection from the medication dispensing system (AcuDose) for patients, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedure for wastage of the unused portions of the medications. Respondent's conduct left medications unaccounted for, was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy, and placed the pharmacy in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

- 12. On or about July 30, 2010, through August 15, 2010, while employed in the Emergency Department at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Hydrocodone, Hydromorphone and Promethazine from the facility and patients thereof, or failed to take precautions to prevent the misappropriation of Hydrocodone, Hydromorphone and Promethazine from the facility and patients thereof. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients thereof of the cost of the medications.
- 13. On or about January 27, 2011, through February 19, 2011, while employed with Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center, Houston, Texas, Respondent diverted Dilaudid from the facility, and tampered with multiple vials of Dilaudid before returning them to the medication dispensing system (Pyxis). The tampered vials were later discovered to be empty, had needle punctures in the stopper, had glue on some caps, and some were missing caps. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients thereof of the cost of the medications, left medications unaccounted for, was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy, and placed the pharmacy in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 14. Formal Charges were filed on November 5, 2013.
- 15. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on November 6, 2013.
- 16. On April 14, 2014, the Board received a notarized statement from Respondent voluntarily surrendering the right to practice nursing in Texas. A copy of Respondent's notarized statement, dated April 12, 2014, is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.
- 17. The Board policy implementing Rule 213.29 in effect on the date of this Agreed Order provides discretion by the Executive Director for consideration of conditional reinstatement after proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of abstinence from alcohol and drugs followed by licensure limitations/stipulations and/or peer assistance program participation.
- 18. 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)(A),(B),(C)&(D) and 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(6)(G),(8),(10)(C),(10)(E)& (11)(B).

- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 704630, heretofore issued to SUSAN EVON HOPPE, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 5. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
- 6. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
- 7. Any subsequent reinstatement of this license will be controlled by Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TAC§§213.26-.29, and any amendments thereof in effect at the time of the reinstatement.

THE BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

### ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 704630, heretofore issued to SUSAN EVON HOPPE, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, is accepted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing. In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

- 1. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice professional nursing, use the title of registered nurse or the abbreviation "RN" or wear any insignia identifying herself as a registered nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a registered nurse during the period in which the license is surrendered.
- 2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until: one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order; and, RESPONDENT has obtained objective, verifiable proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety immediately preceding the petition.
- 3. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

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.

Effective this 14th day of April, 2014.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

I certify this to be a true copy of the records on file with the Texas Board of Nursing

Signed

Susan Evon Hoppe c/o Louis Leichter, Attorney 1602 East 7th Street Austin, Texas 78702 RN License Number 704630

Voluntary Surrender Statement

Dear Texas Board of Nursing:

I no longer desire to be licensed as a nurse. Accordingly, I voluntarily surrender my license(s) to practice in Texas. I consent to the entry of an Order which outlines requirements for reinstatement of my license. I understand that I may not petition for reinstatement until one (1) year from the effective date of the Order. I understand that I will be required to comply with the Board's Rules and Regulations in effect at the time I submit any petition for reinstatement.

Signature <u>Susau</u> Happe Date <u></u> <u>4-12-14</u>

RN License Number 704630

The State of Texas

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this date personally appeared SUSAN EVON HOPPE who, being duly sworn by me, stated that he or she executed the above for the purpose therein contained and that he or she understood same.

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Sworn to before me the 12 day of Apr. 1, 2014

Curtis Allen Turner My Commission Expires 03/12/2016