

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Vocational Nurse

§ AGREED

License Number 160016

§ §

issued to PAMELA ANNE CONCHA

ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Boconsidered the matter of PAMELA ANNE CONCHA, Vocational Nurse License Number 160016, 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)&(12) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on June 6, 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).
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, 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 Northeast Texas Community College, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, on August 16, 1996. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on October 9, 1996.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history is unknown.

- On or about October 19, 2004, Respondent pled Guilty to and was convicted of THEFT BY CHECK, a Class B Misdemeanor offense committed on February 24, 2004, in the County Court of Camp County Texas, under Cause No. 12,213. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) along with a fine and court costs.
- 7. On or about October 19, 2004, Respondent pled Guilty to and was convicted of THEFT BY CHECK, a Class B Misdemeanor offense committed on February 24, 2004, in the County Court of Camp County Texas, under Cause No. 12230. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) along with a fine and court costs.
- 8. On or about October 28, 2004, Respondent submitted a License Renewal Form (Delinquent for over 90 days) to the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that she answered "No" to the question:

"Have you been convicted, adjudged guilty by a court, plead guilty, no contest or nolo contendere to any crime in any state, territory or country, whether or not a sentence was imposed, including any pending criminal charges or unresolved arrest (excluding minor traffic violations) since the last renewal? This includes expunged offenses and deferred adjudications with or without prejudice of guilt. Please note that DUI's, DWI's must be reported and are not considered minor traffic violations. (One time minor in possession {MIP} or minor in consumption {MIC} do not need to be disclosed, therefore, you may answer "No". If you have two or more MIP's or MIC's, you must answer "Yes".)"

Respondent failed to disclose the following:

On or about October 19, 2004, Respondent pled Guilty to and was convicted of THEFT BY CHECK, a Class B Misdemeanor offense committed on February 24, 2004, in the County Court of Camp County Texas, under Cause No. 12,213. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) along with a fine and court costs.

On or about October 19, 2004, Respondent pled Guilty to and was convicted of THEFT BY CHECK, a Class B Misdemeanor offense committed on February 24, 2004, in the County Court of Camp County Texas, under Cause No. 12230. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) along with a fine and court costs.

On or about March 24, 2004, Respondent was arrested by the Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas Narcotics Task Force with POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, a State Jail Felony offense. The criminal charge was still pending at the time Respondent submitted the renewal to the Board.

- 9. On or about December 14, 2004, Respondent pled Guilty to POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, a State Jail Felony offense committed on March 24, 2004, in the 76th Judicial District Court of Camp County, Texas, under Cause No. CF04-063. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against Respondent were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt, and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of three (3) years, and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- 10. On or about August 29, 2006, Respondent submitted a Online Renewal Document to the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that she answered "No" to the question:

"Have you ever been convicted, placed on community supervision whether or not adjudicated guilty, sentenced to serve jail or prison time or granted pre-trial diversion, or plead guilty, no contest or nolo contendere to any crime in any state, territory or country, received a court order whether or not a sentence was imposed, including any pending criminal charges or unresolved arrest whether or not on appeal (excluding minor Class C traffic violations)? This includes expunged offenses and deferred adjudication with or without a finding of guilt. Please note that DUIs, DWIs, PI's must be reported and are not considered minor traffic violations. One time minor in possession [MIP] or minor in consumption [MIC] do not need to be disclosed; therefore, you may answer "No." If you have two or more MIPs or MICs, you must answer "Yes". You may answer "No" if you have previously disclosed a criminal matter otherwise responsive to this question in a renewal and/or licensure form.)"

Respondent failed to disclose that, on or about December 14, 2004, Respondent pled Guilty to POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, a State Jail Felony offense committed on March 24, 2004, in the 76th Judicial District Court of Camp County, Texas, under Cause No. CF04-063. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against Respondent were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt.

11. On or about August 29, 2006, Respondent submitted an Online Renewal Document to the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, in which Respondent provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that Respondent answered "No" to the question:

"In the past 5 years, have you been addicted or treated for th use of alcohol or any other drug? (You may answer "no" if you have completed and/or are in compliance with TPAPN)

Respondent failed to disclose that she entered a rehabilitation center and was treated for drug use.

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(s) of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(5),(6)(I)&(13).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(2),(9),(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 160016, heretofore issued to PAMELA ANNE CONCHA, 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, Vocational Nurse License Number 160016, previously issued to PAMELA ANNE CONCHA, to practice nursing in Texas is/are hereby SUSPENDED for a period of one (1) years with the suspension STAYED and Respondent is hereby placed on PROBATION for one (1) years with the following agreed terms of probation:

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.

- (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, within one (1) year of entry of this Order 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.
- (3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Orderthe 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:

http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars. RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order days 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 ONE (1) YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY 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:

- (5) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer 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 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 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.
- (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 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 are the sole method accepted by the Board.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines

Barbiturates

Benzodiazepines

Cannabinoids

Cocaine

Ethanol

tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)

Meperidine

Methadone Methagualone

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.

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(s), 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 shall be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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 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 26 day of Dec____, 20/2.

PAMELA ANNE CONCHA Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2

JEANNE A. EVERETT
Notary Public State of Texas
Commission Expires
FEBRUARY 13, 2016

Notary Public in and for the State of /

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the <u>26</u> day of <u>December</u>, 20<u>12</u>, by PAMELA ANNE CONCHA, Vocational Nurse License Number 160016, and said Order is final.

Effective this 12 day of February, 2013.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board