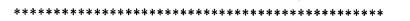
BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



In the Matter of § AGREED

Vocational Nurse License Number 122580 §

issued to BARBARA JO ALAMBAR & ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Boar considered the matter of BARBARA JO ALAMBAR, Vocational Nurse License Number 122580, 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)(10)&(13), 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 April 19, 2013.

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.
- 3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Vernon Regional Junior College, Wichita Falls, Texas, on August 19, 1988. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on December 8, 1988.
- 5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:

9/1988 - 1/1990 Staff Nurse

United Regional Health Care System (Bethania)

Executive Director of the Board

Wichita Falls, Texas

/0/122580:155

Respondent's vocational nursing employment history continued:

1/1990 - 6/1990	Unemployed	
6/1990 - 9/1990	Staff Nurse	Jackson Memorial Hospital Montgomery, Alabama
10/1990 - 7/1994	Staff Nurse	United Regional Health Care System (Bethania) Wichita Falls, Texas
8/1994 - 3/1997	Staff Nurse	Parkland Memorial Hospital Dallas, Texas
3/1997 - 3/1999	Staff Nurse	United Regional Health Care System Wichita Falls, Texas
4/1999 - 9/2001	Not employed in nursing	
9/2001 - 6/2002	Charge/Staff Nurse	Texhoma Christian Care Center Wichita Falls, Texas
6/2002 - 12/2008	Staff Nurse	Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital Wichita Falls, Texas
12/2008 - 2/2011	Assistant Nurse Supervisor/ Nurse Supervisor/ Nurse Coordinator/ Float Nurse	Clinics of North Texas Wichita Falls, Texas
2/2011 - 11/2011	Float Nurse	Community Healthcare Center Wichita Falls, Texas
11/2011 - Present	Unemployed	

- 6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Float Nurse with Community Healthcare Center, Wichita Falls, Texas, and had been in this position for nine (9) months.
- 7. On or about November 17, 2011, while employed with Community Healthcare Center, Wichita Falls, Texas, Respondent accessed the SUNRISE portal for United Regional Health Care System, Wichita Falls, Texas, and viewed the medical records of Patient A.C. without authorization or without being assigned to provide nursing care to said patient. Respondent admitted to such conduct and to divulging information to coworkers. Respondent's conduct

- exposed the patient unnecessarily to a risk of harm from disclosure of her confidential medical information without her written authorization and constitutes a violation of HIPAA (The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act).
- 8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that she accessed the medical records of Patient A.C. who was in labor at the hospital. Respondent adds that she considered Patient A.C. a friend and she was only checking her status with the intent of going to see her on the way home. Respondent states that she did not do it with the intent to do any harm.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 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)(E) and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A)&(1)(C).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 122580, heretofore issued to BARBARA JO ALAMBAR, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

<u>ORDER</u>

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of REMEDIAL EDUCATION AND A FINE, 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 State of Texas 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 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.

- (2) 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: http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.
- (3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete the course "Patient Privacy," a 5.4 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. Information regarding 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 two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order. 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, 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 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 when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, 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 25 day of Grune, 2013.

Barbara to Alambar

BARBARA JO AJAMBAR, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25 day of June, 2013

SEAL

MELISSA B. WOOD
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF TEXAS
My Comm. Exp. 01-16-2017

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 25th day of June, 2013, by BARBARA JO ALAMBAR, Vocational Nurse License Number 122580, and said Order is final.

Effective this 2nd day of July, 2013.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

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Executive Director on behalf

of said Board