BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



AGREED

In the Matter of

§ § § Registered Nurse License Number 812313

issued to HEATHER LYNN SCALF ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of HEATHER LYNN SCALF, Registered Nurse License Number 812313, 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) 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 April 10, 2014.

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 an Associate Degree in Nursing from Collin County Community College, McKinney, Texas on December 9, 2011. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on January 24, 2012.
- 5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

1/12-8/12 RN Cornerstone Hospice Farmers Branch, Texas executive Director of the Board

- 1 -/812313/0:117 C40esp Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

9/12-11/12

RN

UT Home Healthcare, Inc. Arlington, Texas

12/12-Present

Unknown

- 6. At the time of the initial incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a registered nurse with UT Home Healthcare, Inc., Arlington, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately two (2) months.
- 7. On or about November 26, 2012 and December 10, 2012, while employed at UT Home Healthcare, Inc., Arlington, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Hydrocodone from patients EB & WS. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the patients of the cost of the medications.
- 8. On or about January 31, 2014, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to FRAUDULENT POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SBSTANCE OR PRESCRIPTION, NAMELY: DIHYDROCODEINONE (HYDROCODONE), a 3rd Degree Felony offense, committed on August 28, 2013, in the Criminal District Court No. 1, Tarrant County, Texas, under Cause No. 1344650D. 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 two (2) years, and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- 9. Respondent's last known date of sobriety is August 28, 2013, as indicated in Finding of Fact Number Eight (8).
- 10. The Respondent's conduct described in the preceding Findings of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.
- 11. 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.
- 12. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact resulted from or was significantly influenced by Respondent's substance use disorder.
- 13. Respondent'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. 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) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(6)(G),(11)(B)&(13).
- 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 812313, heretofore issued to HEATHER LYNN SCALF, up to, and including, revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 5. The Board may, in its discretion, order a 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

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Registered Nurse License Number 812313, previously issued to HEATHER LYNN SCALF, to practice nursing in Texas is/are hereby SUSPENDED and said suspension is ENFORCED until Respondent complies with Stipulation Numbers One (1) and Two (2):

- (1) RESPONDENT SHALL apply to and be accepted into the TPAPN and complete the enrollment process, 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, RESPONDENT SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN participation agreement to the Texas Board of Nursing.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, upon verification of compliance with Stipulation Numbers One (1) and Two (2), the SUSPENSION will be stayed, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for RESPONDENT to successfully complete the TPAPN:

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- (3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term and SHALL keep all applicable license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas current.
- (4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.
- (5) IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT be convicted of or receive a deferred order for the offense(s) as outlined in Finding of Fact Number Eight (8), said judicial action will result in further disciplinary action, up to and including Revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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.

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 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 multistate licensure 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, SHOULD RESPONDENT 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 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.

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

To:

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. I acknowledge possessing a diagnosis that deems me eligible to participate in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Stipulation Numbers One (1) through Four (4) of this Order to obtain disposition of the allegations through peer assistance and to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order becomes effective upon acceptance by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, 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.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this **b** day of _

SEAL

Public in and for the State of

JENNIFER C. COLUNGA otary Public, State of Texas My Commission Expires January 20, 2018

Approved as to form and substance.

Dr. Shezad Malik, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 30 day of APRIL, 2014.

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept and enter the Agreed Order that was signed on the 30th day of <u>April</u>, 2014, by HEATHER LYNN SCALF, Registered Nurse License Number 812313, and said Order is final.

Effective this 30th day of April, 2014.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board