BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



In the Matter of \$ AGREED Registered Nurse License Number 715259 \$ & Vocational Nurse License Number 129792 \$ issued to SANDRA JEAN GUERRA \$ ORDER



On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of SANDRA JEAN GUERRA, Registered Nurse License Number 715259, and Vocational Nurse License Number 129792, 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 February 10, 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 ligense(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 professional nursing in the State of Texas. Respondent holds a license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas which is in delinquent status.
- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from St. Philips College, San Antonio, Texas, on August 9, 1990. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas on December 11, 2002. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on November 28, 1990, and Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on May 5, 2005.

5. Respondent's vocational and professional nursing employment history includes:

1991 - 07/02	LVN/ADON	Morningside Manor San Antonio, Texas
2003 - 2005	LVN	Nix Specialty & Renabilitation San Antonio, Texas
2005 - 2007	RN	Nix Specialty & Rehabilitation San Antonio, Texas
08/06 - 07/07	RN	Wilford Hall Medical Center San Antonio, Texas
08/06 - 07/08	RN/DON	Chandler Estates San Antonio, Texas
07/08 - 11/09	RN Charge Nurse	Nix Specialty & Rehabilitation San Antonio, Texas
10/08 - 04/11	RN/DON	Golden Estates Rehab & Healthcare San Antonio, Texas
04/11 - 03/12	RN/DON	Parklane West Healthcare Center San Antonio, Texas
03/12 - 09/13	RN/DON	Pecan Valley Rehab & Healthcare Ctr San Antonio, Texas
09/13 - Present	RN Case Manager	New Century Hospice San Antonio, Texas
10/13 - Present	PRN RN	Golden Estates Rehab & Healthcare San Antonio, Texas

- 6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as the Director of Nurses with Pecan Valley Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, San Antonio, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year and five (5) months.
- 7. On or about August 28, 2013, through September 4, 2013, while employed as the Director of Nurses at Pecan Valley Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent failed to provide appropriate oversight of nursing care when she failed to adequately direct, remediate, and record the deficient practice of a staff LVN who did not provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to a full code resident when the resident was

found not breathing. As a result, Respondent remained unaware until September 5, 2013, when Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (TDADS) surveyors investigated the incident, that the staff LVN had left the resident in order to get a blood pressure cuff, instead of immediately initiating CPR. Further, the conduct of the staff LVN was reportable to the Board under Sections 301.401 and 301.402, Texas Occupations Code. Respondent's conduct deceived residents, their families, and the public in that they believed Respondent's nursing practice was in compliance with all Board Rules and Regulations.

8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that after the incident, she interviewed the LVN to evaluate what happened and ask why a code was not called. Respondent states the LVN told her she thought the resident was a DNR due to end stage cancer. Respondent states she firmly told the LVN that anytime she was unsure of a resident's code status she should always call the code and all nurses will come and help establish a pattern. Respondent states she suspended the LVN after TDADS investigated the incident, and the LVN was later terminated.

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),(K)&(U) and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(2)&(11)(D).
- 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 715259, and Vocational Nurse License Number 129792, heretofore issued to SANDRA JEAN GUERRA, 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 RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS, 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 Texas Board of Nursing 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 <u>not</u> 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 "Professional Accountability ...," 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 SUBNIT 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. 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 STIPULATIONS FOR ONE (1) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION 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:

- (4) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations 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 stipulations 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.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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.

(7) 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(s) of employment as a nurse.

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 rursing in the State of Texas and RESPONDENT may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

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 20 day of March, 10/4.

SANDRA JEAN GUERRA, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this <u>Aday of March</u> 2011

JANIE M. SUE otary Public, State of Texas My Commission Expires October 17, 2015

SEAL

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 20th day of March, 2014, by SANDRA JEAN GUERRA, Registered Nurse License Number 715259, and Vocational Nurse License Number 129792, and said Order is final.

Effective this 13th day of May, 20 14



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

/715259/129792:119