# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of

AGREED

Registered Nurse License Number 775902

issued to MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND

ORDER

is on file or is of record in the offices of Z. Texas Board of Nursing.

Executive Director of the Board

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the considered the matter of MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND, Registered Nurse License Number 775902, 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)(1),(9)&(10), 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 July 25, 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 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas.
- 4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on May 15, 2008. Respondent was licensed to practice nursing in the State of Texas on September 29, 2009.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

11/08 - 02/09

RN

Wilson N. Jones Hospital

Sherman, Texas

Respondent nursing employment history continued:

03/09 - 03/11

Unknown

04/11 - 05/11

RN

Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital WNJ

Sherman, Texas

06/11 - Present

Unknown

- 6. On September 4, 2013, Respondent was issued an Agreed Order by the Board which required her to participate and successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Agreed Order dated September 4, 2013, is attached and incorporated by reference as part of this Order.
- 7. On or about February 27, 2014, while participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of alcohol in that she submitted a specimen for a drug screen that resulted positive for alcohol metabolites Ethyl Glucuronide (EtG) and Ethyl Sulfate (EtS). Additionally, Respondent admitted to drinking alcohol. The use of alcohol by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.
- 8. On or about March 10, 2014, while participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Tramadol in that Respondent submitted a specimen for a drug screen that resulted positive for Tramadol. Possession of Tramadol is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Tramadol by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.
- 9. On or about April 3, 2014, while participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of alcohol in that she submitted a specimen for a drug screen that resulted positive for alcohol metabolites Ethyl Glucuronide (EtG) and Ethyl Sulfate (EtS) Additionally, Respondent admitted to drinking alcohol. The use of alcohol by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.

- 10. During February 27, 2014, through May 2014, Respondent failed to comply with the Confidential Agreed Order for Peer Assistance Program issued to her by the Texas Board of Nursing on September 4, 2013. Respondent failed to comply with all the requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement, as required by Stipulation Number Three (3) of the Agreed Order dated September 4, 2013, which reads as follows:
  - (3) RESPONDENT SHALL, comply with all the 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.

On May 20, 2014, Respondent was dismissed from TPAPN and her case was referred to the Board.

- 9. Respondent's last known date of sobriety is as indicated in Finding of Fact Number Nine (9).
- 10. 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.
- 11. On or about June 16, 2014, Respondent was issued an Order of Temporary Suspension by the Board. A copy of the Order of Temporary Suspension dated June 16, 2014, is attached and incorporated, by reference as part of this Order.
- 12. Formal Charges were filed on June 16, 2014.
- 13. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on June 16, 2014.

### **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),(9),(10)(A),(10)(D)&(11)(B).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1),(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 775902, heretofore issued to MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND, 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 Registered Nurse License Number 775902, previously issued to MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND, to practice nursing in Texas is/are hereby SUSPENDED and said suspension is ENFORCED until Respondent completes a treatment program approved by the Board, provides documentation of successful completion, and has obtained twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety. Any relapse prior to the completion of the twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety will result in an extension of the enforced suspension until such twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety and additional treatment have been attained.

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.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, upon verification of successful completion of the approved treatment and twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety as set out in this Order, the Suspension will be STAYED, and RESPONDENT will be placed on PROBATION for three (3) years with the following agreed terms of probation:

- (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 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.
- (3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of 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.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of 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 THREE (3) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH THIRTY-SIX (36) 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 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) For the first year of employment as a nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly 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. Direct supervision requires another nurse to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). The 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) For the remainder of the probation period, 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.

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- (9) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse on the night shift, rotate shifts, work overtime, accept on-call assignments, or be used for coverage on any unit other than the identified, predetermined unit(s) to which Respondent is regularly assigned for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.
- (10) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse in any critical care area for one (1) year of employment as a nurse. Critical care areas include, but are not limited to, intensive care units, emergency rooms, operating rooms, telemetry units, recovery rooms, and labor and delivery units.
- (11) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT administer or have any contact with controlled substances, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.
- (12) 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) months for three (3) years of employment as a nurse.
- (13) 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 an evaluation by a Board approved physician specializing in Pain Management or Psychiatry. The performing evaluator will submit a written report to the Board's office, including results of the evaluation, clinical indications for the prescriptions, and recommendations for on-going treatment within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.

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. For the remainder of the probation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) months. 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 and their metabolites:

Amphetamines	Meperidine
Barbiturates	Methadone
Benzodiazepines	Methaqualone
Cannabinoids	Opiates
Cocaine	Phencyclidine
Ethanol	Propoxyphene
tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)	T J P

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.

- (15) RESPONDENT SHALL participate in therapy with a "professional counselor" possessing credentials approved by the Board. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the therapist to submit written reports, on forms provided by the Board, as to the RESPONDENT'S progress in therapy, rehabilitation and capability to safely practice professional nursing. The report must indicate whether or not the RESPONDENT'S stability is sufficient to provide direct patient care safely. Such reports are to be furnished each and every month for three (3) months. If therapy is recommended for beyond three (3) months, the reports shall then be required at the end of each three (3) month period for the duration of the probation period, or until RESPONDENT is dismissed from therapy.
- (16) RESPONDENT SHALL attend at least two (2) support group meetings each week, one of which must be for substance abuse and provided by Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics

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Anonymous, or another comparable recovery program that has been pre-approved by the Board. RESPONDENT SHALL provide acceptable evidence of attendance. Acceptable evidence shall consist of a written record of at least: the date of each meeting; the name of each group attended; and the signature and printed name of the chairperson of each group attended by RESPONDENT. RESPONDENT SHALL submit the required evidence on the forms provided by the Board at the end of every three (3) months. No duplications, copies, third party signatures, or any other substitutions will be accepted as evidence.

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, 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 may 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 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 <u>29 day of July</u> , 2014.)
	MEGAN LININ MCFARLAND, Respondent
Sworn to and subscribed (	pefore me this day of 20
SEAL	

Notary Public in and for the State of

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 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014, by MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND, Registered Nurse License Number 775902, and said Order is final.

Effective this 19th day of August, 2014.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

In the Matter of \$ BEFORE THE TEXAS
Permanent Registered Nurse \$
License Number 775902 \$
Issued to MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND, \$
Respondent \$ BOARD OF NURSING

## ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

TO: MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND 1206 N. 19TH STREET DURANT, OK 74701

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing was held on June 16, 2014 at 333 Guadalupe, Room 3-460, Austin, Texas, in which the Temporary Suspension of Permanent Registered Nurse License Number 775902, issued to MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND was considered pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code. Staff of the Texas Board of Nursing appeared and presented evidence and information concerning the conduct of MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND and whether her continued practice as a nurse would constitute a continuing and imminent threat to the public welfare.

After review and due consideration of the evidence and information presented, the Board finds that the following charge is substantiated:

#### CHARGE I:

During February 27, 2014, through May 2014, Respondent failed to comply with the Confidential Agreed Order for Peer Assistance Program issued to her by the Texas Board of Nursing on September 4, 2013. Respondent failed to comply with all the requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement, as required by Stipulation Number Three (3) of the Agreed Order dated September 4, 2013, which reads as follows:

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, comply with all the 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.

On May 20, 2014, Respondent was dismissed from TPAPN and her case was referred to the Board. A copy of the Agreed Order dated September 4, 2013, is attached and incorporated by reference as part of this pleading.

The Texas Board of Nursing further finds that, given the nature of the charge concerning her fitness to practice, the continued practice of nursing by MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND constitutes a continuing and imminent threat to public welfare and that the temporary suspension of Permanent Registered Nurse License Number 775902, is justified pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Permanent Registered Nurse License Number 775902, issued to MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND, to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is/are, hereby SUSPENDED IMMEDIATELY in accordance with Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a probable cause hearing be conducted in accordance with Section 301.455(c) not later than seventeen (17) days following the date of the entry of this order, and a final hearing on the matter be conducted in accordance with 301.455(d) not later than the 61<sup>st</sup> day following the date of the entry of this order.

Entered this 16th day of June, 2014.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

BY:

KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

In the Matter of \$ BEFORE THE TEXAS Registered Nurse License Number 775902 \$ Issued to MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND, \$ BOARD OF NURSING

## FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND, is a Registered Nurse holding License Number 775902, which is in current status at the time of this pleading.

Written notice of the facts and conduct alleged to warrant adverse licensure action was sent to Respondent at Respondent's address of record and Respondent was given opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license prior to commencement of this proceeding.

#### CHARGE I.

On or about February 27, 2014, while participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of alcohol in that she submitted a specimen for a drug screen that resulted positive for alcohol metabolites Ethylglucuronide (EtG) and Ethylsulfate (EtS). Additionally, Respondent admitted to drinking alcohol. The use of alcohol by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE  $\S217.12(5),(10)(A)\&(10)(D)$ .

#### CHARGE II.

On or about March 10, 2014, while participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Tramadol in that Respondent submitted a specimen for a drug screen that resulted positive for Tramadol. Possession of Tramadol is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Tramadol by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(5),(10)(A)&(11)(B).

### CHARGE III.

On or about April 3, 2014, while participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of alcohol in that she submitted a specimen for a drug screen that resulted positive for alcohol metabolites Ethylglucuronide (EtG) and Ethylsulfate (EtS) Additionally, Respondent admitted to drinking alcohol. The use of alcohol by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE \$217.12(5),(10)(A)&(10)(D).

### CHARGE IV.

During February 27, 2014, through May 2014, Respondent failed to comply with the Confidential Agreed Order for Peer Assistance Program issued to her by the Texas Board of Nursing on September 4, 2013. Respondent failed to comply with all the requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement, as required by Stipulation Number Three (3) of the Agreed Order dated September 4, 2013, which reads as follows:

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, comply with all the 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.

On May 20, 2014, Respondent was dismissed from TPAPN and her case was referred to the Board. A copy of the Agreed Order dated September 4, 2013, is attached and incorporated by reference as part of this pleading.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(9)&(11)(B).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that staff will present evidence in support of the recommended disposition of up to, and including, revocation of Respondent's license/s to practice nursing in the State of Texas pursuant to the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301, Texas Occupations Code and the Board's rules, 22 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 213.27 - 213.33. Additionally, staff will seek to impose on Respondent the administrative costs of the proceeding pursuant to Section 301.461, Texas Occupations Code. The cost of proceedings shall include, but is not limited to, the cost paid by the Board to the State Office of Administrative Hearings and the Office of the Attorney General or other Board counsel for legal and investigative services, the cost of a court reporter and witnesses, reproduction of records, Board staff time, travel, and expenses. These shall be in an amount of at least one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1200.00).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that all statutes and rules cited in these Charges are incorporated as part of this pleading and can be found at the Board's website, <a href="www.bon.texas.gov">www.bon.texas.gov</a>.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that to the extent applicable, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on Adopted Disciplinary Sanction Policies for Nurses with Substance Abuse, Misuse, Substance Dependency, or other Substance Use Disorder, which can be found at the Board's website, <a href="https://www.bon.texas.gov">www.bon.texas.gov</a>.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on the Disciplinary Matrix, which can be found at <a href="https://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/discp-matrix.html">www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/discp-matrix.html</a>.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that Respondent's past disciplinary history, as set out below and described in the Order(s) which is/are attached and incorporated by reference as part of these charges, will be offered in support of the disposition recommended by staff: Order dated September 4, 2013.

Filed this 16th day of June, 2014.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

James W. Johnston, General Counsel

Board Certified - Administrative Law

Texas Board of Legal Specialization

State Bar No. 10838300

Jena Abel, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24036103

John R. Griffith, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24079751

Robert Kyle Hensley, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 50511847

John F. Legris, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 00785533

John Vanderford, Assistant General Counsel
State Bar No. 24086670

333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Suite 460 Austin, Texas 78701 P: (512) 305-6811 F: (512) 305-8101 or (512)305-7401

Attachments: Order of the Board dated September 4, 2013.

D/2014.05.23

# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of
Registered Nurse License Number 775902
issued to MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND

CONFIDENTIAL AGREED ORDER FOR

PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND, Registered Nurse License Number 775902, 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)&(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 offered under the authority of Section 301.466(d), Texas Occupations Code, and approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on August 2, 2012.

# FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these Findings of Fact was gerved 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas.
- Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on May 15, 2008. Respondent was licensed to practice nursing in the State of Texas on September 29, 2009.

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5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

11/08 - 02/09 RN Wilson N. Jones Hospital
Sherman, Texas

03/09 - 03/11 Unknown

04/11 - 05/11 RN Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital WNJ
Sherman, Texas

06/11 - Present Unknown

- 6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a RN with Texas health Presbyterian Hospital WNJ, Sherman, Texas, and had been in this position for two (2) weeks.
- 7. On or about May 2, 2011, while employed with Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital WNI, Sherman, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice professional nursing in that while on duty she exhibited behavior which included, confusion, difficulty answering simple questions, an inability to remember the last time she ate and uncontrollably laughter. Respondent was taken to the emergency department where the physician indicated that it appeared that Respondent had taken too much of her prescription medication. Respondent's conduct could have affected her ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could have affected her ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.
- In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that she had been going through a bitter divorce and custody battle. On the date of the indident she woke up confused and disoriented. She called her mother to have her talk her through her anxiety and scared feeling. She was not sure what was wrong with her but she felt like something was off. She got dressed, but on two completely different socks which she never did before. When she arrived to work she walked to a floor that was closed and another nurse directed her to her unit. She continued to feel woird and disoriented so her boss took her for a drug screen across the street from the hospital and checked her blood sugar. She was taken to the ER and checked in. In my confusion and discrimination that morning I guess I took two or three doses of my Adderall medication for ADHD . . . I never take more than my prescribed dosage which is ten mg three times a day .... The ER staff that day and I could not figure out what was wrong with me and why I was so disoriented and scared . . . They kept me in the hospital for three days. . . the hospital suspended me from my job. I went home after they discharged me but was in an extreme panic state as I no longer had a job and the bills kept coming in . . . I started the TPAPN program after I was discharged from the hospital. I started services at the Mental Health Services of Southern Oklahoma, in Durant, I was under the care of a psychiatrist and I participated in weekly counseling sessions. I did not feel I was responding enoughto the outpatient therapy and decided to thick into Red Rock's inpatient treatment. While I was inpatient treatment I was unaware and unable to respond to TPAPN. They sent me a letter saying they had closed my case."

- 9. The Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.
- 10. 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.
- 11. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact resulted from or was significantly influenced by Respondent's substance use disorder.
- 12. 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**

- I. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301:451-301.455, 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(1)(E)&(5).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 775902, heretofore issued to MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND, 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 that RESPONDENT SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for RESPONDENT to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN):

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within forty-five (45) days following the date of entry of this final Order, apply to TPAPN and SHALL, within ninety (90) days following the date of entry

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of this final Order, sign and execute the TPAPN participation agreement and complete the enrollment process, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00) 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.
- (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.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED, RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, Section §§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.

ITIS 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 that, while RESPONDENT remains in compliance with the terms of this Order, this Order shall remain confidential in accordance with the authority outlined

in Section 301.466(d), Texas Occupations Code. However, should Respondent fail to successfully complete the terms of this Order or should Respondent commit a subsequent violation of the Nursing Practice Act or Board Rules, this Order shall be treated as prior disciplinary action and will become public information.

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.

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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. I do 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 Conditions One (1) through Four (4) of this Order to obtain disposition of the allegations through peer assistance and to avoid further disciplinary sotion 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 accept 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 13 day of August 2013.

Megan Linn McParl and Respondent

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WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept and enter the Confidential Agreed Order for Peer Assistance Program that was signed on the 13th day of August, 2013, by MEGAN LINN MCFARLAND, Registered Nurse License Number 775902, and said Order is final.



Entered and effective this 4th day of September, 2013.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf of said Board

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