BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of \$ AGREED Vocational Nurse License Number 225264 \$ issued to RI-CHARDRIANNE NASHEA POWELL \$ ORDER

An investigation by the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Boar produced evidence indicating that RI-CHARDRIANNE NASHEA POWELL, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, Vocational Nurse License Number 225264, may be subject to discipline pursuant to Sections 301.452(b)(10)&(13) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.

An informal conference was held on Tuesday, July 29, 2014, at the office of the Texas Board of Nursing, in accordance with Section 301.464 of the Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent appeared in person. Respondent was notified of her right to be represented by legal counsel and elected to waive representation by counsel. In attendance were Kristin Benton, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing; Jena Abel, Assistant General Counsel; Skylar Caddell, RN-BC, Nurse Investigator Specialist; Noemi Vezina, Lead Investigator; Danielle Groux, RN Investigator; Omar Hasan, RN Investigator; Ashley Kay, Investigator; and Roberto Rodriguez Jr., Investigator.

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, notice and hearing, and consented to the entry of this Order.
- 3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate, and true copy of the document wh is on file or is of record in the offices of the Z Texas Board of Nursing.

Executive Director of the Board

Executive Director of the Board**

- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from South Plains College, Plainview, Texas, on August 19, 2009. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on October 27, 2009.
- 5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:

10/09 - 11/09	LVN	Plaza at Lubbock Lubbock, Texas
11/09 - 05/14	LVN	Interim Healthcare Lubbock, Texas
01/10 - 07/12	LVN	BrightStar Healthcare Lubbock, Texas
02/10 - 05/10	LVN	Slaton Care Center Slaton, Texas
08/12 - 05/14	LVN	Epic Home Health Lubbock, Texas
06/14 - 06/14	LVN	Epic Home Health Dallas, Texas
07/14 - Present	Not Employed in Nursing	

- 6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with BrightStar Healthcare, Lubbock, Texas, and had been in this position for two (2) years and six (6) months.
- 7. On or about July 23, 2012, while employed with BrightStar Healthcare, Lubbock, Texas, and assigned to provide nursing services/patient care for Pediatric Patient Number 0101165, Respondent left the six (6) year old, respirator-dependant patient in the care of her ten (10) year old sister while Respondent went to a nearby convenience store to buy the children candy and soda. Respondent's conduct unnecessarily exposed the patient to risk of harm from undetected complications and/or changes in her condition.
- 8. On or about June 27, 2014, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to and was convicted of DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID, (a Class B Misdemeanor offense committed on January 4, 2014), in the County Court at Law of Ector County, Texas, under Cause No. 14-0443. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to three (3) days confinement, with credit given for time already served, and ordered to pay a fine.

In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Eight (8), Respondent states that 9. the patient was experiencing a lot of pain and she had administered pain medication consistently throughout her shift. Respondent states that at approximately 1:00pm the patient started complaining she was hungry, but there was no food in the house and she was concerned about the amount of pain medication the patient was receiving. Respondent states the patient insisted on chocolate and preferred a Kit Kat. Respondent states that the patient's mother left the home so she asked the older sister to call her and tell her what the patient was asking for. Respondent states that the patient's mother refused to bring any food home until she was finished with her errands. Respondent states she thought the patient's father and brother were in the home, and she was also told that the older sister was able to suction the patient, so she left the home to go to the corner store to buy a candy bar and soda. Respondent asserts she was only gone for about five (5) minutes. Regarding the conviction, Respondent states she was pulled over for a routine traffic stop and was told her license was showing as invalid due to not having insurance. Respondent further states that she told the officer she was in the process of taking care of her invalid license, but she was arrested anyway.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.455, 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)(B)&(1)(I) and 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(6)(C),(12)&(13).
- 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 225264, heretofore issued to RI-CHARDRIANNE NASHEA POWELL, 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/compliance.

(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/compliance.

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 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:

- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.

(6) 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 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 144 day of August, 2014.

RI-CHARDRIANNE NASHEA POWELL, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this Hyday of Hugust

THOMAS JOSEPH SOTO JR. My Commission Expires February 05, 2017

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 14th day of August, 20 14, by RI-CHARDRIANNE NASHEA POWELL, Vocational Nurse License Number 225264, and said Order is final.

Effective this 9th day of September, 20 14.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board