



I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate, and true copy of the document which is on file or is of record in the offices of the Texas Board of Nursing.
 Katherine A. Thomas
 Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Advanced Practice Registered	§	AGREED
Nurse License Number AP112439	§	
& Registered Nurse License Number 602731	§	
issued to CYNTHIA EILEEN HODGINS	§	ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of CYNTHIA EILEEN HODGINS, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP112439 and Registered Nurse License Number 602731, 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 notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on April 14, 2015.

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 notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status. Respondent's license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Diploma in Nursing from the Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, on November 1, 1986; and received a Master's Degree in Nursing from the University of Texas, Austin, Texas, on May 2, 2003. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 28, 1994; and was licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the role of Family Nurse Practitioner on May 9, 2003.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

1986 - 1994	RN in Canada	
1994 - 2003	RN	Seton Medical Center Austin, Texas
05/03 - 06/05	FNP	Brackenridge Hospital Austin, Texas
06/05 - 05/06	FNP	University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston, Texas
06/06 - 04/08	FNP	RediClinic Round Rock, Texas
04/08 - 06/09	FNP	Texas Weight Loss Clinic & Family Practice, Austin, Texas
07/09 - 03/12	FNP	True Weight Loss Clinic, LLC Austin, Texas
10/10 - Present	FNP	TLC Weight Loss Clinics, PLLC Bastrop/Austin, Texas
07/12 - Present	FNP	Austin OB/GYN Bastrop, Texas

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner with True Weight Loss Clinic, LLC, Austin, Texas, and had been in that position for seven (7) months.
7. On or about February 5, 2010, through May 12, 2010, while employed with True Weight Loss Clinic, LLC., Austin, Texas, Respondent wrote prescriptions for Xanax, Ativan, Thyroxine, Tenuate, Tretinoin, Sulfacetamide, Ortho Evra, and Tramadol, for herself and her family members, using the name of her collaborating physician, without his authorization or approval. Respondent's conduct was likely to deceive the pharmacy and her collaborating physician, and was in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) and Chapter 483 (Dangerous Drugs Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
8. In response to Findings of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that her first collaborating physician had told her the practice of using the prescriptions or calling in prescriptions was okay. Respondent states she thought this was the case with all supervising physicians and heard from other nurse practitioners that this was standard practice. Respondent further states she was involved in an extremely stressful business situation and found herself extremely anxious. Respondent explains that a staff member suggested Xanax

so she wrote herself a prescription on a prescription pad using the collaborating physician's name. Respondent states she wrote a letter of apology to the physician and went to see a psychiatrist for treatment of anxiety.

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),(1)(D)(iii), &(4) and 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B), & (11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP112439 and Registered Nurse License Number 602731, heretofore issued to CYNTHIA EILEEN HODGINS.
5. Pursuant to Section 301.463(d), Texas Occupations Code, this Agreed Order is a settlement agreement under Rule 408, Texas Rules of Evidence, in civil or criminal litigation.

TERMS OF ORDER

I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS AND A FINE** in accordance with the terms of this Order.

- A. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- B. This Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state without first obtaining the written permission of the Texas Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the nurse licensure compact party state where Respondent wishes to work.

II. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW

While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT agrees to 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.

III. REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)

In addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may require for licensure renewal, RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete the following remedial education courses within one (1) year of the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise specifically indicated:

- A. A course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics that 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. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved.
- B. 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/these course(s), RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form or SHALL submit the continuing education certificate, as applicable, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office. RESPONDENT SHALL first obtain Board approval of any course prior to enrollment if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. *Information about Board-approved courses and Verification of Course Completion forms are available from the Board at www.bon.texas.gov/compliance.*

IV. MONETARY FINE

RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) 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.

V. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as an advanced practice registered nurse, providing direct patient care in a regulated healthcare setting, for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month for four (4) quarterly periods [one (1) year] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until four (4) quarterly periods of employment as an advanced practice registered nurse have elapsed. Any quarterly period without continuous employment as an advanced practice registered nurse with the same employer for all three (3) months will not count towards completion of this requirement. Periods of unemployment or of employment that do not require the use of a advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license will not apply to this period and will not count towards completion of this requirement. Further, Respondent may not work as a registered nurse (RN) or a vocational nurse (LVN) license, as applicable, while under the terms of this Order.

- A. Notifying Present and Future Employers, Practice Sites and Credentialing Agencies:** RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency 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, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers, practice sites and/or credentialing agencies in nursing and present a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, to each future employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing prior to accepting an offer of employment and/or assignment.
- B. Notification of Employment Forms:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit the Board's "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, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit the

Board's "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.

- C. **Monitored Practice:** RESPONDENT'S advanced practice registered nursing must be monitored by a Physician or an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse in the same advanced role and population focus area as Respondent who has been approved by the Board. RESPONDENT MUST, within ten (10) days of entry of this Order or within (10) days of employment as an advanced practice registered nurse, provide to the Board a list of three (3) Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and/or three (3) Physicians from which the Board shall select an approved monitor. For each Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and Physician, the list must include name, license number or social security number, educational background and professional employment history. Monitoring shall commence no later than thirty (30) days following the date of Respondent's receipt of the name of the approved monitor selected by the Board. The monitor will offer guidance, advice and assistance to the RESPONDENT as necessary to ensure that deficiencies such as those set forth in this Order do not reoccur. RESPONDENT SHALL meet with the monitor at least twice a month, at least one (1) hour duration each. Meetings may be longer and more frequent if the monitor determines necessary. Multiple employers are prohibited.
- D. **Nursing Performance Evaluations:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each supervising Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician 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 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician who supervises the RESPONDENT and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period for four (4) quarters [one (1) year] of employment as a nurse.

VI. DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED REQUIREMENTS

- A. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the use of alcohol, tramadol and all 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 a pain management and/or chemical dependency evaluation by a Board approved evaluator. The performing evaluator must submit a written report meeting the Board's requirements to

the Board's office within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.

B. While working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for alcohol, tramadol, and controlled substances. The Board will provide instructions on how to enroll in the Board's drug and alcohol testing program following the entry of this Order and screening will begin when Respondent obtains employment and submits the Notification of Employment form to the Board.

- For the first three (3) month [1st quarter] period RESPONDENT works as a nurse under the terms of this Order, random screens shall be performed at least once per week.
- For the next three (3) month [2nd quarter] period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month.
- For the next six (6) month period [3rd & 4th quarters], random screens shall be performed at least once per month.
- For the remainder of the stipulation/probation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) month quarterly period.

All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Screens obtained through urinalysis are the sole method accepted by the Board. Any test result for a period of time in which the RESPONDENT is not working as a nurse under the terms of this Order will not count towards satisfaction of this requirement. 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 stipulation/probation period.

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)	

A Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT'S place of employment at any time during the stipulation period and require RESPONDENT to produce a specimen for screening.

Consequences of Positive or Missed Screens. Any positive result for which RESPONDENT does not have a valid prescription or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen may subject RESPONDENT to further disciplinary

action, including TEMPORARY 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.

VII. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

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

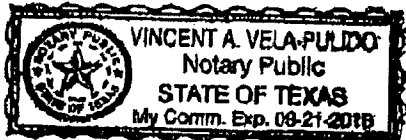
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary 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 possible revocation of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 11th day of Dec, 2015.

[Signature]
CYNTHIA EILEEN RODGINS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of Dec, 2015.

SEAL



[Signature]

Notary Public in and for the State of TX

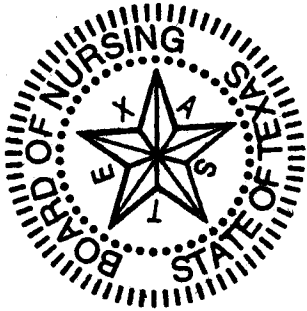
Approved as to form and substance.

Taralynn R. Mackay
Taralynn R. Mackay, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 14th day of December, 2015.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 11th day of December, 2015, by CYNTHIA EILEEN HODGINS, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP112439 and Registered Nurse License Number 602731, and said Order is final.

Effective this 21st day of January, 2016.



Katherine A. Thomas

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
Date: January 22, 2016
Signed: Jelena B. Clemente