



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.
William J. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

DOCKET NUMBER 507-16-4571

**IN THE MATTER OF
PERMANENT CERTIFICATE
NUMBER 182474,
ISSUED TO
TAMMY JO KIRKPATRICK**

§
§
§
§
§

**BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
OF
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**

OPINION AND ORDER

**TO: TAMMY JO KIRKPATRICK
3116 FM 997
DAINGERFIELD, TX75638**

**CASEY A. BELL
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
300 WEST 15TH STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

At the regularly scheduled public meeting of the Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee of the Texas Board of Nursing (Committee) on September 13, 2016, the Committee, pursuant to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.23, considered the following items: (1) Order No. 1, *Announcement of Default*, issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter; (2) Staff's recommendation to the Committee that the Respondent's vocational nursing license be revoked by default; and (3) Respondent's recommendation to the Committee regarding the above cited matter, if any.

On July 20, 2016, the ALJ convened a hearing on the merits in this matter. Staff of the Board was present for the hearing. However, the Respondent was not present at the hearing, and no one appeared on her behalf. During the hearing on July 20, 2016, Staff introduced evidence into the record demonstrating that Respondent had been sent a Notice of Hearing by first class certified mail return receipt requested to her last known address of record maintained by the Board in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.10(a). The ALJ found that Staff's notice was adequate and issued Order No. 1, *Announcement of Default*, granting Staff's Motion for Default and dismissing the case from the docket of SOAH and remanding it to the Board for informal disposition on a default basis in accordance with the Government Code §2001.056 and §2001.058(d-1).

The Committee, after review and due consideration of Order No. 1, issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter, finds that notice of the facts or conduct alleged to warrant disciplinary action has been provided to Respondent in accordance with the Government Code §2001.054(c) and Respondent has been given an opportunity to show compliance with all the requirements of the Occupations Code Chapter 301 (Nursing Practice Act) for retention of Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas. The Committee further finds that the First Amended Formal Charges were properly initiated and filed in accordance with the Occupations Code §301.458. The Committee further finds that proper and timely notice regarding the violations alleged in the First Amended Formal Charges was given to Respondent in accordance with the requirements of the Government Code §2001.051 and §2001.052 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. The Committee

further finds that the Respondent failed to appear in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 213 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. As a result of the Respondent's failure to appear, the Committee has determined that the factual allegations listed in the First Amended Formal Charges are to be deemed admitted by default and the Committee is authorized to enter a default order against the Respondent pursuant to the Government Code §2001.056 and §2001.058(d-1) and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.22. Further, the Committee has determined that it is entitled to revoke the Respondent's vocational nursing license pursuant to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.23 and §213.33(m).

Therefore, the Committee hereby adopts the factual allegations, which have been deemed admitted, and the conclusions of law contained in the First Amended Formal Charges, which are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, and Staff's recommended sanction of revocation by default. This Order will be properly served on all parties and all parties will be given an opportunity to file a motion for rehearing in accordance with the Government Code Chapter 2001 and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.23(l), as applicable. All parties have a right to judicial review of this Order. All proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law filed by any party not specifically adopted herein are hereby denied.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED THAT Permanent Certificate Number 182474, previously issued to TAMMY JO KIRKPATRICK, to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is hereby, REVOKED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multi-state privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

FURTHER, pursuant to the Occupations Code §301.467, RESPONDENT is not eligible to petition for reinstatement of licensure until at least one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order. Further, upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT must satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

Entered this 13th day of September, 2016.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE BOARD

Attachment: First Amended Formal Charges

In the Matter of	§	BEFORE THE TEXAS
Permanent Vocational Nurse	§	
License Number 182474	§	
Issued to TAMMY JO KIRKPATRICK,	§	
Respondent	§	BOARD OF NURSING

FIRST AMENDED FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, TAMMY JO KIRKPATRICK, is a Vocational Nurse holding License Number 182474, 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 12, 2015, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to her by the Texas Board of Nursing on February 11, 2014. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Stipulation Number One (1) of the Agreed Order dated February 11, 2014, which states, in pertinent part:

“(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. ...”

A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order dated February 11, 2014, 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(11)(B).

CHARGE II.

On or about February 12, 2015, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to her by the Texas Board of Nursing on February 11, 2014. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Stipulation Number Two (2) of the Agreed Order dated February 11, 2014, which states, in pertinent part:

“(2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete the course ‘Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills.’...”

A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order dated February 11, 2014, 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(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, www.bon.texas.gov.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, based on the First Amended Formal Charges, the Board will rely on the Disciplinary Matrix, which can be found at www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/discp-matrix.html.

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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

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 February 11, 2014.

Filed this 16th day of February, 2016.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

Jessica Lance

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

Jessica Lance, Assistant General Counsel
State Bar No. 24091434

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

Jacqueline A. Strashun
State Bar No. 19358600

John Vanderford, Assistant General Counsel
State Bar No. 24086670

333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Suite 460
Austin, Texas 78701
P: (512) 305-8657
F: (512) 305-8101 or (512) 305-7401

Attachments: Order of the Board dated February 11, 2014

D(2015.11.18)



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 § AGREED
Vocational Nurse License Number 182474 §
issued to TAMMY JO KIRKPATRICK § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of TAMMY JO KIRKPATRICK, Vocational Nurse License Number 182474, 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 approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on November 22, 2013, 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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Northeast Community College, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, on August 10, 2001. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on October 25, 2001.
5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:

10/2001 - 12/2001 Unknown

Respondent's vocational nursing employment history continued:

12/2001 - 06/2005	LVN	Windsor Place Daingerfield, Texas
06/2005 - 05/2007	LVN	Grace Pediatrics Visiting Nurses Tyler, Texas
05/2007 - 09/2010	LVN	Windsor Place Daingerfield, Texas
09/2010 - 10/2011	LVN	Greenhill Villas of Mt. Pleasant Mt. Pleasant, Texas
10/2011 - 10/2012	LVN	Windsor Place Daingerfield, Texas
10/2012 - Present	LVN	Greenhill Villas of Mt. Pleasant Mt. Pleasant, Texas
04/2013 - Present	LVN	Angels of Care Pediatrics Sherman, Texas

6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Eight (8), Respondent was employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Angels of Care Pediatrics, Sherman, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) month.
7. On or about May 4, 2011, Respondent was arrested by the Texas Highway Patrol Region I, District B, Tyler, Texas, and charged with DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, a Class B misdemeanor offense.

On or about March 19, 2013, Respondent entered a plea of "Guilty" to and was convicted of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED-1ST, a Class B misdemeanor offense committed on May 4, 2011, in the County Court of Titus County, Texas, under Cause No. 26000. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was placed on probation for a period of one (1) year and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

8. On or about May 25, 2013, while employed with Angels of Care Pediatric Home Health, Sherman, Texas, and assigned to provide nursing care services to Patient J.W., Respondent lacked fitness to practice vocational nursing in that she was sleeping while on duty. Respondent's conduct could have affected her ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions, and could have affected her ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.
9. On or about June 4, 2013, while employed with Angels of Care Pediatric Home Health, Sherman, Texas, and assigned to provide nursing care services to Patient J.W., Respondent lacked fitness to practice vocational nursing in that she was sleeping while on duty. Respondent's conduct could have affected her ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions, and could have affected her ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.
10. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states upon being stopped on May 4, 2011, she was taking prescribed medications under the care of a physician. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Eight (8) and Nine (9), Respondent states she didn't want to call in and inconvenience the family, so she proceeded to go to work.
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.

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(1)(B),(1)(E)(4)&(5).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 182474, heretofore issued to TAMMY JO KIRKPATRICK, 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 REPRIMAND 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 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>.

(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>.

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 TWO (2) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL

BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWENTY-FOUR (24) 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) 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, as applicable, 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.

(6) For the remainder of the stipulation/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.

(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 two (2) year(s) of employment as a nurse.

(8) 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 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.

(9) RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled 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 stipulation 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)	

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.

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 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.

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 02 day of January, 20 14.

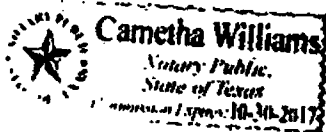
Tammy Jo Kirkpatrick
TAMMY JO KIRKPATRICK, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 02 day of January, 20 14.

SEAL

Cametha Williams

Notary Public in and for the State of TX



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 2nd day of January, 20 14, by TAMMY JO KIRKPATRICK, Vocational Nurse License Number 182474, and said Order is final.

Effective this 11th day of February, 20 14.



Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director on behalf
of said Board