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Patricia A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP113852, with Prescription Authorization Number 6149 Registered Nurse License Number 570251, & Vocational Nurse License Number 127601 issued to ANGELA O. OBINNA § AGREED § § § § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of ANGELA O. OBINNA, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP113852 with Prescription Authorization Number 6149, Registered Nurse License Number 570251, and Vocational Nurse License Number 127601, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

This action was taken in accordance with Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order.

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

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 holds a license to practice as a vocational nurse in the State of Texas, which is in suspended status. Respondent holds a license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas, which is in suspended status. Respondent holds a license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas, which is in suspended status.

4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Holy Rosary School of Nursing, Emekuku, Imo State, Nigeria, on November 1, 1986 and received a Masters in Nursing from Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas, on December 11, 2004. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on May 7, 1990; was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on July 10, 1991; and was licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the role of Family Nurse Practitioner in the State of Texas on March 11, 2005.
5. Respondent's complete nursing employment history is unknown.
6. On or about August 1, 2014, through November 19, 2015, while practicing as a Family Nurse Practitioner at TIG Healthcare and Diagnostic Clinic, Houston, Texas, Respondent prescribed a large number of dangerous cocktails of controlled substances. Respondent's practice fell below the minimum standard of care in that she continually prescribed these dangerous cocktail drugs without regard to therapeutic benefit. Respondent repeatedly prescribed the same strength, dose, and quantity of controlled substances to patients, indicating a failure to individually assess each patient and develop an appropriate treatment plan in response to each patient's individual assessment. Respondent's conduct put patients at risk and fell below the minimum standard of care.

Failure to develop a treatment plan that corresponds to a patient's individual assessment is below the minimum standard of care. Additionally, prescribing the maximum doses of controlled substances in such large quantities falls below the minimum standard of care because when mixed together in such unsupported quantities these Central Nervous System (CNS) depressants have greater risks than therapeutic benefit.

Further, Respondent failed to conduct appropriate assessments to justify her prescribing practices and/or exploring/ordering other treatment options in lieu of prescribing dangerous controlled substances to her patients. Further, Respondent failed to collaborate, and/or completely/accurately document collaboration with a delegating/collaborating physician in the patients' medical records; failed to appropriately monitor Respondent's patients for abusive and/or drug seeking behavior; and failed to completely/accurately document in the patients' medical files.

7. On or about November, 2015, while practicing as a Family Nurse Practitioner at TIG Healthcare and Diagnostic Clinic, Houston, Texas, Respondent provided pre-signed prescriptions for patients, including prescriptions signed by her delegating physician, to unlicensed personnel to fill out what medications to be prescribed. Further, Respondent admitted on November 24, 2015, to pre-signing the prescriptions and giving them to an unlicensed coworker during an interview.

8. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Six (6) and Seven (7), Respondent fully admits and fully accepts responsibility that she did not meet the standard of care in her performance as a nurse. She has learned significantly from this experience and is dedicated to continuing her advancement of education and knowledge in the area of health care and nursing to improve patient health and guarantee the safe practice of nursing, safety to the public, and will continue to learn and grow in the future. She relied upon the experience and knowledge of another individual, a doctor, who she now knows and understands was not the best practice of medicine, and failed to document many important matters and to fully guarantee and adhere to the best practice of medicine.

Respondent agrees that the best practices after October 6, 2014 include the following: to specifically tailor a plan of care for each patient and should have curtailed the prescription of Soma to the 20 patients noted on the records obtained by the Board of Nursing. Respondent states that she maintained a medical record on each patient and collaborated with a physician via a written agreement. Respondent fully cooperated with law enforcement officials and surrendered her DEA license to prescribe controlled substances to further her acceptance of responsibility and cooperation in this process.

Respondent offered evidence at the SOAH hearing of her realization that the mixture of Soma with a Norco or Lortab combination can cause CNS depression and opiate toxicity if not monitored closely. That while many other safeguards were shown and were helpful to prevent abuse of medication and abuse by patients, a urinalysis should have been ordered more frequently to monitor drug screening in addition to questionnaires and subjective and objective data collection.

Respondent has supplemented the SOAH hearing evidence with testimony of mitigating circumstances including her never having had a sanction on her LVN or RN license or her APRN prior to these present allegations. Further, that the Respondent has learned from the experience and that she has gained insight into dynamic practice of pain management and medication administration. Respondent has gained knowledge and insight into the pandemic problem of controlled substance abuse, addiction, and the potential for abuse of such substances such as Soma and Lortab.

9. Formal Charges were filed on February 1, 2016.
10. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on February 1, 2016.
11. Respondent, by her signature to this Order, expresses her desire to voluntarily surrender her license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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 Chapters 221 and 222, and Sections:217.11(1)(A),(B),(C)&(M) and (4); 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(1)(D),(1)(F),(4),(6)&(11)(B), and (4); 221.13(a)&(b); 222.8(a) and (b)(2)&(3), & 228.1(c)&(d). Respondent's conduct also violates 37 TEX. ADMIN. CODE SECTION 13.185(b)(2)&(b)(4). The Board has authority to take disciplinary action under Section 301.453 of the Texas Occupations Code.
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Sections 301.452(b)(1),(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP113852 with Prescription Authorization Number 6149, Registered Nurse License Number 570251, and Vocational Nurse License Number 127601, heretofore issued to ANGELA O. OBINNA, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
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.
6. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
7. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, as amended, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
8. Any subsequent reinstatement of this license will be controlled by Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.26-.29, and any amendments thereof in effect at the time of the reinstatement.

TERMS OF ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED and ORDERED that the **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER** of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP113852 with Prescription Authorization Number 6149, Registered Nurse License Number 570251, and Vocational Nurse License Number 127601, heretofore issued to ANGELA O. OBINNA, to practice nursing in

the State of Texas, is accepted by the Texas Board of Nursing. In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

1. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice advanced practice registered nursing, use the title "advanced practice registered nurse" or the abbreviation "APRN" or wear any insignia identifying herself/himself as an advanced practice registered nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is an advanced practice registered nurse during the period in which the license is surrendered.
2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice professional/registered nursing, use the title "registered nurse" or the abbreviation "RN" or wear any insignia identifying herself/himself as a registered nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a registered nurse during the period in which the license is surrendered.
3. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice vocational nursing, use the title "vocational nurse" or the abbreviation "LVN" or wear any insignia identifying herself/himself as a vocational nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a vocational nurse during the period in which the license is surrendered.
4. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order.
5. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

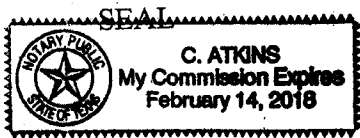
IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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 this Order becomes final when accepted by the Executive Director at which time the terms of this Order become effective and a copy will be mailed to me.

Signed this 13th day of September, 2016.
[Signature]
ANGELA O. OBINNA, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of September, 2016.



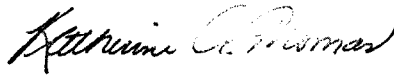
[Signature]
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.
[Signature]
Joe A. Flores, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 13th day of September, 2016.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept the voluntary surrender of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP113852 with Prescription Authorization Number 6149, Registered Nurse License Number 570251, and Vocational Nurse License Number 127601, previously issued to ANGELA O. OBINNA.

Effective this 13th day of September, 20 16.



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