BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of \$ AGREED ORDER SHONDA A. SCHOON, \$ FOR PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure \$ DISCIPLINE & ELIGIBILITY

On this day, the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of Registered Nurse License Number 625345 and the Application for Licensure as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and Prescriptive Authority, hereinafter referred to as the Petition, which has been processed as a Petition for Declaratory Order pursuant to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §217.5(f) and §213.30, and supporting documents filed by SHONDA A. SCHOON, hereinafter referred to as PETITIONER, together with any documents and information gathered by staff and Petitioner's Certification contained herein.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that PETITIONER may be subject to discipline and ineligible for licensure pursuant to Sections 301.452(b)(10)&(13) and 301.453

PETITIONER waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on October 20, 2016.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On or about August 21, 2016, PETITIONER submitted the Petition requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Sections 301.252, 301.257, and 301.260, Texas Occupations Code, and the Board's Rules at 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.5(f) and §213.30.
- 2. Petitioner received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Amarillo College, Amarillo, Texas, on December 1, 1995, and received a Master's Degree in Nursing from South University,

xecutive Director of the Board

Family Nurse Practitioner Program, Savannah, Georgia, on June 1, 2016. Petitioner was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on January 30, 1996.

- 3. Petitioner's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas is in current status.
- 4. Petitioner's nursing employment history includes:

	1996 - 1999	Unknown	
	2000 - 2005	Regional Nurse Manager	Healix Infusion Plano, Texas
	04/05 - 04/08	Director of Nursing	Reachout Home Care Richardson, Texas
	04/08 - 06/09	Heart Center Cardiology Clinic and Echo Manager	Children's Medical Center Dallas, Texas
	06/09 - 03/11	Chief Nursing Officer	Integra Hospital Plano Plano, Texas
	04/11 - 08/11	Unknown	
	09/11- 03/13	Director of Quality/ Risk Mgt./Case Mgt.	Pine Creek Medical Center Dallas, Texas
NOOR DE GENERAL EN REGION DE GENERAL EN SERVICE DE CONTRACTOR DE CONTRAC	03/13 - 08/14	Chief Nursing Officer	Reliant Hospital Dallas, Texas
	02/15 - 06/16	RN	Brightstar Care Flower Mound, Texas
	07/16 - Present	Unknown	

- 5. At the time of the incident, Petitioner was employed as a Registered Nurse with Brightstar Care of Flower Mound, Flower Mound, Texas, and had been in that position for eight (8) months.
- 6. On or about October 21, 2015, through May 31, 2016, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Brightstar Care of Flower Mound, Flower Mound, Texas, Respondent falsified IVIG infusion flow sheets, Intravenous visit notes, and Infusion Therapy informed consent forms for Patients M.E., K.B., and R.Y. Respondent's conduct created inaccurate medical records and was likely to injure the patients in that subsequent care givers would not have complete information on which to base their care decisions.

- 7. On or about June 21, 2016, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Brightstar Care of Flower Mound, Flower Mound, Texas, Respondent misrepresented herself as a Nurse Practitioner to staff and patients. Respondent holds a license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, not a license to practice advanced practice professional nursing. Respondent's conduct was likely to deceive the facility and could have affected the decision to continue employment.
- 8. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Six (6), through Seven (7), Petitioner states at no time did she falsify her nursing notes or any other required paperwork for any of her patients. Respondent states in an email to Brightstar on June 21, 2016, she included her new title (FNP), however she did not indicate she had a license or at any time insinuate she had been licensed or certified to practice as an FNP. Respondent states at no time did she misrepresent herself to the staff of Brightstar or patients as a Nurse Practitioner. Respondent states she has not practiced as an FNP nor has she used this title on any medical paperwork.
- 9. Petitioner has sworn that, with the exception of matters disclosed in connection with the Endorsement Application, her past behavior conforms to the Board's professional character requirements at 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.27.
- 10. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the character factors set out in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for good professional character.
- 11. Licensure of Petitioner poses no direct threat to the health and safety of patients or the public provided Petitioner complies with the stipulations outlined in this Order.
- 12. The Executive Director's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of Petitioner's disclosures.
- 13. Petitioner has been advised by the Board that any information found to be incomplete, incorrect or misleading to the Board or a subsequent discovery of a basis of ineligibility will be considered by the Board and may result in an ultimate determination of ineligibility or the later revocation of a license obtained through fraud or deceit.
- 14. Petitioner shall immediately notify the Board of any fact or event that could constitute a ground of ineligibility for licensure under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 301.452 and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.
- 2. On or about August 21, 2016, PETITIONER submitted the Petition requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Sections 301.252, 301.257, and

- 301.260, Texas Occupations Code, and the Board's Rules at 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.5(f) and §213.30.
- 3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violation(s) of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE $\S217.11(1)(A),(1)(B)\&(1)(D)$ and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE $\S217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(4),(6)(A)\&(6)(H)$ and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE $\S221.2(c)$.
- 4. Petitioner's history reflects conduct which may constitute grounds for discipline and denial of a license under Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code.
- 5. The Board may probate the denial of a license under conditions for a specified term pursuant to Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.
- 6. The Board may license an individual with prior behaviors inconsistent with the Board's character requirements if, upon evaluation of the factors in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.27, and pursuant to 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.33, the Board is satisfied that the individual is able to consistently conform her conduct to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board's Rules and Regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice.
- 7. This Order is conditioned upon the accuracy and completeness of Petitioner's disclosures. Any subsequently discovered discrepancies will result in investigation and possible disciplinary action, up to revocation of Petitioner's license(s).

TERMS OF ORDER

I. SANCTION AND ELIGIBILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas

Board of Nursing, that PETITIONER SHALL receive the sanction of **REPRIMAND WITH STIPULATIONS** and the petition for licensure as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and Prescriptive Authority is **GRANTED**, and upon payment of the required fees and meeting all other applicable requirements, PETITIONER SHALL be issued the applicable license to practice as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) in the State of Texas, in accordance with the terms of this Order.

II. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW AND APPLICABILITY

While under the terms of this Order, PETITIONER agrees to obtain, read, and comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, §§301.001 et seq., the Rules

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and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§211.1 et seq., and this Order.

- A. Until successfully completed, any and all licenses issued to PETITIONER shall be subject to the terms of this Order.
- B. This Order SHALL be applicable to PETITIONER'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER wishes to work.

III. REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)

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

- A. A Board-approved 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. A Board-approved course in nursing documentation that shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course's content shall include: nursing standards related to accurate and complete documentation; legal guidelines for recording; methods and processes of recording; methods of alternative record-keeping; and computerized documentation. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved.
- C. The course <u>"Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills,"</u> 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), PETITIONER 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. PETITIONER SHALL first obtain Board approval of any course prior to enrollment if the course is not being offered by a preapproved 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

PETITIONER 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 PRIOR TO APRN LICENSURE

In order to complete the terms of this Order, prior to becoming licensed as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, PETITIONER must work in the State of Texas as a registered nurse, providing direct patient care in a clinical setting, for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month for eight (8) quarterly periods [two (2) years] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until eight (8) quarterly periods of employment as a nurse have elapsed. Any quarterly period without continuous employment 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 registered nurse (RN) will not apply to this period and will not count towards completion of this requirement.

A. Notifying Present and Future Employers: PETITIONER SHALL notify each present employer in nursing and present each with a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. While under the terms of this Order, PETITIONER SHALL notify all future employers in nursing and present each with a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, prior to accepting an offer of employment.

- **B.** Notification of Employment Forms: PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment" form to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment form" to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.
- C. Incident Reporting: RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to immediately submit any and all incident, counseling, variance, unusual occurrence, and medication or other error reports involving RESPONDENT, as well as documentation of any internal investigations regarding action by RESPONDENT, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office.
- D. Nursing Performance Evaluations: PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the PETITIONER by the Board, periodic reports as to PETITIONER'S capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by PETITIONER's employer and these reports shall be submitted by the employer to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period for eight (8) quarters [two (2) years] of employment as a nurse.

VI. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AFTER APRN LICENSURE

Upon becoming licensed as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, in order to complete the remaining terms of this Order, if any, PETITIONER must work in the State of Texas as an advanced practice registered nurse, providing direct patient care in a clinical setting, for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month for the remainder of eight (8) quarterly periods [two (2) years] of employment, if any. This requirement will not be satisfied until such eight (8) quarterly periods of employment 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, PETITIONER may not work as a registered nurse (RN) after becoming licensed as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse while under the terms of this Order.

- A. Notifying Future Employers, Practice Sites and Credentialing Agencies: While under the terms of this Order, PETITIONER 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: PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.
- C. Incident Reporting: RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to immediately submit any and all incident, counseling, variance, unusual occurrence, and medication or other error reports involving RESPONDENT, as well as documentation of any internal investigations regarding action by RESPONDENT, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office.
- D. Nursing Performance Evaluations: PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each supervising Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician to submit, on forms provided to the PETITIONER by the Board, periodic reports as to PETITIONER'S capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by PETITIONER's employer and these reports shall be submitted by the employer to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period for eight (8) quarters [two (2) years] of employment as a nurse, if any.

VII. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

Upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from PETITIONER'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas and PETITIONER may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION

I am the Petitioner in this matter. I have fully and truthfully disclosed all of my past conduct which could constitute grounds for licensure ineligibility, and I have caused a complete and accurate criminal history to be submitted to the Texas Board of Nursing from each jurisdiction in which I have been adjudged guilty by way of conviction or deferred order. I certify that my past behavior, except as disclosed in my application/petition, has been in conformity with the Board's character rule. I have provided the Board with complete and accurate documentation of my past conduct in violation of the penal law of any jurisdiction which was disposed of through any procedure short of conviction, such as: conditional discharge, deferred adjudication or dismissal. I have no criminal prosecution pending in any jurisdiction.

In connection with my application, I acknowledge that I have read and I understand Sections 301.157(d), 301.252, 301.253, 301.257, 301.258, 301.260, 301.452, and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code, and Chapter 53, Section 53.001 et seq., Texas Occupations Code, and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §§213.27, 213.28, 213.29, and 213.30. I agree with all terms of this Order, including the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and any stipulations as set out in this Order. I acknowledge that this Order is stipulated and I understand that I am not eligible to receive a Temporary Permit to practice nursing. I agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to accepting any license from the Texas Board of Nursing.

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) and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

I understand that I can be represented by an attorney in this matter. I waive representation by counsel, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review of this Order and request that the Texas Board of Nursing ratify this Order.

Signed this 21 day of November 2016.

Shonda School
SHONDA A. SCHOON, PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21 day of November, 2016.

SEAL

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 for Discipline and Eligibility that was signed on the 21st day of November, 2016, by SHONDA A. SCHOON, Registered Nurse License Number 625345, and PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure, and said Order is final.

Effective this 13th day of <u>December</u>, 2016.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board