#### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of

§ AGREED

Registered Nurse License Number 730085

§

issued to HOLLY ELIZABETH VALLES

§ ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of HOLLY ELIZABETH VALLES, Registered Nurse License Number 730085, 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 July 29, 2016.

#### **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.
- 4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Amarillo College, Amarillo, Texas on May 11, 2006. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 27, 2006.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

6/2006 - 8/2012

Unknown

8/2012

Registered Nurse

The Department of Veteran's Affairs, Amarillo VA Health Care System

Amerillo Toyog

Amarillo, Texas

730085:193

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

9/2012 - Present

Registered Nurse

Kindred Hospice Amarillo, Texas

- 6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Amarillo VA Health Care System, Amarillo, Texas, and had been in that position for an unknown duration of time.
- 7. On or about August 8, 2012, through August 9, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse with The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Amarillo VA Health Care System, Amarillo, Texas, Respondent failed to appropriately assess and provide necessary interventions when a patient's condition was deteriorating. On August 8, 2012, at 11:50 PM, the patient began to experience altered mental status. The next morning, at 2:25 AM, the patient's face was noted to be cyanotic, indicating the need for air. At 3:25 AM, the patient was found to be unresponsive and Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) was initiated. Further, Respondent did not notify the physician of the change in the patient's condition and of the possible adverse reaction to Temazepam the patient was experiencing. Subsequently, the patient died. Respondent's failure to assess and intervene exposed the patient to the risk of harm in that significant changes in the patient's status went undetected and prevented a timely intervention, and the failure to notify the physician likely led to patient demise from untreated respiratory/cardiac problems.
- 8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states she thought the patient's condition was guarded, however, she did not feel death was imminent. Respondent states she did not see anything during her assessments that indicated a change in condition, and she also believed some of the patient's confusion could be due to a medication received earlier. Respondent states she documented an adverse reaction note.

#### 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)(B),(1)(M),(1)(P)&(3)(A) and 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B)&(4).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 730085, heretofore issued to HOLLY ELIZABETH VALLES, 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.

#### **TERMS OF ORDER**

#### I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **REPRIMAND WITH STIPULATIONS** 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 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 physical assessment with a didactic portion of not less than six (6) hours and a clinical component of not less than twenty-four (24) hours. Both the didactic and clinical components must be provided by the same Registered Nurse. The course's content shall include physical assessment of all body systems. The clinical component SHALL include physical assessment of live patients in a clinical setting; Performing assessments on mock patients or mannequins WILL NOT be accepted. The course description shall indicate goals and objectives for the course, resources to be utilized, and the methods to be used to determine successful completion of the course. Successful completion of this course requires RESPONDENT to successfully complete both the didactic and clinical portions of the course.
- 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), 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 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. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as a nurse in the State of Texas, providing direct patient care in a clinical healthcare setting, <u>for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month</u> 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 <u>will not count towards completion of this requirement</u>. 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 period <u>and will not count towards completion of this requirement</u>.

- A. Notifying Present and Future Employers: RESPONDENT 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, RESPONDENT 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: RESPONDENT 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. RESPONDENT 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. Indirect Supervision for Current Position: For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, for so long as Respondent remains employed in her current position as a Registered Nurse with Kindred Hospice, Amarillo, Texas, 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.
- D. Incident Reporting for Current Position: For the remainder of the stipulation/probation period, for so long as Respondent remains employed in her current position as a Registered Nurse with Kindred Hospice, Amarillo, Texas, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE her 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.
- E. Supervision Requirements for Subsequent Positions, if any: Should Respondent's current position as a Registered Nurse with Kindred Hospice, Amarillo, Texas, cease or change:

- Prior to completing the first year of employment under the terms 1. of this Order, Direct Supervision will be required and 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 for the remainder of the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, if any. 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.
- 2. After completing the first year of employment under the terms of this Order, Indirect Supervision will be required for the remainder of the stipulation/probation period and 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.
- F. Nursing Performance Evaluations: 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 and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse 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.

# V. 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.

### \_==UNDENT'S CERTIFICATION

inderstand 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 day of the service 2016
HOLLY ELIZABETH VALLES, Respondent
HOLLY ELIZABETH VALLES, Respondent

SEAL Notary Public in and for the State of AMY R BOSLEY My Commission Expires January 31, 2018

Approved as to form and substance

Faralynn R. Mackay, Attorney for Respondent

signed this 6 day of November, 20/6.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the <u>15th</u> day of <u>November</u>, 20\_16, by HOLLY ELIZABETH VALLES, Registered Nurse License Number 730085, and said Order is final.

Effective this 13th day of December, 2016.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board