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Katherine A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of § AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 755572 §
& Vocational Nurse License Number 168670 §
issued to DEBORAH THROCKMORTON § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of DEBORAH THROCKMORTON, Registered Nurse License Number 755572 and Vocational Nurse License Number 168670, 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 October 14, 2014.

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 vocational nurse in the State of Texas is in delinquent status. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from North Central Texas College, Gainesville, Texas, on August 13, 1998, and received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Weatherford College, Weatherford, Texas, on May 9, 2007. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on September 17, 1998, and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 17, 2008.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

08/98 - 01/03	Charge Nurse	Trinity Care Center Bridgeport, Texas
01/03 - 06/07	Assistant Director of Nurses	Trinity Care Center Bridgeport, Texas
06/07 - 01/09	Charge Nurse	Bellmire Healthcare Facility Bowie, Texas
01/09 - 03/12	Director of Nurses	Bellmire Healthcare Facility Bowie, Texas
03/12 - 08/13	Director of Nurses	The Hills Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Decatur, Texas
09/13 - Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as Director of Nurses with The Hills Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Decatur, Texas, and had been in that position for one (1) year and three (3) months.
7. On or about July 29, 2013 through August 5, 2013, while employed as a Registered Nurse and functioning in the role as the Director of Nurses with The Hills Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Decatur, Texas, Respondent misappropriated two hundred forty (240) tabs of Hydrocodone (Norco 7.5/325mg) or failed to take precautions to prevent the misappropriation of the medication belonging to facility and/or to Patient M.M. Respondent requested the Norco 7.5/325mg blister pack and the narcotic count sheet from the primary nurse. The empty blister pack of Norco was later found in the destruction cabinet. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and the patient of the cost of the Norco.
8. On or about July 29, 2013, while employed as a Registered Nurse and functioning in the role as the Director of Nurses with The Hills Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Decatur, Texas, Respondent telephonically communicated an unauthorized prescription for Patient M.M., for Norco 7.5/325mg (Hydrocodone) two hundred forty (240) tabs to S & J Pharmacy, Decatur, Texas, without a physician's order. Respondent's conduct was likely to deceive the pharmacy of possession of Hydrocodone through use of an unauthorized telephonically communicated prescription which is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act).

9. On or about June 27, 2013, through August 28, 2013, while employed as a Registered Nurse and functioning in the role as the Director of Nurses with The Hills Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Decatur, Texas, Respondent failed to follow the policy and procedure for the wastage and/or destruction of medications and failed to maintain and secure medications, including controlled substances intended to be destroyed. As a result, the following medications were found missing by the pharmacist during a drug audit: Morphine SR 40mg one hundred twenty-six (126) caps, Temazepam 15mg thirty-nine (39) tabs, Clonazepam 1mg one (1) tab, Alprazolam .5mg thirty-two (32) tabs, Zolpidem 10mg thirty-two (32) tabs, Lorazepam 2mg/ml forty-four (44) ml, and ABH 2mg twenty-one (21) tabs. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and the patients of the cost of the medications. In addition, Respondent's conduct was likely to deceive the facility pharmacy consultant and placed them in violation of Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act).
10. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Nine (9), Respondent states that regarding the Norco prescription, she is guilty of not double checking to see if there was an order and where it came from prior to sending it to the pharmacy especially when a controlled medication was involved. Respondent states that she is not guilty of drug diversion or misappropriation. She has been a nurse for fifteen (15) years and has never been involved with any diversion or misappropriation of medication.
11. Respondent completed a Psychological Evaluation performed by Jim Womack, Ph.D., on July 29, 2014. Dr. Womack concludes that Ms. Throckmorton has no impairment that would prevent her from practicing nursing. There is no direct evidence that would support the opinion that Ms. Throckmorton currently has a chemical abuse/dependency problem.

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) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(6)(G),(10)(C), (10)(E) &(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 Registered Nurse License Number 755572 and Vocational Nurse License Number 168670, heretofore issued to DEBORAH THROCKMORTON.

TERMS OF ORDER

I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **WARNING 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 entry 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. **EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS**

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as a nurse, providing direct patient care in a licensed 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 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) or a vocational nurse (LVN) license, as appropriate, will not apply to this period and will not count towards completion of this requirement.

- 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
- C. Indirect Supervision:** 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. 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 four (4) quarters [one (1) year] of employment as a nurse.

V. 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.

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.

VI. 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 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 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.

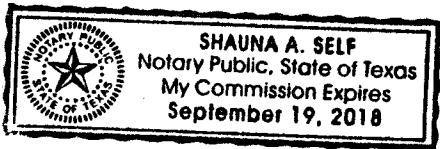
Signed this 21 day of November, 2014.

Deborah Throckmorton
DEBORAH THROCKMORTON, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21 day of November, 2014.

SEAL

Shauna A. Self
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 that was signed on the 21st day of November, 2014, by DEBORAH THROCKMORTON, Registered Nurse License Number 755572 and Vocational Nurse License Number 168670, and said Order is final.

Effective this 22nd day of January, 2015.



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