BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of

§

AGREED

§ Registered Nurse License Number 746412

issued to AMBER LARK HOBBS

ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Boa..., considered the matter of AMBER LARK HOBBS, Registered Nurse License Number 746412, 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

- Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these 1. 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.
- Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current 3. status.
- 4. Respondent received an associate Degree in Nursing from Tarrant County Junior College, Fort Worth, Texas, on May 10, 2007. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 28, 2007
- 5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

05/07 - 02/11

GN/RN

Huguley Memorial Medical Center

Burleson, Texas

01/11 - 02/11

RN

Southwest Home Health Services

Fort Worth, Texas

Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

02/11 - 05/12	RN	Nurse Finders Fort Worth, Texas
04/11 - 05/12	RN	Ingenium Resource Staffing Arlington, Texas
06/12 - 11/12	Not Empl	oyed in Nursing
12/12 - 10/13	RN	North Hills Hospital North Richland Hills, Texas
11/13 - 11/16	RN	Palo Pinto General Hospital Mineral Wells, Texas
12/16 - Present	Unknown	

- 6. On or about April 19, 2012, Respondent's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas was issued a WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS by the Texas Board of Nursing. Respondent successfully completed the terms of this Order on February 28, 2014. A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Agreed Order dated April 19, 2012, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.
- 7. On or about June 1, 2017, Respondent was issued an Agreed Order by the Board which required her to apply to and be accepted into the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). Additionally, Respondent was to comply with all the requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement throughout its term. A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Agreed Order dated June 1, 2017, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.
- 8. On or about December 18, 2017, Respondent became noncompliant with the Agreed Order issued to her by the Texas Board of Nursing on June 1, 2017. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement in that she produced a urine specimen for a random drug screen that resulted positive for Hydromorphone, which Respondent did not have a prescription for. Stipulation Number I. D. of the Agreed Order dated June 1, 2017, states in pertinent part:

"RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term"

On or about January 5, 2018, Respondent was dismissed from TPAPN and referred to the Texas Board of Nursing.

- 9. Respondent, by her signature to this Order, expresses her desire to voluntarily surrender her license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 10. The Board policy implementing Rule 213.29 in effect on the date of this Agreed Order provides discretion by the Executive Director for consideration of conditional reinstatement after proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of abstinence from alcohol and drugs followed by licensure limitations/stipulations and/or peer assistance program participation.
- 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 and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(9)&(11)(B).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1),(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 746412, heretofore issued to AMBER LARK HOBBS, 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 of 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 Registered Nurse License Number 746412, heretofore issued to AMBER LARK HOBBS, 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 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.
- 2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until:
 - A. At least one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order; and
 - B. RESPONDENT has obtained objective, verifiable proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety immediately preceding the petition for reinstatement.
- 3. 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.

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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 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 23rd day of April, 20 8. AMBER LARK HOBBS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd day of April, 2018.

SEAL

Michael Byrd

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

MICHAEL BYRD Notary Public, State of Texas Notary ID 131451962

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 746412, previously issued to AMBER LARK HOBBS.

Effective this 30th day of April, 2018.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

§ AGREED In the Matter of §

Registered Nurse License Number 746412

issued to AMBER LARK HOBBS ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of AMBER LARK HOBBS, Registered Nurse License Number 746412, 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 April 24, 2017.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these 1. 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 Tarrant County Junior College, Fort Worth, Texas, on May 10, 2007. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 28, 2007.
- 5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

05/07 - 02/11 GN/RN Huguley Memorial Medical Center

Burleson, Texas

RN Southwest Home Health Services 01/11 - 02/11

Fort Worth, Texas

ecutive Director of the Board

file or is of record in the offices of the

Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

02/11 - 05/12	RN	Nurse Finders Fort Worth, Texas
04/11 - 05/12	RN	Ingenium Resource Staffing Arlington, Texas
06/12 - 11/12	Not Employe	d in Nursing
12/12 - 10/13	RN	North Hills Hospital North Richland Hills, Texas
11/13 - 11/16	RN	Palo Pinto General Hospital Mineral Wells, Texas
12/16 - Present	Unknown	

- 6. On or about April 19, 2012, Respondent's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas was issued a WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS by the Texas Board of Nursing. Respondent successfully completed the terms of this Order on February 28, 2014. A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Agreed Order dated April 19, 2012, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.
- 7. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Palo Pinto General Hospital, Mineral Wells, Texas, and had been in that position for three (3) years.
- 8. On or about October 13, 2016, through November 11, 2016, while employed with Palo Pinto General Hospital, Mineral Wells, Texas, Respondent removed twenty (20) Meperidine 100mg/ml injections, five (5) Alprazolam 0.25mg tablets, four (4) Hydrocodone 10/325mg tablets, four (4) Hydrocodone 7.5/325mg tablets, three (3) Hydromorphone 4mg tablets, three (3) Temazepam 15mg capsules, one (1) Tylenol 3 tablet, and one (1) Lorazepam 1mg tablet, from the medication dispensing system for patients, without a valid physician's order. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that the administration of the medications without a valid physician's order could result in the patient's suffering from adverse reactions, and Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 9. On or about October 13, 2016, through November 12, 2016, while employed with Palo Pinto General Hospital, Mineral Wells, Texas, Respondent removed twenty (20) Meperidine 100mg/ml injections, twenty (20) Hydromorphone 2mg/ml injections, five (5) Hydrocodone 10/325mg tablets, five (5) Alprazolam 0.25mg tablets, four (4) Hydrocodone 7.5/325mg tablets, three (3) Hydromorphone 4mg tablets, three (3) Temazepam 15mg capsules, two (2) Diazepam 2mg tablets, one (1) Tylenol 3 tablet, and one (1) Lorazepam 1mg tablet, from the medication dispensing system for patients, but failed to document, or completely and

accurately document, the administration of the medications in the patients' medication administration records (MARs) and/or nurse's notes. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patient, which could result in an overdose. Additionally, Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

- 10. On or about October 13, 2016, through November 12, 2016, while employed with Palo Pinto General Hospital, Mineral Wells, Texas, Respondent removed thirty-three (33) Hydromorphone 2mg/ml injections, twenty (20) Meperidine 100mg/ml injections, five (5) Hydrocodone 10/325mg tablets, five (5) Alprazolam 0.25mg tablets, four (4) Hydrocodone 7.5/325mg tablets, three (3) Hydromorphone 4mg tablets, three (3) Temazepam 15mg capsules, two (2) Diazepam 2mg tablets, one (1) Tylenol 3 tablet, and one (1) Lorazepam 1mg tablet, from the medication dispensing system for patients, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedure for wastage of the unused portions of the medications. Respondent's conduct left medications unaccounted for, was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy, and placed the pharmacy in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 11. On or about October 13, 2016, through November 12, 2016, while employed with Palo Pinto General Hospital, Mineral Wells, Texas, Respondent misappropriated, or failed to take precautions to prevent the misappropriation of Meperidine, Hydrocodone, Hydromorphone, Alprazolam, Temazepam, Tylenol 3, Diazepam, and Lorazepam, from the facility and patients thereof. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients of the cost of the medications.
- 12. On or about October 28, 2016, and November 9, 2016, while employed with Palo Pinto General Hospital, Mineral Wells, Texas, Respondent removed Hydromorphone 2mg/ml injections from the medication dispensing system for Patients MW and TL, in excess frequency and/or dosage of the physician's order. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that the administration of Hydromorphone in excess frequency and/or dosage of the physician's order could result in the patients suffering from adverse reactions. Additionally, Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 13. Following the incidents outlined in Findings of Fact Numbers Eight (8) through Twelve (12), Respondent was evaluated at the direction of the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). The results of the evaluation suggested Respondent would benefit from enrollment in TPAPN.
- 14. Formal Charges were filed on February 9, 2017.
- 15. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on February 13, 2017.
- 16. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.

- 17. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact resulted from or was significantly influenced by Respondent's substance use disorder and/or mental disorder.
- 18. 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 substance use disorder.
- 19. Respondent's compliance with the terms of a Board approved peer assistance program should be sufficient to protect patients and the public.

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)(C),(1)(D)&(3) and 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(4),(6)(G),(8), (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 746412, heretofore issued to AMBER LARK HOBBS.
- 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. The Board may, in its discretion, order a nurse to participate in a peer assistance program approved by the Board if the nurse would otherwise have been eligible for referral to peer assistance pursuant to Section 301.410, Texas Occupations Code.

TERMS OF ORDER

I. PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for RESPONDENT to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN):

A. Within forty-five (45) days following the date of entry of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL apply to TPAPN;

- B. Within ninety (90) days following the date of entry of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL sign and execute the TPAPN participation agreement and complete the enrollment process, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee payable to TPAPN in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00);
- C. Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, RESPONDENT SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN participation agreement to the Texas Board of Nursing;
- D. RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term and SHALL keep all applicable license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas current; and
- E. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.

II. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW AND APPLICABILITY

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.

- 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. As a result of this Order, Respondent's license will be designated "single state" and 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.

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:

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.

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. EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE

SHOULD RESPONDENT fail to comply with this Order or the terms of the participation agreement with the TPAPN, such noncompliance will result in 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.

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.

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. I do acknowledge possessing a diagnosis that deems me eligible to participate in the Texus Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. By my signature on this Order, Lagree to the entry of this Order and all conditions of said Order to obtain disposition of the allegations through peer assistance and to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order becomes effective upon acceptance by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, 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 Lead play of Maley. 2017.

	AMBER LARK HOBBS, Respondent
1 to and subscribed	before me this day of, 20
SEAL	
	Notary Public in and for the State of
	Approved as to form and substance.
	A. Clay Graham, Attorney for Respondent
	Signed this day of, 20

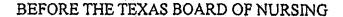
WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 22nd day of May, 20_17, by AMBER LARK HOBBS, Registered Nurse License Number 746412, and said Order is final.

Effective this 1st day of June, 20 17.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board



In the Matter of Registered Nurse

§ AGREED

License Number 746412 issued to AMBER LARK HOBBS

6 ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Boar considered the matter of AMBER LARK HOBBS, Registered Nurse License Number 746412, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on February 3, 2012, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas.
- 4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Tarrant County Junior College, Fort Worth, Texas, on May 10, 2007. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 28, 2007.
- 5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

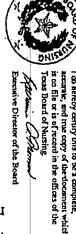
04/07 - Present

Intern RN

Huguley Memorial Medical Center Burleson, Texas

746412:119

CIO



Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

05/07 - Present

GN/RN

Huguley Memorial Medical Center

Burleson, Texas

01/11 - Present

RN

Southwest Home Health Services

Fort Worth, Texas

- 6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a registered nurse with Huguley Memorial Medical Center, Burleson, Texas, and had been in this position for three (3) years and four (4) months.
- On or about December 15, 2010, while employed with Huguley Memorial Medical Center, Burleson, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of hydrocodone and morphine in that she produced a specimen for a random urine drug screen which resulted positive for hydrocodone and morphine. Unlawful possession of morphine is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of hydrocodone and morphine by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patients' conditions, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.
- 8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states:

"I had a current prescription for the hydrocodone, but did not have a prescription for the morphine. The day we were randomly drug tested, there was a discrepancy in the pyxis for Xanax which no one could account for, so everyone was randomly drug tested. I currently suffer from back pain due to a bulging disc of L4-L5, and require pain medication at times. On December 13th, I left work and went directly to a get-together at a friend's house. I was really struggling with my back pain that evening but did not have my hydrocodone prescription with me because I had left it at home that morning. I was desperate for some pain relief, so I took one tab of my husband's prescription morphine. I had never used this medication before this incident, nor do I abuse drugs. I understand that I was wrong to take a non-prescribed medication and I do accept responsibility for my actions. I have never had discrepancies against me, nor have I even been in this type of situation. I have never taken any of my prescription medication on the job, and I value my work and my career. Huguley hospital required that I check myself into a substance abuse program which I have completed."

9. 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 of Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(4),(10)(A),(10)(D)&(11)(B).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 746412, heretofore issued to AMBER LARK HOBBS, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

<u>ORDER</u>

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

Board of Nursing, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a WARNING 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 ONE (1) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWELVE (12) 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) 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.
- (6) 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 one (1) year(s) of employment as a nurse.
 - (7) 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.

(8) 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. 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:

Amphetamines
Barbiturates

Barbiturates

Benzodiazepines Cannabinoids

Cannabinoid Cocaine

Ethanol

tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)

Meperidine Methadone

Methaqualone

Opiates

Phencyclidine Propoxyphene

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 failure to report for a drug screen, which may be considered the same as a positive result, will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and 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.

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 shall 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 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.

day of March 2012

AMBER LARK HOBBS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this Et day of _

SEAL

Notary Public in and for the State of DS



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 11 day of March, 2012, by AMBER LARK HOBBS, Registered Nurse License Number 746412, and said Order is final.

Effective this 19th day of April, 2012.

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

of said Board

