BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

AGREED

Registered Nurse License Number 708276

In the Matter of

§ § § issued to GEORGE LUTHER PEDDY ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of GEORGE LUTHER PEDDY, Registered Nurse License Number 708276, 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 19, 2018.

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).
 - Respondent waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order. 2.
 - Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current 3. status.
 - Respondent received an Associate Degree from Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas on May 4. 15, 2004. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on July 27, 2004.
 - 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

05/2004 - 07/2005

RN

Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital

Beaumont, Texas

05/2005 - 01/2007

RN

North Hills Hospital

North Richland Hills, Texas

C20

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

01/2007 - 02/2008	RN	John Peter Smith Hospital Fort Worth, Texas
02/2008 - 03/2009	RN	Southwest Surgical Hospital Hurst, Texas
03/2009 - 10/2010	RN	HCA - Las Colinas Hospital Irving, Texas
11/2010	Unknown	
12/2010 - 05/2012	RN	Weatherford Regional Hospital Weatherford, Texas
06/2012 - 08/2013	RN	Unknown
09/2013 - 09/2014	RN	Victory Medical Center Austin, Texas
09/2014 - 04/2015	RN	Texas Health Resources Fort Worth, Texas
05/2015 - 09/2016	Unknown	t.
10/2016 - 06/2017	RN	Baptist Health San Antonio, Texas
06/2017 to Present	RN	Pediatric Home Healthcare, LLC. San Antonio, Texas
06/2017 to Present	RN	Angels of Care Pediatric Home Health San Antonio, Texas
03/2018 to Present	RN	Core Medical Staffing San Antonio, Texas

- 6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Pediatric Home Healthcare, LLC., San Antonio, Texas, and had been in that position for six (6) months.
- 7. On or about December 9, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Pediatric Home Healthcare, LLC., San Antonio, Texas, and assigned to provide care to Patient M.R.,

Respondent violated boundaries of the nurse/client relationship in that he posted a picture of the patient's bedroom on social media without authorization, which could have been used to identify the patient's location/address. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient unnecessarily to a risk of harm from use, accessing or disclosure of their confidential information without their written authorization and constitutes a violation of HIPAA (The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act).

8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent admits he posted a picture of the patient's bedroom on social media even though there was no intent to identify the patient. Respondent states he can see where there is a problem with posting the picture.

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)(J) and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4)&(6)(D).
- 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 708276, heretofore issued to GEORGE LUTHER PEDDY.
- 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, subject to ratification by the Texas

Board of Nursing, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of REMEDIAL EDUCATION

WITH A FINE 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. As a result of this Order, Respondent's license(s) will be designated "single state" and Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state.

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. UNDERSTANDING BOARD ORDERS

Within thirty (30) days of entry of this Order, RESPONDENT must successfully complete the Board's online course, "Understanding Board Orders," which can be accessed on the Board's website from the "Discipline & Complaints" drop-down menu or directly at: http://www.bon.texas.gov/UnderstandingBoardOrders/index.asp. Upon successful completion, RESPONDENT must submit the course verification at the conclusion of the course, which automatically transmits the verification to the Board.

IV. 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. 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.
- C. <u>The course "Patient Privacy,"</u> a 5.4 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 <u>not</u> 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.

V. MONETARY FINE

RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) 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.

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, subject to meeting all existing eligibility requirements in Texas Occupations Code Chapter 304, Article III, 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 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.

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 August, 2018, by GEORGE LUTHER PEDDY, Registered Nurse License Number 708276, and said Order is final.

Effective this 31st day of August, 2018.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board