BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of

§ AGREED

Registered Nurse License Number 754611

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issued to ROGER GABRILLO ALICANTE

ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of ROGER GABRILLO ALICANTE, Registered Nurse License Number 754611, 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 June 13, 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).
- 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 a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from University of The Visayas, Cebu City, Philippines, on March 23, 1993. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 3, 2008.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

6/2008 - 3/2018

Telemetry Staff Nurse

McAllen Medical Center

McAllen, Texas

xecutive Director of the Board

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

4/2018 - Present Unknown

- 6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Telemetry Staff Nurse with McAllen Medical Center, McAllen, Texas, and had been in that position for nine (9) years and nine (9) months.
- 7. On or about February 21, 2018, while employed as a Telemetry Staff Nurse with McAllen Medical Center, McAllen, Texas, Respondent failed to intervene and inform the physician and Charge Nurse after he was notified by the telemetry technician that Patient Number 126184480 displayed episodes of ventricular tachycardia at 3:08 am. In addition, Respondent failed to inform the physician when the aforementioned patient had a six (6) minute episode of sustained pulseless ventricular tachycardia progressing to ventricular fibrillation at 3:40 am. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient by depriving the physician the opportunity to institute timely medical interventions.
- 8. On or about February 21, 2018, while employed as a Telemetry Staff Nurse with McAllen Medical Center, McAllen, Texas, Respondent failed to call a Code Blue from the room of the aforementioned Patient Number 126184480, and then initiate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) when the patient was found unresponsive with no pulse. Instead, Respondent left the patient's room to get the crash cart, and then called a Code Blue. CPR was initiated, resuscitation was unsuccessful, and the patient was pronounced deceased. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from a delay in timely nursing and medical interventions, including possible demise.
- 9. On or about February 21, 2018, while employed as a Telemetry Staff Nurse with McAllen Medical Center, McAllen, Texas, Respondent failed to document in the medical record of the aforementioned Patient Number 12618440 his assessments and subsequent interventions when the patient had irregular heart rhythms and coded. Respondent's conduct resulted in an incomplete medical record and deprived subsequent caregivers of complete information.
- In response to the incidents in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Nine (9), Respondent states that past midnight the telemetry tech informed him that the patient was experiencing tachycardia, and he checked the patient. Respondent explains that the patient was found in her normal state and the heart monitor returned to normal sinus rhythm. Respondent adds that about 3 am the nursing assistant informed him that the patient's temperature was elevated so he administered Tylenol, suctioned her, and then noticed the patient was unresponsive with no pulse. Respondent states that he then called the telemetry tech and asked her if she had noticed any unusual rhythms, and her only response was that the patient had ventricular tachycardia. Respondent relates that he ran outside the patient's room to get the crash cart and called a Code Blue. Respondent asserts that the telemetry technician failed in her duty by not notifying him of these life threatening episodes of

ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation. Respondent indicates that the telemetry technician could have called a Code Blue without his permission when the patient was displaying episodes of ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation. Respondent states that he followed the proper protocol by calling a Code Blue upon discovering the patient was in ventricular fibrillation.

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)(D),(1)(M),(1)(P)&(3)(A) and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE \$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 754611, heretofore issued to ROGER GABRILLO ALICANTE, 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, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Registered Nurse License Number 754611, previously issued to ROGER GABRILLO ALICANTE, to practice nursing in Texas is hereby **SUSPENDED** with the suspension **STAYED** and Respondent is hereby placed on **PROBATION**, in accordance with the terms of this Order, for a minimum of two (2) years **AND** until Respondent fulfills the requirements 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. <u>A Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics</u> 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. <u>A Board-approved course in nursing documentation</u> 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; 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), 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.

V. 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, 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. 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 (5) days of employment as a nurse.
- C. Direct Supervision: For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly 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. Direct supervision requires another nurse, as applicable, to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on 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.
- 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.
- E. 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 individual who supervises the RESPONDENT and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising individual 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. FURTHER COMPLAINTS

If, during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against the Respondent's license(s), the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

VII. 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.

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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 waive representation by counsel. 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 15t day of August, 2018. P. Aliente

ROGER GABRILLO ALICANTE, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

SEAL

SLY EDWARD PHILLIPS otary Public, State of Texas

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 1st day of August, 2018, by ROGER GABRILLO ALICANTE, Registered Nurse License Number 754611, and said Order is final.

Effective this 11th day of September, 2018.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board