

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of \$ REINSTATEMENT Registered Nurse License Number 723964 \$ AGREED ORDER issued to JENNIFER LINDSEY WHIPPLE \$

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Reinstatement, hereinafter referred to as the Petition, of Registered Nurse License Number 723964, held by JENNIFER LINDSEY WHIPPLE, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner.

Petitioner waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Reinstatement Agreed Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on November 5, 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 Petitioner and Petitioner was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license(s).
- 2. Petitioner waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Reinstatement Agreed Order.
- 3. Petitioner received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Tarrant County Junior College, Fort Worth, Texas, on December 16, 2005. Petitioner was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on January 31, 2006.
- 4. Petitioner's nursing employment history includes:

2006 - 2011	RN Telemetry	Texas health Resources Fort Worth, Texas	
2011 - 2013	RN	Maxim Healthcare Service Fort Worth, Texas	
2013 - 2015	Unknown/ work	Unknown/ working in Arkansas	

Petitioner's nursing employment history continued:

2015

RN

Maxim Healthcare Service Fort Worth, Texas

2015 - Present

Not employed in nursing

- 5. On or about December 8, 2015, Petitioner's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas was Revoked through an Order of the Board. A copy of the December 8, 2015, Order and Formal charges are attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Reinstatement Agreed Order.
- 6. On or about July 25, 2018, Petitioner submitted a Petition for Reinstatement of License to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 7. Petitioner presented the following in support of said petition:
 - A. Letter of support, dated June 28, 2018, from Jessica Jimenez, LMSW, Family Pathways Family Coach, Buckner Family Pathways, Dallas Texas, states Petitioner is a participant in an academic transition program for single mothers pursuing their educational goals. She was accepted into the program in 2017, and has continued to demonstrate motivation, determination, and is self-driven. Petitioner is required to attend case management service once a month to discuss her progress towards academics, employment, savings account, budgeting skills and family. Petitioner has continued to be an active participant in receiving therapeutic services and attends life skill classes that are offered by the counseling department.
 - B. Letter of support, dated July 24, 2018, from Robert Hudson, President of Theo Subs, Inc., dba Subway, Richardson, Texas, states Petitioner started with the company on August 25, 2016, and since March 2017 was promoted to lead position in a new Smoothie King. Petitioner is a key member to assist with training new team members. She is dependable and is willing to assist in anyway.
 - C. Letter of support, from Katie Palmeri. Ms. Palmeri is Petitioner's sponsor and has been for the past two years. Petitioner works very hard at her recovery. Petitioner drives a van for the Exodus ladies on Wednesday nights to make sure that other ladies are able to attend the Celebrate Recovery meetings and she is the head coordinator of the Saturday night life group at the church which is responsible for 2 vans to church each weekend.
 - D. Letter of support, dated June 21, 2018, from Susan Stephens, Executive Director of Exodus Ministries, Dallas, Texas, states that Exodus Ministries is a faith-based non-profit organization whose mission is to empower formerly incarcerated mothers reuniting with their children to achieve a productive and fulfilling life. Some women who become residents may not have been an inmate but come from addiction rehab centers. Petitioner graduated from the one-year residential program in February 2017. This program is very demanding and most women who are admitted find it far more challenging than they ever expected. She complied with every requirement and has

- demonstrated significant life changes during the program and since graduating. Petitioner was drug tested on a random basis while in the program and no evidence of drug or alcohol use was ever present.
- E Documentation of completion from Nexus Recovery Center Intensive Outpatient Treatment from January 25, 2016 through March 1, 2016.
- F. Documentation of the required continuing education contact hours.
- 8. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the factors set out in 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for relicensure.
- 9. Relicensure of Petitioner poses no direct threat to the health and safety of patients or the public provided Petitioner complies with the stipulations outlined in this Order.
- 10. The Executive Director's review of Petitioner's eligibility for relicensure has been made on the basis of Petitioner's disclosures.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 2. Pursuant to Section 301.467, Texas Occupations Code, the Board may refuse to issue or renew a license, and may set a reasonable period that must lapse before reapplication. Pursuant to 22 Tex. ADMIN. Code §213.26, the Board may impose reasonable conditions that a Petitioner must satisfy before reissuance of an unrestricted license.
- 3. The Board may relicense an individual upon evaluation of the factors in 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.27, and pursuant to 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.33, if the Board is satisfied that the individual is able to consistently conform her conduct to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board's Rules and Regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice.
- 4. This Order is conditioned upon the accuracy and completeness of Petitioner's disclosures. Any subsequently discovered discrepancies will result in investigation and possible disciplinary action, up to revocation of Petitioner's license(s).

TERMS OF ORDER

I. REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSURE AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that the petition of JENNIFER LINDSEY WHIPPLE for reinstatement of license to practice nursing in the State of Texas be **GRANTED** and Registered Nurse License Number 723964 is/are hereby **REINSTATED** in accordance with the terms of this Order.

- A. PETITIONER SHALL pay all re-registration fees, if applicable, and PETITIONER'S licensure status in the State of Texas will be updated to reflect the applicable conditions outlined herein.
- B. This Order SHALL be applicable to PETITIONER'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. As a result of this Order, PETITIONER'S license(s) will be designated "single state" and PETITIONER 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, PETITIONER agrees to comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, §§301.001 et seq., the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nursing Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§211.1 et seq., and this Reinstatement Agreed Order.

III. REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)

In addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may require for licensure renewal, PETITIONER SHALL successfully complete the following remedial education course(s) within one (1) year of relicensure, 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 and video programs will not be approved.
- B. <u>The course "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), PETITIONER 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. PETITIONER SHALL first obtain Board approval of any course prior to enrollment if the course is <u>not</u> 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, PETITIONER 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: PETITIONER 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, PETITIONER 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: PETITIONER 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. PETITIONER 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: PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER, 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 of experience in the same or similar practice setting to which the PETITIONER is currently working. PETITIONER SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. PETITIONER SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.
- D. Nursing Performance Evaluations: PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the PETITIONER by the Board, periodic reports as to PETITIONER'S capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by the individual who supervises the PETITIONER 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.

V. DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED REQUIREMENTS

A. While under the terms of this Order, PETITIONER SHALL abstain from the use of alcohol, nalbuphine, propofol and all controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, PETITIONER 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 the prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and PETITIONER 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, PETITIONER SHALL submit to random periodic screens for alcohol, nalbuphine, propofol and all 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 PETITIONER obtains employment and submits the Notification of Employment form to the Board.
 - For the first three (3) month [1st quarter] period PETITIONER 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.
 - For the remainder of the probation period, if any, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) month quarterly period.

All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Any test result for a period of time in which the PETITIONER 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. PETITIONER SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random drug screening during the stipulation/probation period.

<u>Specimens shall be screened</u> for any or all of the following substances and/or their metabolites:

Amphetamine	Methamphetamine	MDMA
MDA	Alprazolam	Diazepam
Alpha-o-alprazolam	Alpha-Hydroxytriazolam	Clonazepam
Desmethyldiazepam	Lorazepam	Midazolam
Oxazepam	Temazepam	Amobarbital
Butabarbital	Butalbital	Pentobarbital
Phenobarbital	Secobarbital	Codeine
Hydrocodone	Hydromorphone	Methadone
Morphine	Opiates	Oxycodone
Oxymorphone	Propoxyphene	Cannabinoids
Cocaine	Phencyclidine	Ethanol
Heroin	Fentanyl	Tramadol
Meperidine	Carisoprodol	Butorphanol
Nalbuphine .	Ketamine	Propofol

Upon enrollment in the Board's drug and alcohol testing program, <u>PETITIONER SHALL</u>, on a daily basis, call or login online to the Board's designated drug and alcohol testing vendor to determine whether or not <u>PETITIONER has been selected to produce a specimen for screening that day</u> and SHALL, if selected, produce a specimen for screening that same day at an approved testing location and/or comply with any additional instructions from the vendor or Board staff. Further, <u>a Board representative may appear</u> at the PETITIONER'S place of employment at any time during the probation period and require PETITIONER to produce a specimen for screening.

Consequences of Positive or Missed Screens. Any positive result for which PETITIONER does not have a valid prescription or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen may subject PETITIONER to further disciplinary action, including TEMPORARY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of Petitioner'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.

C. While under the terms of this Order, PETITIONER SHALL attend at least two (2) support group meetings each week, one of which must be for substance abuse and provided by Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or another comparable recovery program that has been pre-approved by the Board. PETITIONER SHALL provide acceptable evidence of attendance. Acceptable evidence shall consist of a written record of at least: the date of each meeting; the name of each group attended; and the signature and printed name of the chairperson of each group attended by PETITIONER. PETITIONER SHALL submit the required evidence on the forms provided by the Board at the end of every three (3) month quarterly period. No duplications, copies, third party signatures, or any other substitutions will be accepted as evidence.

VI. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

Upon full compliance with the terms of this Reinstatement Agreed Order, all encumbrances will be removed from PETITIONER'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, PETITIONER may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges if any.

PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION

I understand this Order is conditioned upon the accuracy and completeness of my petition and disclosures. I further understand that subsequently discovered discrepancies in my petition and/or disclosures will result in investigation and possible disciplinary action, up to revocation of my license(s).

I have reviewed this Order. I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I waive representation by counsel. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order. 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 agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to reinstating my license(s) to practice nursing in the state of Texas. 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 TEMPORARY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, and/or REVOCATION of my license(s) and/or nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 26 day of November, 2018.

ENNIFER LINDSEY WHIPPLE, Petitioner

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25 day of November, 2018.

SEAL

SUSAN STEPHENS My Notary ID # 129273579 Expires January 21, 2021 Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Reinstatement Agreed Order that was signed on the 26th day of November, 2018, by JENNIFER LINDSEY WHIPPLE, Registered Nurse License Number 723964, and said Reinstatement Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 24th day of January, 2019.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board