### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of

§ AGREED

Registered Nurse License Number 685939

issued to LESLIE ALLISON S'ALAZAR

ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of LESLIE ALLISON SALAZAR, Registered Nurse License Number 685939, 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 January 8, 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 an Associate Degree in Nursing from Grayson County College, Denison, Texas, on May 1, 2001. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on April 30, 2002.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

2001 - 2004

Staff Nurse

Hillcrest Medical Center

Waco, Texas

685939:196 C10

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

2004 - 2006	Staff Nurse	North Hill Hospital North Richland Hills, Texas
2005 - 2008	RN	Emergency Medical Center North Richland Hills, Texas
09/08 - 03/09	Unknown	
03/09 - 11/12	RN	Denton Presbyterian Hospital Denton, Texas
11/12 - 03/13	Unknown	
03/13 - 08/14	RN	Millwood Hospital Arlington, Texas
08/14 - 03/16	Charge RN	Mesa Springs Hospital Fort Worth, Texas
01/15 - Unknown	RN	Forest Park Medical Center Fort Worth, Texas
07/16 - 02/17	RN	Saint Camillus Medical Center Hurst, Texas
02/17 - Present	Unknown	

- 6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Saint Camillus Medical Center, Hurst, Texas, and had been in that position for eight (8) months.
- 7. On or about February 16, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Saint Camillus Medical Center, Hurst, Texas, Respondent withdrew Dilaudid from the Medication Dispensing System for Patient medical record number V000000376, without valid physicians' orders. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients, in that the administration of medications without a valid physician's order could result in the patients 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.
- 8. On or about February 16, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Saint Camillus Medical Center, Hurst, Texas, Respondent withdrew Dilaudid from the Medication Dispensing System for Patient medical record number V000000376, but failed to document, or accurately and completely document, the administration of the medications in the patients'

Medication Administration Record (MAR) and/or Nurse's Notes. Respondent's conduct created inaccurate medical records and was likely to injure the patients, in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patients, which could result in an overdose. Furthermore, 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 February 16, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Saint Camillus Medical Center, Hurst, Texas, Respondent withdrew Dilaudid from the Medication Dispensing System for Patient medical record number V000000376, 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.
- 10. On or about February 16, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Saint Camillus Medical Center, Hurst, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Dilaudid belonging to the facility and patients, thereof. Subsequently, when questioned by management Respondent admitted to taking wastage and giving to a friend on the outside. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients thereof of the cost of the medications.
- 11. In response to Findings of Fact Number Seven (7) through Number Ten (10), Respondent respectfully makes a general admission of the charges, denial of predicate aspects of the charges, and offers mitigating circumstances, including duress and undue influence of another as part of the basis of her actions/conduct. Respondent states she became acquainted with C.F. in 2005 when they were employed at a local medical center. Respondent states around 2011, she and C.F. lost contact with each other until around August 2015, when she was diagnosed with lymphoma. Respondent states by February 2017, C.F. sent text messages to her at all hours of the day. Respondent states on a visit in early February 2017, C.F. brought a handgun. Respondent states C.F. placed the handgun on the kitchen counter, along with a bottle of hot sauce, and informed her that she planned to take her own life. Respondent states the insidious change in C.F.'s personality, and intrusion into her life caused panic and fear in her. Respondent states around that time, C.F. began pressuring her to obtain narcotics for her due to her "situation" and after all that she did for her during her lymphoma treatment. Respondent states she was manipulated by C.F. Respondent states she was afraid of C.F. and what possible violence C.F. might do to her or her family. Respondent admits to the summary statements made in the Saint Camillus Medical Center Investigative report by SCMC leadership and staff. Respondent states she was under severe duress at the time and feared that by refusing C.F. she would be potentially placing herself and her family in peril. Respondent admits to the withdrawal of Hydromorphone without a physician's order. Respondent admits to not following facility wastage policy. Respondent admits to misappropriation and admission to SCMC staff.
- 12. On or about November 27, 2017, Respondent underwent a Forensic Psychological evaluation with Jim Womack, Ph.D., wherein Dr. Womack states Respondent is capable of conforming

to the requirements of the Nursing Board and the Board's Rules. Dr. Womack's states his opinion is based upon the fact Respondent has no mental disease or defect impairing her ability to think rationally and she does not have a major mood disorder. However, Dr. Womack opines Respondent's established behaviors reflect very poor judgment under stress, even at such time that she had the positive support of family and spouse in the medical field to whom she could have turned for support, she did not. According to Dr. Womack, it would seem that aspects of Respondent's personality put her at greater risk to make her vulnerable to manipulation than those who do not have more passive and unassertive traits. Dr. Womack believes to inoculate against future scenarios wherein she might find herself capitulating to the influence of others, insight therapy is needed. Dr. Womack states it is unclear whether or not she has a drug abuse problem combined with vulnerability to manipulation; however, to be accurate, she would be seen at risk to find herself in similar circumstances in the future. As with the above recommendation, Dr. Womack believes therapy could assist in reducing Respondent's risk. Dr. Womack states if Respondent has a drug abuse problem she would be at risk to mismanage patient's medications and if her problem is attributable to personality features that interfere with good judgment, when under the negative influence of others, the answer remains the same.

- 13. 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.
- 14. Formal Charges were filed on August 14, 2017.
- 15. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on August 22, 2017.

## **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 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §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 685939, heretofore issued to LESLIE ALLISON SALAZAR, 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 that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **REPRIMAND 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. 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: <a href="http://www.bon.texas.gov/UnderstandingBoardOrders/index.asp">http://www.bon.texas.gov/UnderstandingBoardOrders/index.asp</a>. 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.

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, <u>for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month</u> 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.
- D. Indirect Supervision: For the remainder of the stipulation/probation period, 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. DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED REQUIREMENTS

- A. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT 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, 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, nalbuphine, propofol 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 [1<sup>st</sup> 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 [2<sup>nd</sup> quarter] period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month.
  - For the next six (6) month period [3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

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

Upon enrollment in the Board's drug and alcohol testing program, RESPONDENT SHALL, on a daily basis, call or login online to the Board's designated drug and alcohol testing vendor to determine whether or not RESPONDENT has been selected to produce a specimen for screening that day 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, a Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT'S place of employment at any time during the probation 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.

### VII. THERAPY

While working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL participate in therapy with a professional counselor with credentials approved by the Board. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the therapist to submit written reports, on forms provided by the Board, as to the RESPONDENT'S progress in therapy, rehabilitation and capability to safely practice nursing. The report must indicate whether or not the RESPONDENT'S stability is sufficient to provide direct patient care safely. For the first three (3) month quarterly period RESPONDENT works as a nurse under the terms of this Order, reports are to be submitted to the Board each and every month. If therapy is recommended by the counselor for an additional period of time, the reports shall then be submitted to the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period in which the RESPONDENT is working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, for the remainder of the term of the Order, or until RESPONDENT is dismissed from therapy, whichever is earlier.

## VIII. 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 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 23 day of February, 20 V

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23.4 day of February, 2018.

**SEAL** 

AARON CLAY GRAHAM
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires 11-21-2020
Notary ID 130907651

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Notary Public in and for the State of Texa 1

Approved as to form and substance.

A. Clay Graham, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 23rd day of Pelaunn, 2018

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 20 18, by LESLIE ALLISON SALAZAR, Registered Nurse License Number 685939, and said Order is final.

Effective this 24th day of January, 20 19.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board