#### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of \$ AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 867085 \$
& Vocational Nurse License Number 225324 \$
issued to SHANI SUE EDWARDS \$ ORDER



On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of SHANI SUE EDWARDS, Registered Nurse License Number 867085 and Vocational Nurse License Number 225324, 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 31, 2019.

## **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 vocational nurse in the State of Texas is in current status. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Prism Career Institute, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, on December 1, 2007, and received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Galen College of Nursing, San Antonio, Texas, on June 23, 2014. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on November 3, 2009, and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on October 28, 2014.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

05/08 - 06/09	LVN	Genesis Healthcare Kresson View Voorhees, New Jersey
09/08 - 06/09	LVN	Veterans Affairs Hospital Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
06/09 - 01/11	LVN	Veterans Affairs Clinic Austin, Texas
04/11 - 10/11	LVN	Quality Care of Waco Waco, Texas
11/11 - 12/13	LVN	South Park Meadows Nursing & Rehab Center Austin, Texas
02/12 - 04/14	LVN	Deer Creek Senior Living Wimberly, Texas
07/13 - 10/15	Detox Nurse	The Right Step Wimberly, Texas
07/14 - Present	LVN	Austin Regional Clinic Austin, Texas
09/16 - 09/17	RN	Seton Medical Center Hays Kyle, Texas
7/17 - Present	RN	Heart to Heart Hospice San Marcos, Texas

- 6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Staff Registered Nurse (RN) with Seton Medical Center Hays, Kyle, Texas, and had been in that position for four (4) months.
- 7. On or about January, 8, 2017, and on August 16, 2017 while employed as a Staff Nurse with Seton Medical Center Hays, Kyle, Texas, Respondent failed to timely initiate the Pressure Ulcer Prevention Interdisciplinary Plan of Care (IPOC) for Patient Number 7386053, who had a Braden Score of 17, and for Patient Number 7697172, who had a Braden Score of 15, per facility policy. Respondent's conduct may have exposed the patient to injury by delaying the implementation of the interventions required to prevent skin breakdown.

- 8. On or about June 24, 2017, while employed as a Staff Nurse with Seton Medical Center Hays, Kyle, Texas, Respondent failed to place the telemetry monitor strips in the patients' charts for physician review on morning rounds. Respondent's conduct may have exposed the patients to a risk of harm by depriving the physician of medical information required to deliver care.
- 9. On or about July 25, 2017, through September 1, 2017, while employed as a Staff Nurse with Seton Medical Center Hays, Kyle, Texas, on 11 occasions Respondent withdrew Hydromorphone 1mg injections from the medication dispensing system for Patient Numbers 7682147, 7558156, 7346378, 7819303, and 7374619, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedure for wastage of the unused portions of the medications. Respondent's conduct left unused Hydromorphone unaccounted for and may have placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 10. On or about August 7, 2017, through August 8, 2017, while employed as a Staff Nurse with Seton Medical Center Hays, Kyle, Texas, Respondent failed to document her assessment of the urinary catheter and perineal care of Patient Number 7645047. Respondent's conduct resulted in an incomplete medical record.
- 11. On or about August 25,2017, while employed as a Staff Nurse with Seton Medical Center Hays, Kyle, Texas, Respondent withdrew one (1) Hydromorphone 1mg injection from the medication dispensing system for Patient Number 7346378, but failed to document and/or completely and accurately document the administration of the Hydromorphone in the patient's medication administration record (MAR). 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.
- 12. On or about September 18, 2017, through September 19, 2017, while employed as a Staff Nurse with Seton Medical Center Hays, Kyle, Texas, Respondent failed to document the administration of two (2) doses of lactulose and one (1) dose of Novolog Low Dose Sliding Scale to Patient Number 7696647, in the patient's Medication Administration Record (MAR) and/or Nurses' Notes. Respondent's conduct created an incomplete medical record and exposed the patient to administration of excess medication.
- On or about September 18, 2017, through September 19, 2017, while employed as a Staff Nurse with Seton Medical Center Hays, Kyle, Texas, Respondent failed to obtain specimens for Heparin assay and Complete Blood Count (CBC) labs for Patient Number 7821833, as ordered by the physician. Respondent's conduct unnecessarily deprived the physician of medical information needed to make further decisions for treatment.
- 14. In response to Finding of Fact Number Six (6), Respondent states that she was employed as a Staff Registered Nurse (RN) as a part time employee and was scheduled for two days a

week with Seton Medical Center Hays, Kyle, Texas, and on occasion worked additional hours. In response to Findings of Fact Number Seven (7) Respondent states that skin assessments with Braden scores were done. The documentation initiative for integumentary systems required additional steps to activate the IPOC Order set and her lack of consistent experience with that feature of the electronic record resulted in the omitted data. In response to Finding of Fact Number 8, Respondent states that interpretation of all monitor strips was done timely; the strips for the two patients were included among papers utilized for report and were not placed in the medical record before the end of her shift. The loss of the Unit secretary/ward clerk whose job it had been to post strips in the record shifted the duty back to her and placement of the interpreted strips into the hard copy of the medical record was delayed; however the electronic record of all monitoring was still accessible. In response to Finding of Fact Number 9 and 11, Respondent states that all narcotic medications were administered to patients based on physician orders and all incidents of waste were personally witnessed and occurred in the presence of not only the nurse who was the witness but that waste was likewise recorded on camera/video. At no time was Respondent ever asked to submit to drug testing by her employer. In addition, the patient who is the subject of Finding numbers 11 and 4 of the events in Finding number 9 was taken care of by two RNs on 8/24-25/2017 with both nurses pulling and administering medicines as the patient had a high acuity level. In response to Finding of Fact Number 12, Respondent states that her nursing assessment included the genitourinary system of each patient as part of her head to toe assessment; the omission of documentation of the specific findings and care provided was accidental. In response to Finding of Fact Number 13, Respondent states that the patient had poor venous access and the first specimen drawn was delayed due to difficulty obtaining a specimen. Once a specimen was obtained for midnight bloodwork, the amount was very small and ultimately could not be processed by the lab for INR and PTT. The physician was notified and documented in the 7:30 pm progress note for that day that the specimen obtained for hemoglobin and hematocrit levels revealed stable levels and the plan of care remained unchanged with the patient being discharged home on time the next day.

- 15. Respondent provided current performance evaluations and positive references.
- 16. On February 26, 2018, Respondent completed a Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics, which would have been a requirement of this order.

## **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)(A) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A), (1)(B),(1)(C),(4),(10)(C)&(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 867085 and Vocational Nurse License Number 225324, heretofore issued to SHANI SUE EDWARDS, 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 nursing documentation 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; legal 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.
- 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.

- EXCEPTION FOR RESPONDENT'S CURRENT POSITIONS AT E. Heart to Heart Hospice, San Marcos, Texas and Austin Regional Clinic, Austin, Texas. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT may continue working at her current positions with Heart to Heart Hospice, San Marcos, Texas and Austin Regional Clinic, Austin, Texas. While working at Heart to Heart Hospice, San Marcos, Texas and Austin Regional Clinic, Austin, Texas, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE her employers to immediately submit any and all incident, counseling, variance, unusual occurrence, and medication or other error reports involving RESPONDENT, as well as documentation of any internal investigations regarding action by RESPONDENT, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office. Should RESPONDENT's positions with Heart to Heart Hospice, San Marcos, Texas and Austin Regional Clinic, Austin, Texas cease or change for any reason, RESPONDENT must comply with the remaining requirements of this Order, including paragraphs C and D.
- F. 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. 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, and the uncertainty and expense of trial. 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 31 day of Why, 20 19.  SHANI SUE EDWARDS, Respondent
Sworn to and subscribed before me t	his, 20
SEAL	
	Notary Public in and for the State of
	Approved as to form and substance.
	Elizabeth L. Higginbotham Attorney for Respondent
	Signed this $31^{57}$ day of $9$ , $20_{19}$ .

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the <u>31st</u> day of <u>July</u>, 20<u>19</u>, by SHANI SUE EDWARDS, Registered Nurse License Number 867085 and Vocational Nurse License Number 225324, and said Order is final.

Effective this 10th day of September, 2019.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

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