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Katherine A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of § AGREED ORDER
Registered Nurse License Number 665916 §
& Vocational Nurse License Number 132889 §
issued to APRIL ELIZABETH BALDERRAMA §
§

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of APRIL ELIZABETH BALDERRAMA, Registered Nurse License Number 665916, and Vocational Nurse License Number 132889, 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 Agreed Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on January 29, 2021.

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 Agreed Order.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a vocational nurse in the State of Texas is in inactive 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 Western Texas College, Snyder, Texas, on February 21, 1991. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Cisco Junior College, Abilene, Texas, on December 1, 1999. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on May 30, 1991. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on January 19, 2000.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

5/1991 – 05/2014

06/2014 – 02/2016 Director of Nursing Services Sunset Villa Care Center
Roswell, New Mexico

03/2016 – 01/2018 Unknown

02/2018 – 05/2018 Registered Nurse Sienna Nursing Home
Odessa, Texas

05/2018 – 09/2018 Registered Nurse Hilltop Nursing Home
Rehabilitation
Kerrville, Texas

10/2018 – 10/2019 Unknown

11/2019 – Present Registered Nurse Aveanna Healthcare
Lubbock, Texas

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Aveanna Healthcare, Lubbock, Texas, and had been in that position for nine (9) months.
7. On or about August 6, 2020, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Aveanna Healthcare, Lubbock, Texas, and on assignment in the home of Pediatric Patient AM, Respondent left her nursing assignment early without giving report to the patient's caregiver. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient unnecessarily to risk of harm in that leaving the nursing assignment without giving report deprived the patient's caregiver of information needed to continue care.
8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent attached the email she sent her boss the morning of the incident as her response. Respondent notes that she contacted her employer at 0937 to tell them what was going on. Respondent explains that when she arrived that morning, the patient's mom made numerous comments about Respondent's health and not being reliable despite Respondent asking her to stop. Respondent states that when the Physical Therapist got there, she left because she was so upset. Respondent states that the patient's mom followed her to the parking lot while yelling, and Respondent went to her truck in tears without having the patient's mom sign the tablet or completing her initial assessment. Respondent adds that she contracted COVID from the patient's mom, and believes that she was upset because she could not come back full time due to long term effects she still has.

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)(I)&(1)(P) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4)&(12).
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 665916, and Vocational Nurse License Number 132889, heretofore issued to APRIL ELIZABETH BALDERRAMA.
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 **REMEDIAL EDUCATION** 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" as applicable and RESPONDENT may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state using a Texas compact license.

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 Nursing Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§211.1 *et seq.*, and this Agreed 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 and video programs will not be approved.

- B. **The course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills,"** a 3.6 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Learning Extension.

- C. **The course "Professional Accountability,"** a 4.6 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 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.*

V. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

Upon full compliance with the terms of this Agreed Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S license(s) and/or privilege(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 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 this Order becomes effective upon acceptance by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing and 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) and/or privileges to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 2 day of March, 2021.

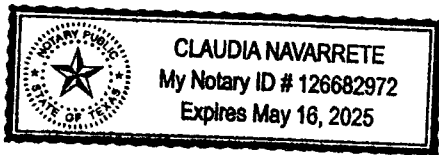
April Elizabeth Balderrama
APRIL ELIZABETH BALDERRAMA, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2 day of March, 2021.

SEAL

Claudia Navarrete

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



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 2nd day of March, 2021, by APRIL ELIZABETH BALDERRAMA, Registered Nurse License Number 665916, and Vocational Nurse License Number 132889, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 8th day of March, 2021.



Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director on behalf
of said Board