

Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

06/2001 - 10/2001	Employment history unknown.
10/2001 - 11/2003	RN Baylor University Medical Center Dallas, Texas
11/2003 - 06/2005	RN Methodist Charlton Medical Center Dallas, Texas
06/2005 - 09/2005	RN UT Southwest Medical Center Dallas, Texas
09/2005 - 07/2010	RN Clear Lake Home Health and Hospice Corsicana, Texas
07/2010 - Present	Employment history unknown.

6. On May 16, 2006, Respondent was issued an Agreed Order by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, which required her to participate and successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Agreed Order dated May 16, 2006, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.
7. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Clear Lake Home Health and Hospice, Corsicana, Texas, and has been in this position for four (4) years and eight (8) months.
8. On or about May 26, 2010, while employed as Registered Nurse with Cedar Lake Home Health and Hospice, Corsicana, Texas, Respondent violated the professional boundaries of the nurse/client relationship, in that she visited Patient Medical Record Number 209072 on days that she was not scheduled to make a nursing visit with the patient. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that it could have resulted in confusion between the needs of the nurse and those of the patient. In addition, Respondent's conduct may have caused delayed distress for the patient, which may not be recognized or felt by the patient until harmful consequences occur.
9. On or about May 26, 2010, while employed as Registered Nurse with Cedar Lake Home Health and Hospice, Corsicana, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Hydrocodone belonging to Patient Medical Record Number 209072. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the patient of the cost of medication.

10. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Eight (8) and Nine (9), Respondent states: "I admit to all of listed allegations. Even though the investigations done by DADS was found unwarranted, I am admitting to the misconduct. I feel today, it will do my recovery process no justice by lying, as I am practicing a program of rigorous honesty with myself and others. I have the disease of addiction. This is by no means an excuse for my behavior, just a fact. I entered an inpatient treatment facility, Covenant Hills, on May 30, 2010. I completed the 28 day program. Since leaving treatment on June 27, 2010, I have been to AA meetings daily, twice on most days. I have attained a sponsor with 12 years of sobriety and work in close contact with her daily. Due to my behavior and my disease, I have lost my job, primary custody of my three children, and possibly my career."
11. Respondent's last known date of sobriety is May 30, 2010 as indicated in Finding of Fact Number Ten (10).
12. 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.

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 a violation of Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(6)(D),(G),(8),(10)(E)&(11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 668961, heretofore issued to MITZI DICKENS GRAY, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Registered Nurse License Number 668961, previously issued to MITZI DICKENS GRAY, to practice nursing in Texas is hereby SUSPENDED and said suspension is ENFORCED until Respondent completes a treatment program approved by the Board, provides

documentation of successful completion, and has obtained twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety. Any relapse prior to the completion of the twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety will result in an extension of the enforced suspension until such twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety and additional treatment have been attained.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Permanent Certificate Number 668961 previously issued to MITZI DICKENS GRAY, upon receipt of this Order, be immediately delivered to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license is encumbered by this order the Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a nurse licensure compact privilege without the written permission of the Texas Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, upon verification of successful completion of the approved treatment and twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety as set out in this Order, the Suspension will be STAYED, and RESPONDENT will be placed on PROBATION for three (3) years with the following agreed terms of probation:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL 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.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL pay all re-registration fees, if applicable, and RESPONDENT'S licensure status in the State of Texas will be updated to reflect the applicable

conditions outlined herein.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include nurses. It 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. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Office of the Board to verify RESPONDENT's successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure. *Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address:*

<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html>

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete 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. In order to receive credit for completion of this program, RESPONDENT SHALL SUBMIT the continuing education certificate of completion for this program to the Board's office, to the attention of

Monitoring. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure. *Information regarding*

this workshop may be found at the following web address:

<http://www.learningext.com/products/generalce/critical/ctabout.asp>.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, RESPONDENT WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING AND RESPONDENT MUST WORK IN SUCH SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING PROBATION CONDITIONS FOR THREE (3) YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A REGISTERED NURSE (RN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS PROBATIONARY PERIOD:

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the probation conditions on RESPONDENT's license. ~~RESPONDENT SHALL~~ present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.

(6) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by

the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.

(7) For the first year of employment as a nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly supervised by a Registered Nurse. Direct supervision requires another nurse 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). The 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.

(8) For the remainder of the probation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered 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.

(9) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse on the night shift, rotate shifts, work overtime, accept on-call assignments, or be used for coverage on any unit other than the identified, predetermined unit(s) to which Respondent is regularly assigned for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

(10) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse in any critical care area for one (1) year of employment as a nurse. Critical care areas include, but are not limited to, intensive care units, emergency rooms, operating rooms, telemetry units, recovery rooms, and labor and delivery units.

(11) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT administer or have any contact with controlled substances, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

(12) 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 nurse who supervises the RESPONDENT. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) months for three (3) years of employment as a nurse.

(13) RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the consumption of alcohol, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates, and/or the use of 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 an evaluation by a Board approved physician specializing in Pain Management or Psychiatry. The performing evaluator will submit a written report to the Board's office, including results**

of the evaluation, clinical indications for the prescriptions, and recommendations for on-going treatment within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.

(14) RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol. For the first three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per week. For the next three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month. For the next six (6) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month. For the remainder of the probation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) months. All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Screens obtained through urinalysis are the sole method accepted by the Board.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines	Meperidine
Barbiturates	Methadone
Benzodiazepines	Methaqualone
Cannabinoids	Opiates
Cocaine	Phencyclidine
Ethanol	Propoxyphene
tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)	

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.

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 probation period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription or failure

to report for a drug screen, which may be considered the same as a positive result, will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action including EMERGENCY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of Respondent's license and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

(15) RESPONDENT 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. RESPONDENT 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 RESPONDENT. RESPONDENT SHALL submit the required evidence on the forms provided by the Board at the end of every three (3) months. No duplications, copies, third party signatures, or any other substitutions will be accepted as evidence.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that if during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against the Respondent's license, the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas and RESPONDENT shall be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, 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 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 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 revocation of my license to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 29 day of Sept, 2010.

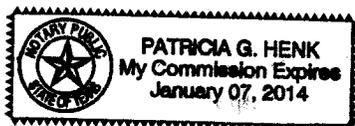
Mitzi Dickens Gray
MITZI DICKENS GRAY, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29 day of Sept, 2010.

SEAL

Patricia G. Henk

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 29th day of September, 2010, by MITZI DICKENS GRAY, Registered Nurse License Number 668961, and said Order is final.

Effective this 9th day of November, 2010.



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



Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

July 2001 - March 2003

Staff RN
Baylor Medical Center of Dallas
Dallas, Texas

April 2003 - November 2003

Staff RN
Cedar Lake Nursing Home
Malakoff, Texas

December 2003 - June 2005

Staff RN
Methodist Charlton Medical Center
Dallas, Texas

July 2005 - April 2006

Unknown

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Methodist Charlton Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year and four (4) months.
7. On or about April 18, 2005, while employed with Methodist Charlton Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, Respondent removed Hydrocodone /APAP 10/325 for patient L.C., from the medication dispensing system in excess of the physician's order. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that the administration of Hydrocodone /APAP 10/325 in excess frequency and/or dosage of the physician's order could result in the patient suffering from adverse reactions.
8. On or about April 29, 2005 to May 18, 2005, while employed with Methodist Charlton Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Hydrocodone belonging to the facility and its patients thereof. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients of the cost of the medications.

9. On or about April 29, 2005 to May 18, 2005, while employed with Methodist Charlton Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, Respondent failed to follow policy and procedure in place for the removal of Hydrocodone from Sure Med medication dispensing system. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients of the cost of the medications.
10. On or about May 18, 2005, while employed with Methodist Charlton Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Norpropoxyphene in that she submitted a specimen for a drug screen which resulted positive for Norpropoxyphene. Possession of Norpropoxyphene is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Norpropoxyphene by a Registered Nurse, while

subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.

11. The Respondent's conduct described in the preceding Findings of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.
12. 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.
13. Respondent's conduct described in Findings of Fact Number Seven (7), Eight (8), Nine (9) and Ten (10) resulted from Respondent's dependency on chemicals.
14. Respondent's compliance with the terms of a Board approved peer assistance program should be sufficient to protect patients and the public.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.455, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violations of Section 301.452(b)(9) & (10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(4), (6)(G) & (10)(D).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 668961, heretofore issued to MITZI DICKENS GRAY, including revocation of Respondent's professional license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
5. The Board may, in its discretion, order a nurse to participate in a peer assistance program approved by the Board if the nurse would otherwise have been eligible for referral to peer assistance pursuant to Section 301.410, Texas Occupations Code.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT, in lieu of the sanction of Revocation under Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code, SHALL comply with the

following conditions for such a time as is required for RESPONDENT to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN):

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within forty-five (45) days following the date of entry of this final Order, apply to and be accepted into the TPAPN, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) payable to TPAPN.

(2) Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, RESPONDENT SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN contract to the Board of Nurse Examiners.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN contract during its term.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Board of Nurse Examiners of any violation of the TPAPN contract.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED, RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Texas Occupations Code, Section §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 *et seq.* and this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license is encumbered by this Order, Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the State of Texas and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT fail to comply with this Order or the terms of the participation agreement with the TPAPN, such noncompliance will result in further disciplinary action including revocation of Respondent's license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations alleged herein. I do acknowledge possessing a diagnosis that deems me eligible to participate in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Conditions One (1) through Four (4) of this Order to obtain disposition of the allegations through peer assistance and 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 Board of Nurse Examiners, 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 revocation of my license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 2 day of May, 2006.

Mitzi Dickens Gray
MITZI DICKENS GRAY, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2 day of May, 2006

SEAL



Lisa Humphries
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, does hereby accept and enter the Agreed Order that was signed on the 2nd day of May, 2006, by MITZI DICKENS GRAY, Registered Nurse License Number 668961, and said Order is final.

Entered and effective this 17th day of May, 2006.


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