

# Covenant School of Nursing

## Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

### Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Jeffrey Goodman

Date: 05-13-2022

DAS Assignment #: 2 (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Amber Lark Hobbs

License number of the defendant: 746412

Date action was taken against the license: April 30, 2018

Type of action taken against the license: Acceptance of Voluntary Surrender

*Use the space below to describe the events which led to action taken against the license. If multiple charges were in play, be sure and cite them, e.g. drug diversion, HIPAA violation, abandonment, forfeiture on student loans, etc.*

Mrs. Hobbs had previous drug use violations. In 2012 during a random drug test, she tested positive for an opioid for which she did not have a prescription. This offense resulted in a warning with stipulations. In 2016, she diverted multiple medications from patients. She pulled the medications without a doctor's orders, did not document that the medications were administered, nor did she document that the medications were wasted. She was ordered to complete a peer assistance program.

In 2018, she tested positive for an opioid, which violated the terms of the peer assistance program. She was subsequently dismissed from the program and referred to the board of nursing. There were grounds for revocation of her license, but she voluntarily surrendered it.

*Use the space below to provide a description of measures you think could have prevented any action being taken against the license and/or would have prevented harm to the patient, if harm occurred. Consider which universal competencies were violated.*

Her actions violated the universal competencies of critical thinking and professional role. The use of opioid medication while on duty can impair a nurse's ability to think critically. Thus, her opioid use thus posed a significant risk for her patients. A nurse must have a clear mind to make clinical decisions, prioritize tasks, evaluate interventions, and assess patient symptoms. Also, diversion of drugs is unprofessional due to prohibited use of supplies, untrustworthiness, and unreliability.

Since Mrs. Hobbs had multiple chances to redeem herself, it is difficult to understand what went wrong. After reading about the violations, they seemed to grow in magnitude. In my opinion the only thing that might have prevented the loss of her license would have been stricter disciplinary action at the beginning. A temporary suspension, instead of a warning, and regular drug testing might have helped her realize the seriousness of the initial violation. The use of the peer assistance program seemed appropriate.

*Use the space below to describe what action you think a prudent nurse would take as the first to person to discover the event described, in other words, you are the one who discovers the patient has been harmed by the nurse or you have discovered the impairment or criminal activity cited in the disciplinary action.*

Drug violations are serious offenses and must be reported immediately.

If I was in a supervisory role and discovered that a nurse was cited for drug related disciplinary action in the past, I would want to talk to the nurse to ensure that she has the help that she needs and is not in danger of repeating the offense. Stricter observation of the nurse may be warranted, but hopefully the past disciplinary actions were sufficient to remediate her actions.