

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: **Meghan Schmitt** Date: **11/04/2022** DAS Assignment # **2** (1-4)

Name of the defendant: **Patricia Ann Barnett** License number of the defendant: **242491**

Date action was taken against the license: **March 20th, 2012**

Type of action taken against the license: **Revoked**

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.

The reason leading to the revoked license, was that the defendant had failed to comply with stipulations regarding a previous order of suspension and probation. The charges included: failure to pay a monetary fine, failure to present a complete copy of the order and all proposals to present/future employers, failure to complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics and failure to complete a course in "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills". The previous charges from the first order against the defendant included: aggravated assault, working while showing; bizarre behavior, confused mental state, drowsiness, lethargy, engaging in the use of Benzodiazepines, and under the influence of alcohol.

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.

After the defendant was put on an order of suspension and probation, the defendant provided documentation regarding recovery as she was a risk to public health and safety. However, the defendant did not uphold the order and lost their license due to negligence of certain stipulations covered. While there was already action taken place on the defendant's license, no further action would have taken place if these stipulations were met. In regards to **all** of the charges placed on the defendant, there were many universal competencies violated. The first competency violated was safety and security; the defendant should not have worked under the influence of both drugs and alcohol, this impairs judgement and the nurse could have missed vital signs and symptoms that would aid in the best care for patients. Second, while working under the influence, this could have impaired the nurse's responsibility to uphold standard precautions and could have jeopardized patients to infection. Third, communication would have been breached while working under the influence; the nurse showed behavior that would make it difficult to focus on patient-related or professional concerns. Fourth, critical thinking would have been impaired under the influence, and the nurse would not have been able to make decisions that were legal, ethical, professional or evidence-based. Lastly, the nurse would have failed to

keep professionalism between the patient-nurse relationship, as the defendant was seen as confused and lethargic while working with patients. This would not only have concerned a patient, but it would also question the nurse's ability to perform care accurately and safely. Regarding the license being revoked, the defendant violated communication and trust between themselves, the board of nursing and employers.

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.

As a prudent nurse, discovering that a colleague was working under the influence, I would confirm this "theory" by communicating with the suspected peer. After confirmation, I would then inform the charge nurse immediately to prevent any harm that could potentially occur to patients. I would make sure to document this finding accordingly, and make sure to speak with administrators or any appropriate faculty member to confirm the situation and handle it effectively and confidentially. While considering the noncompliance against the orders from the defendant's first charge, if this information was available to me, I would make sure to notify administrators and the board of nursing immediately, as it was a requirement on the defendant's probation.