

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Kenann Rodgers

Date: 2/10/2023

DAS Assignment # 4

Name of the defendant: John Beal

License number of the defendant: 571026

Date action was taken against the license: 9/12/2012

Type of action taken against the license: Revoked

John Beal "lacked fitness to practice professional nursing in that after failing to arrive at work at his scheduled time, Respondent was contacted and stated he had overslept and would report to work late." When he finally came to work, he was seen having his behavior as unable to respond to questions and was not able to focus. They ordered a urine drug test which came back positive for alcohol and Amphetamine. He admitted that he had drunk and took Nyquil the night before which caused him to get fired. This was an issue because this makes him unfit to "recognize subtle signs, symptoms, or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgements, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger." Beal's second charge was that in order to prevent his license from getting revoked, he was referred to go to treatment and therapy after being diagnosed with alcohol abuse, depression, and ADHD. He ended up being non-compliant and missed 24 calls to the drug testing center, while his condition may prevent him from being able to provide safe nursing care. His third charge was when he was submitting a request online for a renewal application to the Texas BON where "he provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that he answered "no" to the following question: 'In the past 5 years, have you been addicted or treated for the use of alcohol or any drug?'" Since he clearly had been treated for this and lied while they could obviously look up his records, he was charged for lying.

Working in the health care field is not easy as is, but it does not give someone the reason to get drunk or doing something that causes impairment knowing they have to work the next morning. As adults or nurses even, we know the effects alcohol can have and that it can take hours for them to wear off. So, the fact that Beal thought he would have been okay to work under these conditions was a problem to begin with. I believe if you are going to drink while working in this field, you should do it at appropriate times and know your limits. Putting yourself in a position to harm patients is never okay, especially being under the influence, you are incapable to make the proper decisions for your patients. I feel like after he had been caught with this, he had the chance to not get his license revoked although getting fired from the hospital he was at. He was able to go to therapy for alcohol abuse and deliberately chose to not follow through, which cost him his license. If it had been me, I would have done everything in my power to make sure I stayed on top of going to therapy and getting better in order to keep my license and make sure I did not show up to work under these conditions again in order to be able to do my job in the best way possible. The third charge was somewhat inevitable. He knew what would happen had he not gone to therapy for his diagnoses. But he chose to try to renew his license while lying about having to go to therapy for alcohol abuse. Beal should have known they would do a background check and be able to have access to his records, so his motive behind that is unclear to me.

In regard to this situation, I feel that all universal competencies could have been violated. Safety and security could have been at stake due to being able to cause harm to the patient being drunk. Standard precaution because he could forget to do any sort of cleaning required and expose the patient to harmful bacteria or even himself. Communication with the patient by being unable to answer certain questions or provide teaching. Critical thinking as being able to make clear decisions in regard of patient meds, assessments, etc. Documentation because it would have been able for him to easily forget to not document something since he was not sober. Human caring because he may not have been able to listen to the patient or once again think clearly in being able to process what they are saying or their needs correctly. The one that was violated was his professional role as a nurse. His appearance and interaction with staff was not appropriate due to him still having effects of alcohol. Also, being late to your shift is very unprofessional as well as it can cause the other nurses on the floor to have to take more patients until he was able to arrive and I feel like it could cause some chaos in order to make sure every patient was taken care of properly.

Obviously the first thing I would have noticed was that Beal failed to show up to his shift due to patients maybe not getting their first round of vitals or morning meds. If I would have been one of the many nurses on the floor I might have been one of the nurses who would have to take one or more of his patients to get those things done since he was unable to get to work on time which could either put more stress on me or hinder my ability to be able to take care of my patients in a timely manner. As he finally showed up for his shift, it would have been evident that Beal was under the influence of something since he was unable to respond to questions or focus. If I had been the first to notice these actions I would have let my charge nurse know that he should not be in the position to care for patients that day as he could pose as a potential threat of hurting them as he was not able to perform his duties correctly.