Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Brianna Amaya Date: 3/28/23 DAS Assignment # 2 (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Melanie Joan Ludig License number of the defendant: 769407

Date action was taken against the license: Offense one March 19, 2018, second offense June 14, 2021

Type of action taken against the license: Melanie was placed under “suspension enforced” for both offenses

First offense in 2018, Solicitation to unlawfully possess a narcotic drug was what they charged her with. She had to complete a TPAPN course and had to be cleared to be fit to practice nursing. After completing TPAPN and providing proof to the board, Melanie then has to complete a board approved course in “Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics.” She also had to do a drug screening for an allotted amount of time by hair follicle. She would be on probation during this time as well.

Second offense in 2021, She did not follow the rules that where set forth by TPAPN to show behavior in lines with recovery. She was terminated from Longview Regional Medical Center for suspected diversion. Melanie then admitted to diverting the medications hydrocodone, hydromorphone, and morphine from the hospital. She was released from TPAPN and referred back to the board of nursing for further action. The board suspended her nursing license. She would have to attend a treatment program and provide proof of completion to the board; she would then have to do 12 months of sobriety along with monthly urine drug screen. Upon completion she would have three years of probation. While working as a nurse after completing initial requirements there will be random drug screens for four quarters twice a month.

If Melanie continued to fail requirements the requirements time will be extended

Use the space below to describe the events which led to the action(s) 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 nurse diverted Dilaudid and Morphine that belonged to the facility she was working for at the time and her patient. She was then caring for patients while being under the influence of said narcotics. The nurse then admitted to having a substance abuse problem.

The second offense was the same but she diverted hydrocodone, hydromorphone, and morphine from the hospital she was working at. In which she had admitted to doing so as well.

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.

I think having some one being there to witness her pull and administer the medication as well as showing how much she would be wasting, would have been a good deterrent for her to not steal the narcotics. Especially after her first offense as a facility I would have had someone watching her specifically when she was dealing

with narcotics. Luckily no harm was done to any of her patients, she could have killed a patient while she was under the influence of the narcotics during shift.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

She did not promote safety for her patients because she was under the influence, and she violated their trust because she could have harmed any of them by not being in a sober mindset or not being able to critically think. Melanie also lied in her documentation if she stated she wasted narcotics that were not needed or that she administered medication that she had actually kept for her own use. She also violated her professional role because they had suspicions about her which I'm sure was based on her actions and appearance.

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.

If I had been the one to find the nurse was diverting medication I would have notified the house supervisor, charge nurse and sent an incident report to HR. I also would have made the nurse give the medications if she had not already taken them to the charge nurse and had security escort her out of the hospital. She would not be practicing as a nurse and putting patients at risk for the rest of the shift or until management figured out what the consequences would be. I would not want to work with that kind of nurse because even if I suspected something but did not voice my suspicion, I would also be at fault if something happened to a patient. I would like to think any good nurse would have the courage to report someone like that. I think, what if it was my family member she was taking care of I would be furious with the facility for allowing that.