

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Krystauna Miller

Date: 01/19/2024

DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Kelly Elizabeth Ames

License number of the defendant: RN 919578

Date action was taken against the license: 04/22/2021

Type of action taken against the license: Revoked

- *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.*

Kelly Ames was charged with being non-compliant with a previously agreed Eligibility Order issued by the Texas Board of Nursing. She didn't comply with the stipulations and requirements that were put in place by the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). She gave a specimen for a drug screen that resulted positive for a metabolic of alcohol, making her non-compliant.

- *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.*

Kelly Ames had to petition to be eligible to take her NCLEX exam due to her criminal history and history of substance abuse. It was noted in the petition that a Dr Emily Fallis, a psychologist for chemical dependency, stated that Kelly's history shows she has had and may still currently have a substance abuse problem and that she presented an unknown risk of engaging in behaviors that the Board of nursing might consider unprofessional conduct. Dr Fallis also stated that abusing substances as part of her duties as a nurse is an unknown risk as well. This observation by a professional could have been more looked into, or a further or subsequent evaluations might have helped prevent Kelly from causing harm as a nurse or violating the Board of Nursing's conduct. Once class was ordered, only 6 hours regarding nursing ethics, perhaps more course hours might've been beneficial. Having Kelly comply with TPAPN was a good idea, but perhaps more frequent drug tests, classes or mental health evaluations could have helped prevent a her license being revoked.

- *Identify ALL universal competencies were violated and explain how.*

Regarding this specific case, Kelly Ames violated her professional role, and to an extent violated human caring. She did violate the code of ethics, and failed to comply with her agreed regulations by the Board of

Nursing and TPAPN. Kelly also did not communicate with TPAPN regarding her substance abuse or seek out guidance to avoid violating.

However, as far as universal competencies, a huge issue that could have come about is patient safety and security. If Kelly Ames ever worked while under the influence, or had access to substances that could potentially be abused, patients could have been at a significant risk while under her care.

- *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 were the first person to find out that Kelly Ames was abusing substances as a licensed nurse, I feel like I would need to report the behavior to my supervisors, and the board of nursing. I would give detailed accounts on what was said or witnessed, and advised how I came about the information of her violating her TPAPN requirements, and potentially causing harm to herself and patients.

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Krystauna Miller

Date: 01/18/24

DAS Assignment # 1 second case

Name of the defendant: Alicia Lynn Harder

License number of the defendant: 774230

Date action was taken against the license: 02/09/2021

Type of action taken against the license: Probated Suspension

- *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.*

Alicia Harder was assigned a patient. While patient was under her care, she failed to do appropriate assessments, failed to obtain timely or frequent vital signs, failed to administer medication, failed to notify a provider of change in patient's status, did not document appropriately, and didn't reassess vital signs for over 10 hours while patient was in distress. All of this led to her being issued with Sanction of Reprimand with Stipulations through and Order of the Board.

- *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.*

It was stated that Alicia Harder was told by other staff that her patient had a change in condition multiple times. If this was noticed, other staff should have stepped in to treat the patient or informed a charge nurse or supervisor that the patient was not being cared for appropriately by Alicia. If other staff would have intervened, perhaps the patient might have had better odds for survival, vitals being taken in a timely manner would have showed early signs of sepsis and he might not have died from septic shock.

- *Identify ALL universal competencies were violated and explain how.*

The patient's safety and Security was violated. A breathing treatment was administered but never documented so 7 rights weren't done. Trust and respect was likely not established because the patient went over 10 hours without new vitals being taken or a respiratory assessment being done. Critical thinking was not implemented because instead of noticing the patient to be in respiratory distress, Alicia Harder removed the patient's shirt because she thought he might just be hot. Oxygen was not administered to the patient, even after finally getting an O2 saturation that was low at 91% and a respiratory rate that was 32 with an elevated heart rate of 132, obviously identifying signs of distress. Documentation was not done correctly, the only intervention was not documented, and assessments were not done or documented, not enough vital signs were documented, only 2 sets in a 10 hour period. Human caring was not implemented as patient was neglected and not treated or assessed appropriately. Alicia Harder also did not maintain a professional role or communicate well, as she disregarded coworkers advising her of her patient's change in condition, and failed to manage the patient.

- *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 noticed this chain of events, first, I feel like they would not have continued this far and would not have led to the patient's death. If I were a nurse and noticed a fellow nurse not tending to one of their assigned patients, and notice a patient is in obvious distress, I would do what was in my scope to help treat the patient first. Then, I would contact a supervisor or charge nurse to let them know that I felt like this patient was not receiving the necessary care they need by their primary nurse. I would ask that a supervisor correct the fellow nurse. I would also ask the patient be reassigned so that the patient receives the appropriate care.