

State Medical Board of Ohio
Formal Action Report – May 13, 2020

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Please find below a summary of actions taken or initiated by the State Medical Board of Ohio and an update of Board matters pending or decided in courts as of May 13, 2020.

PRE-HEARING SUSPENSIONS

CROWE, Stephen, M.D., (#35.084112CTR) - Boardman, Ohio

Pursuant to Section 3719.121(C), Ohio Revised Code, doctor's license to practice is immediately suspended based upon a finding of guilt to one felony count of Illegal Processing of Drug Documents by the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas. Order effective 5/13/2020 (See also; Citations/Proposed Denials below.)

CITATIONS/PROPOSED DENIALS

ABRAHAM, Kamel, M.D., (#35.054847CTR) - Springfield, Ohio

Based on allegations with respect to the care and treatment of seven specified patients, that when the doctor inappropriately treated and/or failed to appropriately document treatment, those acts, or omissions as alleged would individually and/or collectively constitute a departure from, or the failure to conform to, minimal standards of care of similar practitioners under the same or similar circumstances, whether or not actual injury to a patient is established. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 5/14/2020.

COLEMAN, Linda, M.D., (#35.051547) - Sterling, Virginia

Based on a prior action by the Virginia Board of Medicine, which issued a Consent Order, wherein the doctor's license was reprimand due to the doctor having engaged in a romantic relationship with a patient. Those acts, or omissions as alleged would individually and/or collectively constitute any of the following actions taken by an agency responsible for authorizing, certifying, or regulating an individual to practice a health care occupation or provide health care services in this state or another jurisdiction, for any reason other than the nonpayment of fees: the limitation, revocation, or suspension of an individual's license to practice; acceptance of an individual's license surrender; denial of a license; refusal to renew or reinstate a license; imposition of probation; or issuance of an order of censure or other reprimand. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 5/14/2020.

CROWE, Stephen, M.D., (#35.084112CTR) - Boardman, Ohio

Based on the doctor's plea of guilty and finding of guilt to one felony count of Illegal Processing of Drug Documents by the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas, which as alleged would individually and/or collectively would constitute a plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, or a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction for, a felony. Notice of Immediate Suspension and Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 5/14/2020.

EVERHART, Larry, M.D., (#35.036113) - Powell, Ohio

Based on allegations with respect to the care and treatment of ten specified patients, that when the doctor relied on an unproven electrodermal diagnostic device which uses acupuncture theory and galvanic skin response to make specific diagnoses, and failed to confirm results through appropriate laboratory testing and/or consultation from a specialist before employing treatment measures; those acts, or omissions as alleged would individually and/or collectively constitute: a departure from, or the failure to conform to, minimal standards of care of similar practitioners under the same or similar circumstances, whether or not actual injury to a patient is established; and a failure to maintain minimal standards applicable to the selection or administration of drugs, or failure to employ acceptable scientific methods in the selection of drugs or other modalities for treatment of disease. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 5/14/2020.

JOHNSTON, Martha Anne, M.D., (#35.050078) - Beaver creek, Ohio

Based on allegations with respect to the care and treatment of fifteen specified patients, that when the doctor inappropriately treated and/or failed to appropriately treat and/or failed to appropriately document treatment, those acts, or omissions as alleged would individually and/or collectively constitute: a departure from, or the failure to conform to, minimal standards of care of similar practitioners under the same or similar circumstances, whether or not actual injury to a patient is established; and a failure to maintain minimal standards applicable to the selection or administration of drugs, or failure to employ acceptable scientific methods in the selection of drugs or other modalities for treatment of disease; and violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate the Board's rules, to wit: Utilizing Prescription Drugs for the Treatment of Intractable Pain, and Utilizing Prescription Drugs for the Treatment of Chronic Pain. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 5/14/2020.

LAZARO, Michael Stephen, M.T. (#33.023354) - Powell, Ohio

Based on allegations that the massage therapist failed to respond to Board subpoenas, and with respect to the care and treatment of one patient, the massage therapist inappropriately rubbed the patient's pubic area with digital penetration without the patient's consent, those acts, or omissions as alleged would individually and/or collectively constitute: a failure to cooperate in an investigation conducted by the board, including failure to comply with a subpoena or order issued by the board or failure to answer truthfully a question presented by the board in an investigative interview, an investigative office conference, at a deposition, or in written

interrogatories, except that failure to cooperate with an investigation shall not constitute grounds for discipline under this section if a court of competent jurisdiction has issued an order that either quashes a subpoena or permits the individual to withhold the testimony or evidence in issue; and violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate the Board's rules, to wit: Prohibitions against sexual misconduct. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 5/14/2020.

MCKNIGHT, Rosia, M.T., Applicant - Toledo, Ohio

Based on allegations that when the Ohio Board of Nursing permanently revoked the massage therapist's license to practice as a licensed practical nurse due to the massage therapist's misdemeanor conviction for Possession of Controlled Substances in the Toledo Municipal Court, those acts, or omissions as alleged would individually and/or collectively constitute any of the following actions taken by an agency responsible for authorizing, certifying, or regulating an individual to practice a health care occupation or provide health care services in this state or another jurisdiction, for any reason other than the nonpayment of fees: the limitation, revocation, or suspension of an individual's license to practice; acceptance of an individual's license surrender; denial of a license; refusal to renew or reinstate a license; imposition of probation; or issuance of an order of censure or other reprimand. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 5/14/2020.

MCKNIGHT, Rosia, M.T., Applicant - Toledo, Ohio

Massage therapy applicant notified of right to request a hearing on the question of whether her failure to submit to a chemical dependency examination as ordered by the Board was due to circumstances beyond her control. Based on the legal presumption that massage therapy applicant's failure to submit to a chemical dependency examination as ordered by the Board constitutes an admission that she is unable to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care because of habitual or excessive use or abuse of drugs, alcohol, or other substances that impair ability to practice. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 5/14/2020.

OSTERHUES, Jacob, M.T., (#33.020960) - Oregonia, Ohio

Based on allegations that the massage therapist violated the terms of his 8/14/2019 Board Order, when he failed to pay a one thousand dollar (\$1,000.00) fine; submit quarterly declarations; appear in person for scheduled interviews; submit to random toxicology screenings; enter into an agreement with a designated drug screening facility; and to submit documentary evidence of compliance, and those acts, or omissions as alleged would individually and/or collectively constitute: a violation of the conditions of limitation placed by the board upon a license or certificate to practice. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 5/14/2020.

RICHARDSON, Monica, M.T., (#33.020903) - Bellaire, Ohio

Based on the massage therapist's submission of a restoration application, and on the applicant's psychiatric assessment, which concluded the applicant is not currently capable of practicing according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care, those acts, or omissions as alleged

would individually and/or collectively constitute: an inability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care by reason of mental illness or physical illness, including, but not limited to, physical deterioration that adversely affects cognitive, motor, or perceptive skills. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 5/14/2020.

SINGH, Inderpal, M.D., Applicant - West Chester, Ohio

Doctor notified of right to request a hearing on the question of whether his failure to submit to a physical/occupation health examination as ordered by the Board was due to circumstances beyond his control. Based on the legal presumption that the doctor's failure to submit to a the examination as ordered by the Board constitutes an admission that he is unable to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care because of mental illness or physical illness, including, but not limited to, physical deterioration that adversely affects cognitive, motor, or perceptive skills. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 5/14/2020.

NON-DISCIPLINARY CITATIONS

ASLO, Abdulkarim Hanna, M.D. Applicant – Dublin, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)

Based on the doctor's submission of an application for a license to practice medicine and surgery; and on the doctor not having completed an examination sequence acceptable to the Board. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 5/18/2020.

RUSKIEWICZ -SOLTIS, Erin Lee, M.T., (#33.016865) - Garrettsville, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)

Based on the applicant's submission of an application for restoration of a license to practice massage therapy; and on the massage therapist having not been engaged in the active practice of massage therapy for more than two years. Notice of Opportunity for a hearing mailed 5/18/2020.

FINAL ORDERS

ALMAWALDI, Mohamed Moutaz, M.D., (#35.087382) - Sterling, Virginia

License to practice medicine and surgery permanently revoked, and subject to a four thousand dollar (\$4,000.00) fine. Based on the finding that the prior actions by the California Medical Board, which issued a 6/14/2019 Order revoking the doctor's license; and by the Virginia Department of Health Professions, which issued an 8/1/2019 Order suspending the doctor's license, individually and/or collectively constitute any of the following actions taken by an agency responsible for authorizing, certifying, or regulating an individual to practice a health care occupation or provide health care services in this state or another jurisdiction, for any reason other than the nonpayment of fees: the limitation, revocation, or suspension of an individual's license to practice; acceptance of an individual's license surrender; denial of a license; refusal to renew or reinstate a license; imposition of probation; or issuance of an order of censure or other reprimand. Order effective 5/14/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

DORAN, Trisha Annette, M.D., (#35.086200) - Westerville, Ohio

No further action taken on license to practice medicine and surgery. Based on the doctor's submission of her application to renew her certificate to practice medicine and surgery, and on the finding that when the doctor's clinical privileges were revoked, those acts individually or collectively constitute a revocation, suspension, restriction, reduction, or termination of clinical privileges by the United States department of defense or department of veterans affairs or the termination or suspension of a certificate of registration to prescribe drugs by the drug enforcement administrations of the United States department of justice. Order effective 5/28/2020.

GODOFSKY, Alan, M.D., (#35.053644) - Cincinnati, Ohio

License to practice medicine and surgery permanently revoked. Based on the finding that the doctor's conviction in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky, to five felony counts of Aiding and Abetting the Distribution of Oxycodone Outside the Scope of Professional Practice, to which the doctor was sentenced to sixty months of incarceration, and a five hundred thousand dollar (\$500,000.00) fine, individually and/or collectively constitute a plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, or a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction for, a felony. Order effective 5/14/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

HARDING, David Blaine, M.D., (#35.038251) - Silver Spring, Maryland

License to practice medicine and surgery permanently revoked, and subject to a three thousand five hundred dollar (\$3,500.00) fine. Based on the finding that a prior action by the Maryland State Board of Physicians, which issued a 9/20/2019 Consent Order that reprimanded and permanently prohibited the doctor from prescribing and dispensing all controlled dangerous substances, individually and or collectively, constitute any of the following actions taken by an agency responsible for authorizing, certifying, or regulating an individual to practice a health care occupation or provide health care services in this state or another jurisdiction, for any reason other than the nonpayment of fees: the limitation, revocation, or suspension of an individual's license to practice; acceptance of an individual's license surrender; denial of a license; refusal to renew or reinstate a license; imposition of probation; or issuance of an order of censure or other reprimand. Order effective 5/14/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

KOKOSINSKI, Jennifer Ann, M.T., Applicant - Wellsburg, West Virginia (Non-Disciplinary)

Application to practice massage therapy denied. Based on the finding that the applicant has not held a diploma or certificate from a school, college or institution in good standing as determined by the Board or hold a diploma or certificate from a school, college or institution in another state or jurisdiction that meets the Board's required course of instruction and has not held a current license, registration or certificate of good standing for massage therapy issued in another state for at least the preceding five years. Order effective 5/14/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

MERTZ, Marissa Maia, M.D., (#35.091568) - Columbus, Ohio

License to practice medicine and surgery revoked. Based on the finding that with respect to the doctor's 3/13/2019 Step I Consent Agreement; the doctor failed to provide quarterly declarations, appear for a quarterly appearances, submit to random toxicological screens, to call-in to drug testing facility, enter into necessary financial/contractual arrangements, and failed provide the Board with documentary evidence of continuing compliance with an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program, those acts and omissions individually, and or collectively, constitute a violation of the conditions of limitation placed by the board upon a license or certificate to practice. Order effective 5/28/2020.

PROCTOR, Vernon, M.D., (#35.130575) - Baldwin, Michigan

License reprimanded, and subject to a limitation and restriction against prescribing controlled substances, and probationary terms, conditions and limitations for at least three years. Based on the finding that a prior action by the Michigan Board of Medicine Disciplinary Subcommittee, which issued a November 30, 2017 Final Order placing the doctor on probation and prohibiting the doctor from obtaining, possessing, prescribing dispensing or administering Schedule 2 or 3 drugs for one year, or providing Michigan Medical Marijuana physician certifications for two years; and a prior action by the Michigan Board of Pharmacy Disciplinary Subcommittee, which issued a January 2, 2018 Final Order suspending the doctor's controlled substance license for six months and one day, and fining the doctor five thousand dollars, individually and/or collectively constitutes any of the following actions taken by an agency responsible for authorizing, certifying, or regulating an individual to practice a health care occupation or provide health care services in this state or another jurisdiction, for any reason other than the nonpayment of fees: the limitation, revocation, or suspension of an individual's license to practice; acceptance of an individual's license surrender; denial of a license; refusal to renew or reinstate a license; imposition of probation; or issuance of an order of censure or other reprimand. Order effective 5/28/2020.

VAN NORMAN, Aurora Lee, M.T., Applicant - Athens, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)

Application to practice massage therapy denied. Based on the finding that the applicant has not held a diploma or certificate from a school, college or institution in good standing as determined by the Board or hold a diploma or certificate from a school, college or institution in another state or jurisdiction that meets the Board's required course of instruction and has not held a current license, registration or certificate of good standing for massage therapy issued in another state for at least the preceding five years. Order effective 5/14/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

WEDGE, Lindsey, L.D., Applicant - Point Pleasant, West Virginia (Non-Disciplinary)

Application for a limited permit to practice dietetics denied. Based on the finding that when the applicant failed the examination given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration on three separate occasions, the applicant no longer meets the requirements for a permit due to the Board's rule prohibiting permits to be given to applicants whom have failed the CDR

examination two or more times. Order effective 5/14/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

CONSENT AGREEMENTS

JUDGE, Leigh A., P.A., (#50.003384RX) - Kettering, Ohio

License to practice as a physician assistant indefinitely suspended, and subject to a four thousand dollar (\$4,000.00) fine, general probationary requirements with conditions for reinstatement. Based on the physician assistant's admission that when she relapsed and used the DEA numbers of two colleagues without their knowledge to fraudulently obtain drugs, those acts individually and/or collectively constitute impairment of ability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care because of habitual or excessive use or abuse of drugs, alcohol, or other substances that impair ability to practice; and the commission of an act that constitutes a felony in this state, regardless of the jurisdiction in which the act was committed. Agreement effective 5/13/2020.

MEGARGEL. James D., M.D., (#35.130017) - Los Angeles, California

License to practice medicine and surgery indefinitely suspended for at least one hundred twenty (120) days, and subject to a two thousand dollar (\$2,000.00) fine, general probationary requirements, and conditions for reinstatement including entering into a subsequent consent agreement with probationary terms conditions and limitations. Based on the doctor's admission that after he entered treatment for chemical dependency, subsequent relapse, those acts and or omissions, individually and/or collectively constitute impairment of ability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care because of habitual or excessive use or abuse of drugs, alcohol, or other substances that impair ability to practice; and the commission of an act that constitutes a felony in this state, regardless of the jurisdiction in which the act was committed. Agreement effective 5/13/2020.

MEHRA, Maneesh L., M.D., (#35.094934) – Avon Lake, Ohio

License to practice medicine and surgery fined one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), and subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set for in the 7/8/2015 Step II Consent Agreement. Based on the doctor's admission that he violated the terms and conditions of his 7/8/2015 Step II Consent Agreement, when he failed to submit documentary evidence of continuing compliance of participation in an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program, maintain a Board approved monitoring physician, to timely call in or submit to random drug and alcohol screenings; submit a psychiatric report, those acts and or omissions, individually and/or collectively constitute a violation of the conditions of limitation placed by the board upon a license or certificate to practice. Agreement effective 5/13/2020.

NENOW, Mark C., M.D., Applicant – Boone, North Carolina

License to practice medicine and surgery granted, and subject to general probationary terms, conditions and limitations until at least 2/14/2023. Based on the doctor's submission of an

application to practice medicine and surgery, and on the doctor's admission that when he previously was diagnosed with alcohol use disorder and completed an inpatient treatment program those acts and or omissions, individually and/or collectively constitute impairment of ability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care because of habitual or excessive use or abuse of drugs, alcohol, or other substances that impair ability to practice. Agreement effective 5/13/2020.

SIMMONS, Luke, M.D., (#57.245466) - Columbus, Ohio

License to practice medicine and surgery reinstated, and subject to general probationary terms, conditions, and limitations. Based on doctor having completed all requirements for reinstatement of license pursuant to the terms of a 11/13/2019 Step I Consent Agreement. Agreement effective 5/13/2020.

STOLARSKI, Raymond G., D.P.M., (#36.002621) - Clarksville, Ohio

License to practice podiatric medicine and surgery reprimanded, and subject to a four thousand five hundred dollar (\$4,500.00) fine, and general probationary terms, conditions and limitations. Based on the doctor's admission that when he was arrested and charged with soliciting an undercover police officer and was subsequently found guilty to one count of Possession of Criminal Tools, in the Fairborn Municipal Court, Fairborn, Ohio, to which he was sentenced to thirty days in jail with twenty-nine days suspended, and fined one hundred fifty dollars, those acts and or omissions, individually and/or collectively constitute plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, or a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction for, a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude. Agreement effective 5/13/2020.

STONE, Brittney T., D.P.M., (Applicant) - Richmond Heights, Ohio

License to practice podiatric medicine and surgery granted, reprimanded, and subject to general probationary requirements. Based on the doctor's admission that when she submitted an application to practice podiatric medicine and surgery, she failed to disclose to the Board her previous criminal convictions, and that those acts and or omissions, individually and/or collectively constitute: making a false, fraudulent, deceptive, or misleading statement in the solicitation of or advertising for patients; in relation to the practice of medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, podiatric medicine and surgery, or a limited branch of medicine; or in securing or attempting to secure any license or certificate to practice issued by the board; and a violation of any provision of a code of ethics of the American medical association, the American osteopathic association, the American podiatric medical association, or any other national professional organizations that the board specifies by rule. Agreement effective 5/13/2020.

VOLUNTARY PERMANENT SURRENDERS, RETIREMENTS, REVOCATIONS, WITHDRAWALS

HEYER, Geoffrey L., M.D., (#35.091474) - Austin, Texas

Permanent revocation of license to practice medicine and surgery authorized by doctor in lieu of formal disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Section 4731.22(B)(22), Ohio Revised Code. Agreement effective 5/13/2020.

MALUDY, Jeffrey C., M.D., (#35.048825) - Sylvania, Ohio

Permanent retirement of license to practice medicine and surgery authorized by doctor in lieu of continuing compliance with the terms of the 5/14/2014 Consent Agreement. Agreement effective 5/13/2020.

RIVERA, Jornel M., D.O., (#34.006086) - Dublin, Ohio

Permanent revocation of license to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery authorized by the doctor in lieu of formal disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Section 4731.22(B)(9), Ohio Revised Code. Agreement effective 5/13/2020.

ROSS, Robert F., M.D., (#35.126207) - Maysville, Kentucky

Permanent revocation of license to practice medicine and surgery authorized by doctor in lieu of formal disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Section 4731.22(B)(22), Ohio Revised Code. Agreement effective 5/13/2020.

SZMANIA, Erik L., P.A., (#50.002007RX) - Amherst, Ohio

Permanent revocation of license to practice as a physician assistant authorized by the physician assistant in lieu of formal disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Section 4730.25(B)(6), and 4730.25(B)(28), Ohio Revised Code. Agreement effective 5/13/2020.

PROBATIONARY REQUESTS AND MODIFICATIONS

BANGERT, Michael T., M.D., (#35.123521) - Jacksonville, Florida

Doctor's request for approval of reduction in appearances from every three months to every six months, granted by vote of the Board on 5/13/2020.

HOWKINS, Michael J., D.O., (#34.004364) - Cleveland, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of discontinuance of the drug log and audit & assay requirements, granted by vote of the Board on 5/13/2020.

LAWRENCE, Susan D., D.O., (#34.005458) - Athens, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of assessor to complete psychiatric assessment, granted by vote of the Board on 5/13/2020.

PATEL, Jaydutt, M.D., (#35.138982) - Erie, Pennsylvania

Doctor's request for approval of: drug testing and recovery meeting monitoring to be completed by the Pennsylvania PHP; new group therapy attendance location for completion of aftercare requirement; and new monitoring physician while residing in Pennsylvania, granted by vote of the Board on 5/13/2020.

PROBATION TERMINATED

CIRINO, Rebecca T., D.O., (#34.007684) - Valley City, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of release from the terms of the May 9, 2018 Consent Agreement, granted by vote of the Board on 5/13/2020. Release effective immediately.

O'CONNELL, David, M.D., (#35.082498) - Cincinnati, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of release from the terms of the May 13, 2015 Step II Consent Agreement, granted by vote of the Board on 5/13/2020. Release effective immediately.

PALMER, Daniel W., M.D., (#35.134040) - Dublin, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of release from the terms of the May 9, 2018 Consent Agreement, granted by vote of the Board on 5/13/2020. Release effective immediately.

PALMER, Joshua D., M.D., (#35.129918) - Columbus, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of release from the terms of the November 9, 2016 Consent Agreement, granted by vote of the Board on 5/13/2020. Release effective immediately.

COURT ACTIONS

VASHI, Christopher N., M.D., (#35.096249) – Cincinnati, Ohio

Entry denying doctor's motion to stay pending appeal, filed 4/20/2020, in the Franklin County Court of Appeals 10th Appellate District.

Notice of Dismissal, filed 5/5/2020, in the Franklin County Court of Appeals 10th Appellate District.

Please note that revocation and suspension Orders are not always effective immediately. If you have questions about effective dates or conditions governing a doctor's practice before a Board Order takes effect, please contact the office.

Ohio law permits appeal of a Board Order to the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. Due to this possibility and the potential for a stay that might delay the imposition of a Board action, you may wish to contact us periodically to verify a given practitioner's licensure status.

Most current citation letters, Board Orders, consent agreements and voluntary surrenders or retirements are available on the Medical Board's website under "Lookup a License." If you have questions or need additional details about Citations, Board Orders, or Court Actions, please contact the Case Control Office. If you have questions regarding a Consent Agreements, probationary modification or a probationary request, please contact the Compliance Office. Our offices may be reached at (614) 466-3934.