



The Governor’s Working Group on Richard Strauss
C/O: Director Thomas J. Stickrath, J.D.
Ohio Department of Public Safety
1970 W Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43223

April 9, 2020

Director Stickrath and Members of the Governor’s Working Group on Richard Strauss:

On behalf of the State Medical Board of Ohio (SMBO) members and staff, I have attached the Board’s updated project plan for implementing the Working Group’s suggested changes to SMBO processes and procedures. Progress continues for all identified areas for improvement or implementation. We are over 75% complete with the Working Group’s recommendations, excluding the historical case review. The remaining major tasks are relative to the consultation that will be provided by the Federation of State Medical boards and the recommended statutory changes identified by the Working Group.

While work has been a bit reprioritized with the Covid-19 response, the work on the Working Group’s recommendations continues. We have seen vast improvement in progress on our historical case review with over 25% of the over 1200 identified licensees reviewed. That completed review work now moves to our internal team for further investigation and possible enforcement or to remain closed. The internal work will continue over the next year. A team of investigators and enforcement attorneys, with consultation from a victim advocate, are reviewing the hired reviewer’s recommendations. They are then charting a plan on how to proceed for each complaint that needs to be reopened.



Drafting work on the Working Group’s recommended statutory changes continues. SMBO anticipates further discussion of the statutory changes at the May board meeting. This discussion will include updates to the previously discussed drafts, now incorporating feedback from our board members, as well as stakeholder feedback.

Finally, we encourage you to visit the [transparency portion of our SMBO webpage](#). It has been updated to reflect high level details on open and closed complaints. This is a work in progress; we need to strike a balance in providing accurate information without it overwhelming the reader. We are continuing to refine the presentation of the material based on reader feedback.

Respectfully,

Michael Schottenstein, M.D.
President, State Medical Board of Ohio