



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

December 4, 2019

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 Medical Board processes and procedures. Since we last met with the Working Group on November 18<sup>th</sup>, progress has been made on both the historical case review and the other identified recommendations in the report.

The contract process is under way for experts to conduct the historical case review. Review will begin in earnest through December with the goal of review completion in June of 2020. Victim advocates have been contracted and their work with our investigators has begun. Throughout December, the SMBO will onboard additional victim advocates to ensure statewide coverage. The long-term staffing needs for victim advocates, as well as development of best practice for our use of the victim advocates, will continue to be assessed over the next few months. The SMBO has begun engagement discussions with the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) for the multiple working group recommendations relative to evaluating the SMBO's internal processes and protocols. Our next meeting with the Ohio Office of Budget and Management on the internal audit of process and protocols is set for January. Our investigative and enforcement teams have completed a 5-day trauma informed training and further training is scheduled for both of those groups, as well as the Board members on December 11, 2019. Our Investigator Manual is undergoing edits and will be circulated internally for all workgroups to provide an opportunity to respond prior to being sent to the Board for approval. Finally, an organizational assessment with an eye on the culture concerns noted by the working group continues with some trainings identified, as well as other engagement activities and plans.

We are happy to answer any questions or address any comments or concerns as our work continues. An open invitation is extended to all Working Group members for the SMBO Strauss subcommittee meetings. Our next meeting is December 11, 2019 at 7:30 a.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in the Rhodes Tower, 30 E. Broad Street, 43215.

We remain grateful for the partnership of the Working Group as we continue our critical mission to ensure the health and safety of the patients of Ohio.

Respectfully,

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

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