



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

September 11, 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 updated project plan for implementing the Working Group's suggested changes to SMBO processes and procedures. Since our last report, our most significant progress has been on our historical case review.

For the historical case review, our external reviewers have completed approximately 96% of the review of the closed sexual misconduct cases from the past 25 years. We feel confident that the external review of the 1200 historical case files will wrap up by the end of September. Of those cases reviewed, our external reviewers have recommended no further action needed on 80%. Our internal team continues the work on all cases recommended for further review. For those cases needing further review, many are acknowledged by the external reviewer to be difficult to reopen. Nonetheless, all cases recommended for reopen are being examined for both further investigatory steps and/or enforcement activity.



The SMBO staff continues to work on recommendations from the Federation of State Medical Boards, as well as internal ideas with respect to our handling of sexual misconduct complaints. As you may remember from the SMBO's last presentation to the Working Group, we acknowledge and appreciate that our work in this field is never going to be 'done'. Along those lines, staff is in the process of updating the sexual misconduct complaint handling protocol that was first created in July 2019. Borrowing on the expertise of the newly hired SMBO deputy director for investigations and enforcement, we are making process improvements to the protocol, as well as increasing training opportunities for our staff. In the early part of calendar year 2021, we plan to engage with the Office of Budget and Management Internal Audit team to review our work operationalizing the new protocol.

In an effort at continued improvement, at our September board meeting, the full board provided a motion of support for the staff's recommended FY22 and FY23 budget request. The budget request accounts for 3 additional investigators and one additional enforcement attorney. This allows for specialized training and handling of sexual misconduct complaints by those staff members. We also requested funding for a full-time victim advocate. Our victim advocacy work is currently handled by an internal staff member. Based on our volume of work, we need staffing in both that staff member's former area (investigations) and in victim advocacy. We believe that properly staffed, we can become a national leader in the handling of administrative sexual misconduct complaints.

We anticipate the SMBO's next sexual misconduct committee meeting to be held in the morning of October 14, 2020, prior to our regular Board meeting. We anticipate the meeting will continue in our virtual format and will

be available for viewing on our YouTube channel.

We appreciate the continued partnership of the Working Group and welcome your continued feedback.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', is positioned above the typed name.

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