



**TENNESSEE BOARD OF  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS  
ELECTRONIC BOARD MEETING**

**November 17, 2023**

---

**MINUTES**

---

Board Members Present: Robert Kasper, MD  
Gregory Cain, PA-C  
J. Seth Weathersby, PA-C  
Barbara Thornton, Consumer Member

Board Members Absent:  
C. Marie Patterson, Chair, PA-C  
David Roberts, PA-C  
Andrew Hull, PA-C  
Robert White, PA-C  
Christina Free, Secretary, PA-C

Staff Present: Stacy Tarr, Executive Director  
Brandi Allocco Administrative Director  
Gerald Dolan, Office of General Counsel  
Dexter Hawkins, Board Administrator

Stacy Tarr, the board's Executive Director, commenced the meeting by introducing all staff and attorneys in attendance. She proceeded to outline the procedural steps necessary to properly convene the electronic board meeting. Roll call was conducted, confirming the presence of Robert Kasper, M.D., Seth Weathersby, P.A., Gregory Cain, P.A., and Barbara Thornton. Each participant acknowledged their ability to hear all other participants. Stacy also requested that each participant disclose anyone present in their location and confirm receipt of the meeting materials. Robert Kasper, M.D., Seth Weathersby, P.A., Gregory Cain, P.A., and Barbara Thornton. Indicated no additional individuals were present and acknowledged receipt of the materials.

The purpose of the meeting, as stated by the Executive Director, was to deliberate on a proposed agreed order of discipline, signed by Aaron Lee Hess, P.A., as an alternative to a hearing concerning a potential summary suspension action against his license. Due to the urgency of the matter and the impracticality of physical attendance by all members, the meeting was conducted electronically. The respondent's conduct posed an immediate threat to public health, safety, or welfare, necessitating emergency action. The availability of electronic participation by board members facilitated timely discussion and consideration of the issue.

Stacy requested motions and votes to proceed with the meeting electronically, as well as confirmation that the statutory requirements for an electronic board meeting were met. Gregory Cain, P.A. moved to proceed with the meeting, seconded by Barbara Thornton. After a roll call vote, the motion carried. Robert Kasper, M.D., then moved to confirm the fulfillment of statutory requirements for an electronic board meeting, seconded by Gregory Cain, P.A following a roll call vote, the motion was approved.

## **I. APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIR**

Seth Weathersby, P.A moved for Gregory Cain, P.A to serve as the chair for the electronic meeting, seconded by Robert Kasper, M.D. The motion passed after a roll call vote. After recording the votes, Stacy concluded her remarks and handed over the proceedings to the appointed chair to begin the meeting.

## **II. CONSENT ORDER**

### **Aaron Lee Hess, P.A**

Aaron Lee Hess, PA was a physician assistant from July 1, 2021, to September 1, 2022, at MedStar Health Solutions PLLC in Knoxville, Tennessee. During this time, he had a sexual relationships with underage girls and was hospitalized for related health issues. Dr. Justice terminated his employment. On December 1, 2022, a grand jury returned two indictments against Hess. He was charged with multiple counts of sexual offenses involving a minor, including sexual penetration, and displaying sexually explicit material to a minor. His charges also include soliciting a minor to engage in statutory rape, involving a minor in sexual activities, and distributing explicit films involving minors.

The respondent has agreed to surrender his Tennessee physician assistant license, number 4491, to avoid further administrative action, including a summary suspension hearing. This will result in the same effect as revocation of his license. The respondent must also pay the actual and reasonable costs of prosecuting the case, including all costs assessed against the Board by

the Department's Office of Investigations. The maximum amount for the assessment of costs is \$5,000 and must be paid in full within six months. This is a formal disciplinary action and will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank to comply with the Health-Care Consumer Right to Know Act of 1998. The Consent Order outlines the agreed-upon terms to avoid further administrative action, including a summary suspension hearing. Barbara Thornton moved to accept the Consent Order, with Robert Kasper, M.D., seconding the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed. Due to the urgency of the matter, Gerald Dolan requested that the board designate a staff member to sign on behalf of the board members. Seth Weathersby, P.A., motioned to allow a staff member to sign on behalf of the board, which Barbara Thornton seconded. After a roll call vote, the motion was passed.

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

Barbara Thornton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Seth Weathersby, P.A. After a roll call vote, the motion carried, and the meeting concluded.

These meeting minutes were ratified by the Board at their November 20, 2023, meeting.