



## **Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners - Summary Suspension Panel Informal Hearing**

**Wednesday, January 8, 2025**

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### **MINUTES**

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A panel of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 10:36 a.m. in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Stacy Tarr, Administrative Director.

Board members present: Samantha McLerran, MD, Panel Chair  
John Hale, MD  
Michael Bittel, Consumer Member

Staff present: Francine Baca-Chavez, JD, Office of General Counsel  
Jessica Turner, JD, Office of General Counsel  
Michael Varnell, JD, Office of General Counsel  
Stacy Tarr, BME Executive Director  
Kavita Vankineni, MD BME Medical Consultant  
Brandi Allocco, Administrative Director  
Rachel LaMascus, Board Administrator  
Milissia Davidson, Board Administrator  
Rowland Mann, Board Administrator

Ms. Stacy Tarr made opening remarks to the Board and provided an overview of the requirements for a special meeting by teleconference. All the requirements were satisfied. The electronic meeting was scheduled for the purpose of the Informal Hearing in the matter of the Summary Suspension of Kevin Merigian, MD\*. The teleconference was then turned over to Ms. Jessica Turner, Senior Associate General Counsel, who is representing the State in this matter. Ms. Turner addressed the Board with general comments on the process for the informal hearing. Dr. Merigian appeared before the Board, along with his legal representative, Mr. Michael McLaren. Mr. McLaren addressed the Board and presented the steps Dr. Merigian has taken to abide with the Board order. No additional information could be presented to the Board at this time. Motion by Dr. Hale to uphold the suspension, second by Dr. McLerran. A roll call vote was conducted by Ms. Tarr, which passed unanimously.

Board took a brief break

\*Disciplinary Orders have been hyperlinked to provider's name.

Ms. Stacy Tarr made opening remarks to the Board and provided an overview of the requirements for a special meeting by teleconference. All the requirements were satisfied. The electronic meeting was scheduled for the purpose of the Informal Hearing in the matter of Petition to Set Aside the summary action order of Roger Starner Jones, Jr., MD\*. The teleconference was then turned over to Dr. McLerran, Board chair. Ms. Baca-Chavez addressed the Board with an overview of the matter before them today. Dr. Jones appeared before the Board, along with his legal representative, Mr. Kline Preston. Mr. Preston addressed the Board. Mr. Varnell, attorney for the State, addressed the Board. The Board asked questions of both attorneys. Motion by Dr. Hale to reaffirm order as taken in November, second by Mr. Bittel. Roll call vote by Ms. Tarr, passed unanimously. Mr. Preston shared TMF advocacy letter with Board. Discussion of action timeline by Ms. Baca-Chavez with the Board. Motion by Dr. Hale to lift probation on license, second by Mr. Bittel. Roll call vote by Ms. Tarr, passed unanimously. While Board was preparing order Mr. Preston asked if the order could be backdated to the date the TMF advocacy was obtained, this request was not granted. Board reviewed order prepared by Mr. Varnell; Mr. Preston did not have a proposed order to present to the Board. Changes made to proposed order to reflect the Board's decisions. Motion by Dr. Hale to accept Mr. Varnell's order with changes made by panel, second by Mr. Bittel. Roll call vote was unanimous. After vote, Mr. Bittel proposed a friendly amendment to add "TMF monitoring and advocacy" to item 3 of the order. Friendly amendment accepted by Dr. Hale. Roll call vote passed unanimously.

This concludes the Board of Medical Examiners Panel Meeting.

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