



Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners - Summary Suspension Panel

Friday, June 2, 2023

MINUTES

The panel of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 9:08 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: Robert Ellis, Consumer Member, Secretary
Deborah Christiansen, MD
John McGraw, MD

Staff present: Michael Varnell, JD, Office of General Counsel
Francine Baca-Chavez, JD, Office of General Counsel
Stacy Tarr, BME Executive Director
Yvette Williams, Administrative Director
Brandi Allocco, Administrative Director
Jeffrin Zachariah, Board Administrator
Samantha Green, 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 of the requirements were satisfied. The electronic meeting was scheduled for the purpose of the Order of Summary Suspension in the matter of Aaron Areli Hernandez-Ramirez, MD. The teleconference was then turned over to Michael Varnell, Associate General Counsel. Mr. Varnell addressed the panel with general comments on the process for the summary suspension procedure. Dr. Hernandez-Ramirez did not appear before the board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. Respondent has been at all times pertinent hereto licensed by the Board as medical doctor, having been granted a license on October 7, 2016, which currently has an expiration date of April 30, 2024. Respondent is also licensed to practice medicine in the State of Alabama. Respondent was employed at Grove Hill Memorial Hospital (hereinafter "GHMH") in Grove Hill, Alabama at all times pertinent hereto. At GHMH Respondent was practicing in the areas of family medicine and obstetrics. In or around June 2022, GHMG requested that Respondent submit to a Center for Personalized Education for Professionals (hereinafter "CPEP") assessment to address patient care concerns. The CPEP assessment evaluated Respondent's clinical skills in the areas of family medicine and obstetrics, which were areas he practiced in at GHMH. The CPEP assessment indicated gaps in Respondent's knowledge

regarding family medicine and obstetrics and Respondent's ability to complete a differential diagnosis. Respondent failed certain training exercises and performed poorly on a multiple-choice exam with a percentile rank of less than one percent. Specifically, Respondent demonstrated clinical incompetence during the CPEP assessment by failing electrocardiogram interpretation exercise, failing fetal monitoring strip interpretation exercises, and failing a family medicine modular core multiple choice exam. The CPEP Assessment concluded that if Respondent were to narrow his practice and target his remediation to the area of outpatient family medicine, his performance is consistent with being safe to practice with recommendations including a recommendation for structured remedial education. The CPEP Assessment further stated, however, that Respondent's performance on the obstetrics evaluation was not consistent with medical competence. The CPEP assessment and overall summary states as follows: *Due to the extent of the overall educational needs identified, impacted significantly by his performance in the area of obstetrics, CPEP opines that his spectrum of needs is not likely to be successfully remediable outside of a formal training setting. In as much, CPEP opines that the best option would be for Respondent to remediate in a formal training setting, such as residency or fellowship. This is most consistent with the performance of category (c) Not safe to practice independently at this time.* On or about September 30, 2022, GHMH revoked Respondent's clinical staff privileges on the basis of his incompetence in the practice of medicine. Respondent's Alabama Medical License was summarily suspended by the Alabama Medical Board on February 22, 2023 as a result of his poorly performance on the CPEP assessment. The conclusions of law are outlined in the Order. This order shall summarily suspend the Respondent's medical license. Respondent shall cease and desist from practicing medicine in the state of Tennessee. This summary suspension shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect pending proceedings for the formal discipline of Respondent's license.

Dr. McGraw motioned to accept the Order, and Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted by Dr. Christiansen, which passed unanimously.

This concludes the Board of Medical Examiners panel.