



**Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners  
Regular Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, July 25, 2023**

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**MINUTES**

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The regular board meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 8:38 a.m. in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Dr. Melanie Blake, Board President.

Board members present: Melanie Blake, MD, President  
Stephen Loyd, MD, Vice President  
Robert Ellis, Consumer Member, Secretary  
Deborah Christiansen, MD  
Phyllis Miller, MD  
Randall Pearson, MD  
James Diaz-Barriga, Consumer Member  
John McGraw, MD

Board member(s) absent: Samantha McLerran, MD  
Keith Anderson, MD  
John Hale, MD  
Jennifer Claxton, Consumer Member

Staff present: Francine Baca-Chavez, JD, Office of General Counsel  
W. Reeves Johnson, MD Interim Medical Director  
Stacy Tarr, BME Executive Director  
Brandi Allocco, Administrative Director  
Samantha Green, Board Administrator  
Jeffrin Zachariah, Board Administrator

Dr. Melanie Blake, Board President, opened the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of healthcare professionals who have been impacted by violence against healthcare workers. A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was determined. The meeting began with an introduction of all staff members and the Interim Medical Consultant.

**I. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS**

**Medical X-Ray Applicant Interview(s):**

**Suzanne Belcher, AMDX** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Ms. Belcher is an applicant for initial licensure and has been out of practice since December 2019. Ms. Belcher had worked in a hospital setting for over thirty (30) years. When she originally moved to a clinic setting, she was primarily conducting ultrasounds, so she was not in need of a TN Medical X-Ray operator license. Ms. Belcher has recently moved to another clinic where she would be the back-up X-Ray technician. The current X-Ray technician on staff is able to precept Ms. Belcher. Dr. Deborah Christiansen motions to table the application for up to three (3) months to allow Ms. Belcher to submit documentation for the completion of forty (40) hours of a preceptorship. Ms. Belcher will be granted a full and unrestricted license contingent upon the completion of said preceptorship and submission of documentation to administrative staff for the preceptorship. Dr. John McGraw seconds the motion, and it passes.

**Paula Aguilar-Smith, MDXL** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Ms. Aguilar-Smith allowed her Limited Scope X-Ray Operator license lapse and practiced on a lapsed license from about May 2015 to about January 2016. Ms. Aguilar-Smith has been out of practice since January 2016. Ms. Aguilar-Smith has been working in law enforcement since 2016 and was recently offered a position at a clinic as an X-Ray operator. Dr. Christiansen motions to table the application for up to six (6) months to allow Ms. Aguilar-Smith to submit documentation of completion of one hundred and ninety (190) hours of a preceptorship to administrative staff and payment of penalty associated with practicing on a lapsed license for one hundred dollars (\$100) per month for each month worked after the grace period, contingent upon completion of which a Limited Scope X-Ray Operator license will be granted with a reprimand. Dr. Stephen Loyd seconds the motion, and it passes.

#### **Medical Doctor Applicant Interview(s):**

**Daniel Stein, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Stein had previously appeared before the Board during the May 2022 Board of Medical Examiners Meeting. The Board tabled the application for up to six (6) months, to allow time for the applicant to determine what needs to be done to obtain maintenance of certification with the American Board of Internal Medicine, and to find a preceptor for the remediation pathway. Dr. Stein has obtained a preceptor and the preceptor has submitted a plan for preceptorship to the Board's Medical Consultant. Dr. Deborah Christiansen motions to grant a limited license for ninety (90) days to allow Dr. Stein to complete the preceptorship. During the preceptorship, Dr. Stein is restricted from being the supervising physician of mid-level providers. Dr. John McGraw seconds the motion, and it passes.

**Allen Walker, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Walker has previously appeared before the Board during the May 2023 Board of Medical Examiners Meeting. The Board tabled the application for up to four (4) months to allow Dr. Walker to obtain an evaluation from the Tennessee Medical Foundation (hereinafter, "TMF"). Dr. Walker has been completing the recommendations provided by TMF after the evaluation. Dr. Baron spoke on behalf of Dr. Walker. Dr. Walker has signed a five-year monitoring agreement with TMF. Dr. Christiansen motions to table the application for a period of up to six (6) months to allow Dr. Walker to work with Dr. McGraw and the Board's Medical Consultant to formulate a re-entry pathway. Dr. Walker will reappear before the Board prior to approval of the re-entry pathway. Mr. Robert Ellis seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

**Thomas Lundeen, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Lundeen is an applicant for initial licensure with board certification, no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Lundeen previously held a Special Volunteer license in Tennessee, which lapsed in November 2022. Dr. Lundeen states he unknowingly practiced for four (4) days on a lapsed Special Volunteer license from November 2022 – February 2023. Dr. Christiansen motions to grant a full and unrestricted medical license. Dr. Phyllis Miller seconds the motion and the motion passes.

**Danese Hayes, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Hayes is an applicant for initial licensure with no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Hayes has been out of clinical practice since 2019. Dr. Hayes is unable to participate in a preceptorship at this time. Dr. Hayes withdraws her application for licensure.

**Tyler Woodall, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Woodall has previously appeared before the Board during the May 2023 Board of Medical Examiners Meeting. Dr. Christiansen and Dr. Loyd recused. Dr. Woodall is an applicant for initial licensure no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Woodall has been out of clinical practice since being dismissed from his residency in 2018. Dr. McGraw motions to grant a full and unrestricted medical license contingent upon Dr. Woodall's successful completion and submission of proof of forty (40) hours of continuing medical education and two (2) hours of Tennessee Specific prescribing guidelines to the Board's Administrative Office. Dr. Miller seconds the motion, and it passes with Dr. Christiansen and Dr. Loyd recused.

**Vickie Kasper, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Kasper is an applicant for initial licensure with malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Kasper has been out of clinical practice since 2014. Dr. Kasper developed myasthenia gravis and was unable to continue practicing at the time. Dr. Kasper maintained her Arkansas medical license and kept up with continuing medical education during her time out of practice. In 2016, she took a position as a Chief Medical Officer and has been practicing administratively since. Dr. Christiansen motions to table the application for up to eight (8) months to allow Dr. Kasper to practice clinically in Arkansas. Mr. James Diaz-Barriga seconds the motion, and the motion passes with Dr. McGraw opposed.

**George Krisle, III, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Christiansen and Mr. Ellis recused. Dr. Krisle is an applicant for licensure reinstatement with no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Krisle has been out of clinical practice since January 2021. Dr. Krisle has been asked to return to his previous practice to perform stress echocardiograms for patients. Dr. McGraw motions to table the application for up to four (4) months to allow Dr. Krisle to secure a preceptor. The preceptor shall submit a CV and preceptorship plan to the Board's medical consultant for approval. Upon approval of the preceptor and preceptorship plan, Dr. Krisle will be granted a limited license for up to forty-five (45) days to allow Dr. Krisle to complete the re-entry plan. The plan shall be no less than forty-five (45) days in length, the preceptor must be ABMS board certified in the specialty Dr. Krisle intends to practice, and Dr. Krisle is unable to supervise mid-level providers while practicing on a limited license. Mr. Diaz-Barriga seconds the motion, and the motion passes with Dr. Christiansen and Mr. Ellis recused.

**Adam Durbin, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Durbin is an applicant for initial licensure with no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Durbin has been out of clinical practice since October 2020. Dr. Durbin presented a re-entry plan to the Board for their consideration. Dr. Christiansen motions to grant a limited license for Dr. Durbin to complete a six (6) month preceptorship. The limited license shall be for a duration of six (6) months, during which Dr. Durbin may only practice under the supervision of Dr. Alberto Pappo and may not supervise any mid-level providers. Upon completion of the preceptorship, Dr. Durbin shall have Dr. Pappo submit a letter the Board's medical consultant detailing his evaluation and confirmation of Dr. Durbin's clinical competency. Dr. Durbin will then be able to apply for a full and unrestricted medical license. Dr. McGraw seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

**Robin Freeman, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Freeman is an applicant for licensure reinstatement with prior board action, no malpractice history, and no criminal history. Dr. Freeman has been out of clinical practice since 2017 and had Board action related to improper

prescribing. Dr. Freeman has met all requirements for her previous Board Order except for signing a TMF monitoring agreement, so she is not in compliance. Dr. Pearson motions to table the application for up to six (6) months to allow Dr. Freeman to work with TMF to complete an evaluation and comply with any recommendations made by TMF, after which Dr. Freeman will reappear before the Board. During the six (6) month period, it is encouraged that Dr. Freeman work with Dr. Miller and the Board's medical consultant to formulate a re-entry plan for the Board's consideration at Dr. Freeman's next appearance. Dr. Christiansen seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

**Irene Lazarus, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Lazarus is an applicant for initial licensure with prior board action, no malpractice history, and no criminal history. Dr. Lazarus was dismissed from her residency training programs for competency concerns and has Board action by another state licensing agency. Dr. Lazarus provided the Board with a brief history of her training and personal health issues that resulted in a restricted license in New Mexico and dismissal from training programs. Dr. Baron spoke on behalf of Dr. Lazarus and provided support for her licensure. Dr. Christiansen motions to grant a full and unrestricted license. Dr. McGraw seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

**Timothy Casias, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Casias is an applicant for initial licensure with no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. It was reported to the National Practitioner Databank that Dr. Casias resigned his staff privileges during an ongoing peer review, which his employer considered an investigation. Dr. Casias states that he transferred from the pediatric pain clinic into pediatric anesthesia during the peer review investigation. Dr. Casias reports that during that time the pediatric anesthesia department were apart of many procedures that due to Dr. Casias's religious beliefs, he does not feel comfortable in participating in those cases. As a result, Dr. Casias left the hospital. Dr. Christiansen motions to grant a full and unrestricted license. Dr. McGraw seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

**Lerla Joseph, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Joseph is an applicant for initial licensure with malpractice history, prior board action, and no criminal history. Dr. Joseph received a reprimand on her Virginia medical license around December 2020 due to improper prescribing. Dr. Joseph has since complied with all conditions of the Virginia Board Order and holds an unrestricted license in Virginia. Dr. Christiansen motions to grant a license contingent upon completion of two (2) hours of continuing medical education regarding the Tennessee Specific Prescribing guidelines and conditioned upon two (2) years of quarterly CSMD monitoring reports by the Board's Medical Consultant. At the conclusion of the two (2) years of monitoring Dr. Joseph must submit a Petition for Order of Compliance and, if required by the Board's medical director, must appear before the Board to have the condition removed and obtain an Order of Compliance. Dr. McGraw seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

**Toland Ash, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Ash is an applicant for initial licensure with criminal history, prior board action, and no malpractice history. Dr. Ash had prior Board action in Louisiana related to improper prescribing, which resulted in reciprocal discipline in the other states he held licenses in at the time. Illinois denied Dr. Ash's license renewal in 2008 due to the disciplinary action. Most recently, Iowa placed a reprimand on Dr. Ash's license as a condition of licensure related to the Louisiana disciplinary action and the subsequent 2012 federal conviction for unlawful dispensing of a controlled substance. Dr. Ash has complied with all Board Orders in the states he currently holds licenses in and has completed the conditions of his federal probation. Mr. Diaz-Barriga motions to grant a full and unrestricted license. Dr. Christiansen seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

**Joseph Hummel, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Hummel is an applicant for initial licensure with, criminal history, prior board action, and no malpractice history. Dr. Hummel was convicted in 2019 of a felony not related to the practice of medicine, after which North Carolina issued a letter of concern. Dr. Hummel’s conviction stems from a business arrangement he made regarding a rental agreement that had not been signed and was backdated. Dr. Hummel’s business partner and financial planner at the time was under investigation by the IRS, and Dr. Hummel was investigated as a result. Dr. Pearson motions to grant a full and unrestricted license. Dr. Christiansen seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

## II. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Ellen Gose, Legislative Liaison Tennessee Department of Health, presented an overview of Public Chapters from the 2023 legislative session that pertain to licensees. For the purposes of promulgating rules for Public Chapters 211 and 470, the Board will appoint a member to work directly with Ms. Baca-Chavez. The Board of Medical Examiners will work with the Board of Osteopathic Examiners in promulgating rules for Public Chapter 470.

## III. **TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

Mr. Russ Miller, CEO, and Ms. Beth Lentchner, Director of Leadership Programs and Education from the Tennessee Medical Association requests the Board of Medical Examiners list their MATE Act Education Course as a “Board-approved” course on the Board of Medical Examiners’ website. The course covers the DEA requirements as well as the TN Specific Prescribing Guidelines. Dr. McGraw motions to list the MATE course on the website. Mr. Ellis seconds the motion, and it passes.

The Board recessed for lunch.

## IV. **RATIFICATION OF ACUPUNCTURE COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

A petition for Declaratory Order was filed on behalf of Todd and Rebecca Levin by their legal representative, Mr. Sam Helmbrecht. Dr. Blake recused. Mr. John Heacock represented the State. The matter already went before the Advisory Committee for Acupuncture who voted to deny the petition. As the Advisory Committee for Acupuncture falls under the Board of Medical Examiners, the decision brought before them for ratification. Ms. Rebecca Levin filed a complaint with the Office of Investigations in June 2021. The investigation did not result in disciplinary action against the Acupuncturist. Mr. Heacock and Mr. Helmbrecht both presented their cases to the Board of Medical Examiners. Dr. Christiansen motions to approve the Acupuncture Committee decision to deny the petition for Declaratory Order. Dr. Pearson seconds the motion, and the motion passes with Dr. Blake recused.

## V. **PRESENTATION – GATEWAY PROJECT REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

Peter Phillips, DPh, TDOH CSMD Director, has previously presented to the Board the new Gateway servicer extension and the enhanced prescriber report at the September 2022 Board of Medical Examiners Meeting, and to a panel of the Board at the November 2022 Board of Medical Examiners Meeting. The Gateway service integrates the CSMD web portal with electronic medical records to allow providers to view the CSMD patient data within the clinical workflow of their electronic medical records. At present there are over 400 users of the Gateway service with over 300 users still pending integration of their electronic medical records. All prescribers may still utilize the traditional CSMD web portal. Not all electronic medical records have the ability to support the integration at this time, so they are working with larger care networks on updating their software. With the Gateway service integration there is still an

internal audit system to determine who is accessing the information. The Board voted to fund the project at the November 2022 Board of Medical Examiners Meeting.

#### VI. CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

Appointing a Board member to represent the Board at the CSMD meeting – Dr. McGraw requests the Board appoint someone to cover his seat as he is no longer available to sit on the committee. This matter will be tabled until September when there are more Board members in attendance.

#### VII. TENNESSEE MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Dr. Michael Baron, Medical Director of the Tennessee Medical Foundation (“TMF”) presented the bi-annual report to the Board. TMF has seen a fifty-one (51%) increase in non-substance use disorder related referrals. TMF is currently monitoring two hundred and twenty-eight (228) healthcare providers. Since launching the TNPSQ in February 2020, TMF has seen six hundred seventy users. Dr. Baron requests the Board send another blast email to licensees regarding the TNPSQ resource.

The TMF is a nonpunitive physician health program and Dr. Baron is requesting that the length of monitoring not be tied to the probationary period of a disciplined licensee. If someone signs a five-year TMF contract or a lifetime TMF contract the length of their probation may be shorter than the TMF contract. Likewise, if someone is made to sign a three-year contract with TMF as part of probation, and decides they want to extend their TMF contract, then the probationary period should not be extended as a result. This is not something the Board must take action on, just beginning a dialogue for disciplinary guidelines going forward. Dr. McGraw motions to approve a blast email to licensees regarding TNPSQ. Dr. Pearson seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

#### VIII. ORDERS OF COMPLIANCE

**Michael Seals, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Ms. Francine Baca-Chavez presented the Order of Compliance. Dr. Christiansen recused. The petition requests the Board lift the probation and remove any restrictions on Dr. Seals’s medical license. It is the position of the Disciplinary Coordinator and the Office of General Counsel that he is compliant with the terms of his previous order. Mr. Ellis motions to accept the order of compliance. Dr. McGraw seconds the motion, and it passes with Dr. Christiansen recused.

**Terry Adams, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Christiansen recused. Ms. Francine Baca-Chavez presented the Order of Compliance. The Consent Order did not require Dr. Adams to reappear before the Board. It is the position of the Disciplinary Coordinator and the Office of General Counsel that he is compliant with the terms of his previous order. Dr. Pearson motions to accept the order of compliance. Dr. McGraw seconds the motion, and it passes with Dr. Christiansen recused.

#### IX. CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Discuss, consider and take action as needed regarding Healthy Tennessee 2023 Multi Military Branch Mission – Ms. Baca-Chavez shared with the Board information about the Healthy Tennessee 2023 Military Mission which was held at sites in Pikeville, TN and Evensville, TN from June 1, 2023 through June 15, 2023. The mission provided multidisciplinary care to the residents of Rhea and Bledsoe counties at no cost.

Discuss, consider and take action as needed regarding Visa “but for” Letter – A physician may be issued a J1 Visa while they are in residency training, however this visa will typically expire once residency training is completed. In order to receive an H1B Visa, the physician must be licensed, however because

they are no longer legally entitled to live and work in the United States the Board is unable to issue a license. There is a letter that was written with input from both the Administrative Office and the Office of General Counsel called a “but for” letter, which may be submitted in support of a physician in the process of obtaining an H1B Visa.

Discuss, consider and take action as needed regarding Quarterly FSMB Update on USMLE – The Board’s Administrative staff shared information on USMLE findings of “irregular behavior” and the Board’s role in petitioning the USMLE to lift a bar on a physician’s account as a result of “irregular behavior”.

#### X. **CONSIDER AND APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Christiansen motions to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Diaz-Barriga seconds the motion, and it passes. The Consent Agenda contained the following:

1. Approval of May 15-16, 2023, Board of Medical Examiners Meeting minutes
2. Approval of May 15, 2023, Development Committee Meeting minutes
3. Approval of June 2, 2023, Summary Suspension Meeting
4. Ratification of new licenses, reinstatement and renewals of Medical Doctors, MD X-Ray Operators, Genetic Counselors, Surgical Assistants
5. Review of the Office of General Counsel Report
6. Review report from the Administrative Office
7. Review report from the Office of Investigations

#### XI. **DISCIPLINARY ORDERS**

##### **Consent Order(s)**

[Trent Cross, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did his legal representative, Mr. Sam Helmbrecht, appear on his behalf. Ms. Brittani Kendrick represented the State. Mr. Ellis, Mr. Diaz-Barriga, and Dr. Miller recused. Dr. McGraw motions to approve the order. Dr. Christiansen seconds, and the motion passes with Mr. Ellis, Mr. Diaz-Barriga, and Dr. Miller recused.

[Harrison Yang, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did his legal representative, Mr. William Ramsey, appear on his behalf. Mr. Michael Varnell represented the State. Dr. Christiansen motions to approve the order. Dr. Miller seconds, and the motion passes.

[Angela Randolph, AMDX\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on her behalf. Mr. Michael Varnell represented the State. Dr. Pearson recused. Mr. Ellis motions to approve the order. Dr. McGraw seconds, and the motion passes with Dr. Pearson.

##### **Agreed Order(s)**

[Gary Nace, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did his legal representative, Mr. David Steed, appear on his behalf. Ms. Jessica Turner represented the State. Dr. Christiansen motions to approve the order. Dr. Miller seconds, and the motion passes.

##### **Consent Order(s) continued**

[Millard Collins, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. Ms. Jessica Turner represented the State. Dr. McGraw motions to approve the order. Mr. Ellis seconds, and the motion passes.

**Agreed Order(s) continued**

[Mary Baldwin, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did her legal representative, Mr. Heath Clark, appear on her behalf. Ms. Jessica Turner represented the State. Dr. Miller recused. Dr. McGraw motions to approve the order. Dr. Christiansen seconds, and the motion passes with Dr. Miller recused.

**Consent Order(s) continued**

[Hemal Mehta, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did his legal representative, Ms. Lisa Helton, Esq., appear on his behalf. Mr. Gerard Dolan represented the State. Dr. Christiansen motions to approve the order. Dr. McGraw seconds, and the motion passes.

**The Board recessed at 3:16 pm CT.**



**Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners  
Regular Board Meeting**

**Day Two of the Regular Meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners**

**Wednesday, July 26, 2023**

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The regular board meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 8:30 a.m. in the Iris and Poplar Room Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243.

Board members present: Melanie Blake, MD, President  
Stephen Loyd, MD, Vice President  
Robert Ellis, Consumer Member, Secretary  
Deborah Christiansen, MD  
Phyllis Miller, MD  
Randall Pearson, MD  
James Diaz-Barriga, Consumer Member  
John McGraw, MD  
John Hale, MD

Staff present: Francine Baca-Chavez, JD, Office of General Counsel  
W. Reeves Johnson, MD Interim Medical Director  
Stacy Tarr, BME Executive Director  
Brandi Allocco, Administrative Director  
Samantha Green, Board Administrator  
Jeffrin Zachariah, Board Administrator

**XII. UPDATES FROM TASKFORCES & COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- a. **Development Committee Meeting Update (Dr. Loyd, Dr. Blake, Mr. Ellis, and Dr. McGraw) -**
  - i. The Committee met yesterday, July 25, 2023.
  - ii. Discuss and take action as needed regarding T.C.A § 68-3-502 – The Committee recommends Dr. Anderson meet with VRISM and vital records to work through concerns of user friendliness. The Committee also recommends an additional letter of warning be issued prior to discipline until the issues have been addressed. Dr. McGraw motions to accept the committee’s recommendations. Dr. Hale seconds the motion, and it passes.
  - iii. Discuss and take action as needed regarding requiring FCVS Profile for Applicants- The Committee recommends the Board initiate rulemaking for this requirement. Dr. McGraw motions to accept the committee’s recommendations. Dr. Pearson seconds the motion, and it passes.

- iv. Discuss and take action as needed regarding telehealth – This item will be taken off the Development Committee agenda until more information comes out regarding legislation.
- v. Public Chapter 211 and Public Chapter 470 – Dr. Blake will work with Ms. Baca-Chavez to create rules for Public Chapter 211 to present to the full Board. Dr. Christiansen will work with Ms. Baca-Chavez to create rules for Public Chapter 470. A taskforce may be created for Public Chapter 470 as rules must be promulgated with the Board of Osteopathic Examiners.
- vi. Advisory Opinions
  - 1. Steven Austin, MD - The Committee recommends approval of the advisory letter ruling as written.
  - 2. Selwin Abraham, MD - The Committee recommends approval of the advisory letter ruling as written.
  - 3. Alan Simeone, MD - The Committee recommends approval of the advisory letter ruling as written. Public Chapter 196 does not affect the advisory opinions. Dr. McGraw motions to approve all three advisory ruling letters as written. Dr. Pearson seconds the motion, and it passes.

#### **Next Development Committee Agenda**

- a. Chronic Pain Guidelines – develop a taskforce to review and take action as needed regarding current guidelines.
- b. Explore oversight on committees under the Board of Medical Examiners

### **XIII. CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

Discuss, consider and take action if needed regarding the application process – The Board’s Administrative Office has recommended ideas to simplify the application process. Some of the items are duplications of processes and information, while others are changes to the wording of questions that cause confusion for applicants. The PDC report is provided by the Federation of State Medical Boards. It lists any licenses an applicant may hold or has held, any Board action, and specialty certifications they may hold. It is the recommendation that we utilize the PDC report in verifying applicant’s licenses rather than having applicant’s send individual license verifications from each state they hold or have held a license in, which helps reduce processing times. A proposed update to the postgraduate training verification form was presented to the Board. This proposed change stems from frequent questions from program directors filling out the forms and is meant to help streamline the process and reduce confusion. Dr. McGraw motions to approve the application changes as recommended by the Board’s Administrative Office and Medical Consultant. Dr. Hale seconds the motion, and it passes.

### **XIV. ORDERS OF COMPLIANCE (CONTINUED)**

**Ken Berry, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Ms. Francine Baca-Chavez presented the Order of Compliance. Dr. Loyd recused. There are two Orders Dr. Berry signed, one from 2016 and one from 2018. The petition requests the Board lift the probation on Dr. Berry’s license. It is the position of the Disciplinary Coordinator and the Office of General Counsel that the Board should decide if he is compliant with the terms of his previous order. There were issues with monitoring, which were explained to the Board by Ms. Baca-Chavez. Dr. Christiansen motions to accept the order of compliance related to the 2016 Order. Dr. McGraw seconds the motion, and it passes with Dr. Loyd recused. Dr. Christiansen motions to accept the order of compliance related to the 2018 Order. Dr. McGraw seconds the motion, and it passes with Dr. Loyd recused.

XV. **DISCIPLINARY ORDERS (CONTINUED)**

**Consent Order(s)**

[Laura Purdy, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative, appear on her behalf. Mr. Michael Varnell represented the State. Mr. Ellis motions to approve the order. Dr. Christiansen seconds, and the motion passes.

XVI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**Contested Case – Iris Room**

**[Kimberly Reneau, AMDX\\*](#) v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners  
Iris Room**

**Administrative Law Judge: Michael Begley**

**Panelists: Melanie Blake, MD, Phyllis Miller, MD, and Randall Pearson, MD**

**Counsel for State: Jessica Turner, Senior Associate General Counsel**

**Counsel for Respondent: Respondent was unrepresented**

The Respondent did not appear before a panel of the Board nor did a legal representative appear on her behalf. A panel of the Board, chaired by Dr. Blake, granted the State’s motion to find the Respondent in default, and to conduct the proceeding without the participation of the Respondent. The panel went through the State’s proposed Order and amended the Order to revoke Respondent’s license.

**Contested Case – Iris Room**

**[Abdul Haji, MD\\*](#) v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners  
Iris Room**

**Administrative Law Judge: Michael Begley**

**Panelists: Melanie Blake, MD, Phyllis Miller, MD, and Randall Pearson, MD**

**Counsel for State: Elta Breen, Associate General Counsel**

**Counsel for Respondent: William Wooten, Esq**

The Respondent appeared before a panel of the Board and his legal representative, Mr. William Wooten, appeared on his behalf. A panel of the Board, chaired by Dr. Blake, heard from both parties and witnesses prior to deliberation. The panel went through the proposed Orders and Dr. Pearson motions to accept the proposed Final Order from the State. Dr. Miller seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

**Contested Case – Poplar Room**

**Ray Mettetal, MD v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners  
Poplar Room**

**Administrative Law Judge: Steve Darnell**

**Panelists: John McGraw, MD, Deborah Christiansen, MD, and James Diaz-Barriga, Consumer Member**

**Counsel for State: Justin Harleman, Senior Associate General Counsel**

**Counsel for Respondent: Robert Gibbs, Esq**

This case was not heard by a panel of the Board, and the matter has been continued for a later date.

## **Contested Case – Dogwood Room**

### **[Michael Stephanides, MD\\*](#) v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners Dogwood Room**

**Administrative Law Judge: Shannon Barnhill**

**Panelists: John Hale, MD, Stephen Loyd, MD, and Robert Ellis, Consumer Member**

**Counsel for State: Brittani Kendrick, Senior Associate General Counsel**

**Counsel for Respondent: Respondent was unrepresented**

The Respondent did not appear before a panel of the Board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. A panel of the Board, chaired by Dr. Loyd, granted the State's motion to find the Respondent in default, and to conduct the proceeding without the participation of the Respondent. After discussion and questions, the panel motioned and seconded, which was followed by an approval of the Final Order with all findings of fact and conclusions of law considered and agreed upon.

## **Hearing for Declaratory Order – Dogwood Room**

### **Dani Kruchevsky, MD v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners Dogwood Room**

**Administrative Law Judge: Shannon Barnhill**

**Panelists: John Hale, MD, Stephen Loyd, MD, and Robert Ellis, Consumer Member**

**Counsel for State: Francine Baca-Chavez, Senior Associate General Counsel**

**Counsel for Petitioner: Larry Cheng**

A panel of the Board heard the position of the Petitioner and the State and reviewed any evidence presented. After discussion and consideration, the panel motioned and seconded, which was followed by an approval of the following Final Order with all findings of fact and conclusions of law considered and agreed upon.

Petitioner, Dani Kruchevsky, MD, attended Technion Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel and obtained a medical degree in July of 2010. Prior to graduating, Petitioner completed one-year of internship rotation at Rambam Medical Center, a tertiary trauma center. Petitioner is an international medical school graduate who has not submitted evidence of the satisfactory completion of a three-year US ACGME accredited residency and is not currently certified by an American Board of Medical Specialties, ("ABMS") member board or eligible for board certification through ABMS. Following graduation from medical school, Petitioner began mandatory service in the Israeli military where he served for nearly six years as a medical officer. Upon completion of his military service, Petitioner completed a six-year residency training program in plastic and reconstructive surgery at Rambam Medical Center in Haifa, Israel which he completed in September 2021. From 2016-2021, Petitioner was an instructor for students in their plastic surgery rotation at Rambam Medical Center. From 2019-2021, Petitioner was an instructor in surgical skills at Technion Israel Institute of Technology. Petitioner received the Excellence in Teaching Award by the Faculty of Medicine in 2019, 2020, and 2021. In 2021, Petitioner successfully passed the written and oral board exams for the Israeli Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons. Petitioner is currently board certified by the Israeli Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons. Petitioner completed a one-year Total Burn Care Fellowship at the Ross Tilley Burn Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center in Toronto, Canada on June 30, 2022. Petitioner is currently in a Body Contouring and Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Fellowship at Hurwitz Center for Plastic Surgery in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania which began on October 1, 2022. Petitioner is expected to complete this fellowship training on September 30, 2023. Petitioner passed all USMLE steps on first attempt. Although not all steps were completed in less than ten years, the Board previously determined that in accordance with Board rules Petitioner provided satisfactory evidence, consisting of his mandatory

service in the Israeli military, of a rational explanation that prevented him from timely completing all steps of the USMLE within the ten-year limitation. Petitioner currently holds a full and unrestricted medical license in Pennsylvania. His medical license was first issued on June 6, 2022. Petitioner has no disciplinary action taken on this license. Petitioner has written several peer review articles, a book chapter, and has given several oral presentations in national and international meetings on burn injuries, wound care, and treatment of skin malignancies. There is a significant need for a physician with Petitioner's qualifications in Tennessee. Petitioner has been offered a plastic and reconstructive surgeon position at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Tennessee. The Petitioner has satisfied by preponderance of evidence that the training he received meets or exceeds the requirements. The petition for Declaratory Order, for this Petitioner, was approved.

**Ladoris Warren, MD v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners**

**Dogwood Room**

**Administrative Law Judge: Shannon Barnhill**

**Panelists: John Hale, MD, Stephen Loyd, MD, and Robert Ellis, Consumer Member**

**Counsel for State: Francine Baca-Chavez, Senior Associate General Counsel**

**Counsel for Petitioner: David Steed**

A panel of the Board heard the position of the Petitioner and the State and reviewed any evidence presented. After discussion and consideration, the panel motioned and seconded, which was followed by an approval of the following Final Order with all findings of fact and conclusions of law considered and agreed upon.

Petitioner, Ladoris Warren, MD, attended Caribbean Medical University, in Willemstad, Curacao and graduated with a medical degree in 2017. Thereafter, Petitioner completed a three-year postgraduate ACGME accredited residency in psychiatry from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2021, at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis Tennessee. Petitioner also completed a two-year postgraduate ACGME accredited fellowship in psychiatry from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023, at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Tennessee. Petitioner attended a medical school that does not comply with the curriculum criteria specified by this Board's rules and is not listed on any lists approved by the Board pursuant to the Board's policy, "Determinations of Standards for International Medical Schools and Graduates of Unapproved Foreign Medical Schools." Petitioner has not introduced evidence sufficient to satisfactorily establish to the Board by preponderance of the evidence that the medical school she attended meets or exceeds the Liaison Committee on Medical Education standards in order to meet the curriculum criteria. Thus, Petitioner does not meet the requirements for issuance of a full medical license. Petitioner is not board certified by an American Board of Medical Specialties, specialty board. Petitioner is eligible to take the board certification examination to become board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Petitioner has passed the oral examination in September. Examination results are expected in December 2023. If Petitioner becomes board certified, she will qualify for a full medical license. Petitioner has a full and unrestricted license in Mississippi. Petitioner has had no disciplinary action taken on this license. Petitioner does not qualify for a temporary license pursuant to the Board's Policy Statement for Demonstrated Competency for International Medical School Graduates Applying for a Temporary License because she did not pass Step 3 of the USMLE on the first attempt or within two (2) years of graduation from medical school. The Petition for Declaratory Order filed by Petitioner, Ladoris Warren, M.D., and the relief requested are approved for a temporary license for a term of two (2) years.

**This concludes the Board of Medical Examiners Day 2 meeting.**