



## Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners - Summary Suspension Panel

Thursday, December 29, 2022

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### MINUTES

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The panel of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Stacy Tarr, Executive Director.

Board members present:           Melanie Blake, MD, President  
  Deborah Christiansen, MD, Board Member  
  Randall Pearson, MD, Board Member

Staff present:                         Jessica Turner, JD, Office of General Counsel  
  Brittani C. Kendrick, JD, Office of General Counsel  
  Rene Saunders, MD, Medical Consultant, BME  
  Stacy Tarr, Executive Director

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 Adrian Buckner, MD and Kimberly E. Reneau, AMDX. The teleconference was then turned over to Ms. Jessica Turner, Office of General Counsel to give an overview of the Agreed Order for Kimberly E. Reneau, AMDX.

**Kimberly Reneau, AMDX** – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on her behalf. Ms. Jessica Turner represented the State. On/about November 2022, the Department received a report that Respondent was terminated from her employment at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center (FSRMC) after she was observed with a needle in her arm and admitted to injecting herself with propofol while on duty. The Board reviewed exhibits which are sworn statements from Richard Shipley (Respondent's supervisor), Amy Lasater, HR Director and Joe Hotaling, a transporter with FSRMC. When interviewed, Respondent denied she was injecting herself with propofol, however, acknowledged that she had previously stated she was. She reported that she believed that her prescribed sleep aid, Xywav, was causing her to act oddly at work and to do things unconsciously. On December 7, 2022, the Department received notice from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists that Respondent's certification and registry were summarily suspended related to these events. As of December 14, 2022, Respondent has not reached out for services at Tennessee Medical Foundation (TMF). Respondent's Tennessee radiological imaging and radiation therapy technician certification, number 5379, is hereby summarily suspended.

Respondent shall cease and desist from practicing radiological imaging and radiation therapy in the state of Tennessee. This suspension shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the conclusion of the contested case hearing against Respondent or until otherwise ordered by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners.

Dr. Blake stated, in consideration of the evidence presented, and pursuant to the authority granted under T.C.A. § 4-5-320(c), T.C.A. §§ 63-6-214, and the Rules of the Board, Chapters 0880-02-.01, et seq., the Board hereby preliminarily finds that the evidence shows that Respondent, Kimberly Reneau has engaged in the practice of medicine under the influence of propofol. This situation imperatively requires emergency action in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare prior to the initiation of formal disciplinary charges. Dr. Christiansen motioned to accept the Order, and Dr. Pearson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted by Ms. Tarr, which passed unanimously.

**Adrian Buckner, MD** – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. Ms. Brittani Kendrick represented the State. At all times pertinent hereto, Respondent is licensed by the Board as a medical doctor, having been granted license number 38882 on May 25, 2004. Respondent’s medical license will expire on June 30, 2024. Respondent is a medical doctor specializing in psychiatry and internal medicine. He owns his own practice in Kingsport, Tennessee called Psychiatric Associates of Kingsport. Respondent has a confirmed Bipolar 1 diagnosis. On or about August 19, 2022, Respondent was arrested by Sullivan County, Tennessee Sheriff’s Office. Respondent was discovered by Sullivan County Sheriff’s Office having abandoned his car in the middle of the road then attempted to evade the responding officers. Respondent admitted to the responding officers that he was a doctor and had taken Methylphenidate, a schedule II-controlled substance, that he prescribed to his patient, J.E. Respondent was charged with driving under the influence, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of a schedule II drug. This case is pending in Sullivan County, Tennessee General Sessions Criminal Court. On the same date that Respondent was arrested, August 19, 2022, the Washington County Sheriff’s Office reported to Vivian Buckner’s home in Johnson City, Tennessee for a welfare check. On or about August 22, 2022, Respondent was arrested by Washington County Sheriff’s Office and charged with neglect of an elderly or vulnerable adult pursuant to T.C.A. § 39-15-507(a), (c). This case is still pending in Washington County, Tennessee General Sessions Court. 7. On or about August 25, 2022, Washington County Sheriff’s Office responded to a welfare check at Respondent’s residence. Respondent was standing in the middle of the street screaming irrationally and speaking incoherently so he was handcuffed by responding officers. Respondent’s primary care physician (“PCP”) and longtime friend of approximately twenty (20) years, Dr. Jaime Oakley, spoke with the Washington County Sheriff’s Office regarding Respondent’s August 25, 2022, welfare check and asked Respondent to be brought to JCMC opposed to the jail given his recent psychosis and issues, noted above. On August 25, 2022, Respondent was involuntarily committed at JCMC. Respondent expressed that stress due to his job and becoming the recent caregiver for his mother likely brought about his manic episode. On or about August 30, 2022, Respondent was discharged from JCMC. At the time of discharge, Respondent was medically clear and stable. There were no signs or symptoms of psychosis present. He understood his treatment plan which included medication adherence and PCP and outpatient psychiatric follow up. A review of the Tennessee Controlled Substance Database (“CSMD”) reveals that on various dates in October, November, and December 2022, Respondent wrote controlled substance prescriptions to various patients, including J. E., the patient he admitted to diverting Methylphenidate from during his August 19, 2022,

arrest. On or about October 14, 2022, November 11, 2022, and November 12, 2022, Respondent wrote prescriptions for Vyvanse and Methylphenidate for patient J. E. On or about September 22, 2022, Respondent contacted the Tennessee Medical Foundation Physician's Health Program ("TMF-PHP"). At the recommendation of TMF-PHP, Respondent was scheduled for an intensive evaluation at Talbott Recovery Campus in Atlanta on December 5, 2022, but Respondent cancelled the evaluation.

In cases where the public health, safety, and welfare imperatively require emergency action, the Board is empowered, by Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-320(c), to summarily suspend a medical license pending the formal proceedings for revocation or other action. The summary action statute requires a showing that protection of "public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action." Respondent's mental state is a clear and present danger to the health, safety, and welfare of patients in Tennessee. Based on the information, and statements provided to the Board by the State, Respondent has been shown to be in a psychotic state. The status of Respondent's mental health constitutes a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare. Respondent's medical license should be immediately suspended until further hearing before the Board. Respondent's mental state while maintaining an active medical license poses an imminent danger to the citizens of Tennessee. The Board believes immediate action is necessary to prevent harm to any patients. Respondent's medical license is summarily suspended, the public welfare, safety, or welfare imperatively requiring it. Dr. Pearson motioned to accept the Order, and Dr. Christiansen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted by Ms. Tarr, which passed unanimously.

This concludes the Board of Medical Examiners panel.