



## Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners - Summary Suspension Panel

Monday, September 19, 2022

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### MINUTES

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The panel of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 9:43 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: Stephen Loyd, MD, Vice President  
Robert Ellis, Consumer Member, Secretary  
Randall Pearson, MD

Staff present: Francine Baca-Chavez, JD, Office of General Counsel  
Jessica Turner, JD, Office of General Counsel  
Michael Varnell, Office of General Counsel  
Rene Saunders, Medical Consultant, BME  
Stacy Tarr, BME Executive Director  
Candyce Wilson, Administrative Director  
Brandi Allocco, Administrative Director  
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 Mary Baldwin, MD. The teleconference was then turned over to Jessica Turner, Senior Associate General Counsel. Ms. Turner addressed the panel with general comments on the process for the summary suspension procedure. Dr. Baldwin did not appear before the board nor did a legal representative appear on her behalf. Respondent has been at all times pertinent hereto licensed by the Board as medical doctor, having been granted a license on or about August 19, 1988, which currently has an expiration date of April 30, 2023. On or about August 2022, the Department received a report that Respondent was practicing medicine while cognitively impaired. Respondent is the sole practitioner of Mary E. Baldwin Family Practice located in Dunlap, Tennessee. Respondent has approximately 300-400 active patients, both geriatric and pediatric, and typically sees between four (4) and twelve (12) patients per day. Prior to September 3, 2022, Respondent's office employed one (1) medical assistant, J.M., and one (1) receptionist, R.S. Medical assistant J.M. has worked with Respondent for seven (7) years. J.M. reports that she has seen a

considerable decline of Respondent's mental and physical health over the last year. Patients have reported to J.M. that Respondent falls asleep while in the exam rooms with them. Respondent cannot recall medication names, calculate medication dosages, or calculate medication quantities. J.M. tries to catch mistakes and correct them before the pharmacy receives the order; however, she receives calls from pharmacists asking what is going on with Respondent. Respondent leaves signed blank prescriptions in her office drawer for J.M. to fill out if a patient needs a prescription for a controlled medication. J.M. receives calls from patients who have met with Respondent via telehealth who report that Respondent has not sent in a prescription or that she did not address their chief complaint during the visit. When J.M. pulls up the visit notes, there is no documentation. There are currently 123 visit notes that are still incomplete despite J.M. giving Respondent a list of notes that need to be completed. Often bills that are sent to patient's insurance are denied due to timely filing because it takes so long for Respondent to complete her notes. J.M. provided a list of specific patient interactions found in the Order. R.S. worked with Respondent from about 2016 to 2020 and returned in February 2022. She reports seeing a substantial decline in Respondent's physical and mental health. R.S. reports Respondent is not capable of doing any procedures and R.S. tries to catch any patients that might need a procedure such as stitches removed or pap smears to refer those patients to another provider. R.S. reports that Respondent has told her that she has fallen asleep while driving. R.S. reports that she and J.M. have expressed concerns to Respondent and suggested that she see a physician; however, Respondent refuses to acknowledge that she has any issues and becomes defensive. During the investigator's interview of Respondent, Respondent was observed to have a hard time finding her words, jumping around from subject to subject during the interview, and from present time to many years in the past. Respondent also indicated that she does not feel like she needs to retire and has no intention of retiring. She does not see a physician and is not willing to take a cognitive assessment. J.M. and R.S. reported to the investigator that their last day in the office with Respondent is September 2, 2022. At this time, there are no known employees beyond the Respondent. 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. Pearson motioned to accept the Order, and Dr. Loyd seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted by Dr. Pearson, which passed unanimously.

This concludes the Board of Medical Examiners panel.