



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

**Tuesday, September 26, 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 9:00 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  
Robert Ellis, Consumer Member, Secretary  
Deborah Christiansen, MD  
Keith Anderson, MD  
Randall Pearson, MD  
John Hale, MD  
Jennifer Claxton, Consumer Member  
James Diaz-Barriga, Consumer Member  
John McGraw, MD

Board member(s) absent: Stephen Loyd, MD, Vice President  
Samantha McLerran, MD  
Todd Tillmanns, 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

**I. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS**

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

**Christine Babji, AMDX** – did not appear before the Board, nor did a legal representative appear on her behalf. The Board did not deliberate on Ms. Babji's application and proceeded with the next applicant.

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

**Abdulrahman Rageh, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Rageh is an applicant for initial licensure with no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Rageh is an International Medical School graduate who has not completed three years US ACGME accredited training and is not board certified. Dr. Deborah Christiansen motions to table the application until the November 2023 Board of Medical Examiners Meeting to allow Dr. Rageh to decide if he would like to petition for a Declaratory Order or withdraw the application. Dr. John Hale seconds the motion, and it passes.

**Khem Uprety, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Uprety is an applicant for initial licensure with no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Uprety is an International Medical School graduate who has not completed three years US ACGME accredited training and is not currently board certified, however Dr. Uprety is eligible to sit for the American Board of Radiology exam on September 29, 2023. Per the American Board of Radiology website, scores for these exams are usually available four (4) weeks after the exam is administered. Dr. Christiansen motions to grant a full and unrestricted medical license contingent on the receipt by the Board’s Medical Director or Administrative Director of proof of passage of the American Board of Radiology exam. Dr. John McGraw seconds the motion. The motion is withdrawn. Dr. Christiansen motions to grant a full and unrestricted medical license contingent upon notification of ABMS board certification to the Board’s Medical Director. The application is tabled for sixty (60) days to allow time for Dr. Uprety to submit documentation of Board Certification. Dr. John McGraw seconds the motion and the motion passes.

**Chawki Elzein, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Elzein is an applicant for initial licensure with no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Elzein is an International Medical School graduate who has not completed three years US ACGME accredited training and is not currently board certified. Dr. Elzein has submitted a petition for Declaratory Order for the Board’s consideration. Dr. Christiansen motions to table the application for a period up to six (6) months to allow the applicant to participate in the Declaratory Order process. Mr. Ellis seconds the motion and the motion passes. Dr. Christiansen motions to accept the petition for Declaratory Order. Dr. McGraw seconds the motion and the motion passes.

**Manuel Arana Rosainz, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Arana Rosainz is an applicant for initial licensure with no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Arana Rosainz is an International Medical School graduate who has completed a three (3) year US ACGME accredited residency, passed all steps of the USMLE, and is currently ABMS board certified. Dr. Arana Rosainz is unable to provide the required medical school transcript due to restrictions on exchange of educational records. Dr. Arana Rosainz has submitted an ECFMG certificate of completion as well as an ECFMG status report as proof of completion of medical school. Dr. McGraw motions to grant a full and unrestricted medical license. Dr. Pearson seconds the motion and the motion passes.

**William Pierce, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Pierce is an applicant for initial licensure with criminal history, no malpractice history, and no prior board action. Dr. Pierce was referred to the Tennessee Medical Foundation (hereinafter “TMF”). He appears before the Board so they may consider TMF recommendations from that evaluation. Dr. Michael Baron, Medical Director for the Tennessee Medical Foundation, spoke on behalf of Dr. Pierce. Dr. Christiansen motions to grant a full and unrestricted medical license. Dr. Anderson seconds the motion and the motion passes.

**Joseph Markey, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. Markey is an applicant for initial licensure with no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Markey had a history of disruptive behavior during his surgical residency and has completed a two (2) year contract with Florida’s Physician Health Program. Dr. Markey has since entered into an internal

medicine residency without incident. Dr. Baron spoke on behalf of Dr. Markey. TMF supports Dr. Markey's application for licensure without monitoring or involvement. Dr. Christiansen motions to grant a full and unrestricted medical license. Mr. Ellis seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

**Kelly White, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Dr. White is an applicant for initial licensure with prior board action, no malpractice history, and no criminal history. Dr. White has been out of clinical practice since October 2004. Dr. White appears before the Board for consideration of TMF recommendations and a re-entry pathway. Dr. White sat for the Center for Personalized Education for Professionals (hereinafter, "CPEP") evaluation and submitted the recommendations from CPEP to the Board for consideration. Dr. Baron spoke on behalf of Dr. White. Dr. White signed a monitoring contract with TMF on March 9, 2021, and has been fully compliant with the terms of the contract. Dr. Christiansen motions to table the application for up to six (6) months to allow Dr. White 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. White will be granted a limited license, conditioned on compliance with the TMF contract, for no less than twelve (12) months to allow Dr. White to complete the re-entry plan. The preceptorship plan shall include the recommendations from the CPEP evaluation. The preceptor must be ABMS board certified in the specialty Dr. White intends to practice, and Dr. White is unable to supervise mid-level providers while practicing on a limited license. Dr. Hale seconds the motion, and the motion fails with Mr. Robert Ellis, Mr. James Diaz-Barriga, Dr. Keith Anderson, Dr. Randall Pearson, and Dr. John McGraw opposed. Dr. Anderson motions to table the application for up to six (6) months to allow Dr. White 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. White will be granted a limited license for no less than twelve (12) months to allow Dr. White to complete the re-entry plan. The preceptorship plan shall include the recommendations from the CPEP evaluation. The preceptor must be ABMS board certified in the specialty Dr. White intends to practice, and Dr. White is unable to supervise mid-level providers while practicing on a limited license. Upon successful completion of the preceptorship, the preceptor shall submit a letter of successful completion for review and consideration by the Board's medical consultant. Upon the consultant's determination of the successful completion of the preceptorship, Dr. White shall be invited to appear at a regularly scheduled Board meeting for consideration of converting the limited license to a full license with or without conditions. Dr. McGraw seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

**Zahid Bajwa, MD** – appeared before the Board with his legal representative, Mr. David Steed. Dr. Melanie Blake recused. Dr. Bajwa is an applicant for initial licensure with no malpractice history, no criminal history, and no prior board action. Dr. Bajwa has been out of clinical practice since February 24, 2019. Dr. Bajwa presented a re-entry plan to the Board for their consideration. Dr. Christiansen motions to grant a limited license for Dr. Bajwa to complete a thirty (30) day preceptorship. The limited license shall be for a duration of thirty (30) days, during which Dr. Bajwa may only practice under the supervision of Dr. Stephen Dreskin and may not supervise any mid-level providers. Upon completion of the preceptorship, Dr. Bajwa shall have Dr. Dreskin submit a letter to the Board's medical consultant detailing his evaluation and confirmation of Dr. Bajwa's clinical competency. Dr. Bajwa will then be able to apply for a full and unrestricted medical license. Ms. Claxton seconds the motion, and the motion passes with Dr. Blake recused.

## II. YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

Emily Godwin, Fiscal Director Health Licensure Regulation, presented the preliminary year-end financial report for the 2023 Fiscal Year. As the cumulative carryover does not exceed two times the three-year average of operating expenditures and the revenues are not two times greater than the Board's expenses

for two consecutive fiscal years, Ms. Godwin does not recommend discussion of a fee reduction at this time.

### III. CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

Discuss, consider and take action as needed regarding MD Xray course approval request – Advanced Imaging Review: Dr. Reeves Johnson, interim medical consultant, reviewed the course for approval. Dr. Johnson commends the program for their attention to detail in providing the required documentation for review. Dr. Johnson recommends the approval of the program. Dr. Christiansen motions to approve the course. Dr. Hale seconds the motion and the motion passes.

Discuss, consider and take action as needed regarding CME Waiver request – Mitchell Kaye, MD: Dr. Kaye submitted a request for Continuing Medical Education Waiver prior to his renewal date, due to hardships. Ms. Francine Baca-Chavez reviewed the rule for the CME Waiver requests with the Board. Dr. Christiansen motions to accept the extension request. Dr. Pearson seconds the motion and the motion passes.

Discuss, consider and take action as needed regarding Update on TMF Professional Screening Questionnaire email blast: Ms. Stacy Tarr, BME Executive Director, shared an update on the TMF Professional Screening Questionnaire email blast that was sent out to licensees following the July 25, 2023, Board of Medical Examiners meeting. The email was sent out to 23,653 licensees and was received by 23,468 of those licensees. Of the licensees who received the email, 16,458 opened the email and 656 clicked on the link.

Discuss, consider and take action as needed regarding electing a member for CSMD Committee: Dr. John McGraw previously served on the committee; however, he is no longer able to serve on the committee as he has taken on more responsibilities recently. Dr. McGraw motions to appoint Dr. Christiansen as his replacement. Mr. Ellis seconds the motion and the motion passes. Dr. Peter Phillips, CSMD Director, reports they are trying to reduce the number of meetings from three (3) times a year to two (2) times a year.

### IV. CONSIDER AND APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of July 25-26, 2023, Board of Medical Examiners Meeting minutes
2. Approval of July 25, 2023, Development Committee Meeting minutes
3. Approval of August 11, 2023, Informal Hearing minutes
4. Ratification of new licenses, reinstatement and renewals of Medical Doctors, MD X-Ray Operators, Genetic Counselors, Surgical Assistants, Acupuncture, Polysomnography
5. Approval of Agreed Citations – [Christina Arbogast Woolard, L.Ac.](#), [Jessica Puckett, L.Ac.](#), [Penelope Fattebert, L.Ac.](#), [Scott L Wilhoite, MD](#)
6. Review of the Office of General Counsel Report
7. Review report from the Administrative Office
8. Review report from the Office of Investigations
9. Ratification of Acupuncture Policies – [Lapsed License Policy](#), [CE Policy Statement](#), [Out of Practice Policy](#)

### V. UPDATES FROM TASKFORCES & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- a. **Development Committee Meeting Update (Dr. Blake, Mr. Ellis, and Dr. Christiansen, and Dr. Anderson) -**
  - i. The Committee met this morning, September 26, 2023.

- ii. Discuss and take action as needed regarding the quality improvement process and oversight of Board of Medical Examiners Committees- Ms. Baca-Chavez provided data regarding open investigations and cases for the three (3) health professional committees that the Board of Medical Examiners oversees. Moving forward the Board of Medical Examiners' Administrative Report will include information regarding licensees of the three (3) committees.
- iii. Discuss and take action as needed regarding T.C.A § 68-3-502 – Mr. Gary Bishop appeared before the Committee to discuss concerns raised by Dr. Keith Anderson. The Committee recommended updates to the VRISM notification system to include text notifications and reminders for password resets and pending death certificate certifications. Mr. Bishop will relay these recommendations to the VRISM vendor to see if this is an update that can be made.
- iv. Discuss and take action as needed regarding Preceptorship Plan Guide – The Committee recommends the approval of the preceptorship plan guide, which was amended during the Development Committee meeting. Ms. Brandi Allocco presented the amended version to the full Board for consideration. The Board amended the language on the Preceptorship Plan Guide one additional time. The Board approves the Preceptorship Plan Guide as amended.

The Board recessed for lunch.

## VI. DISCIPLINARY ORDERS

### Consent Order(s)

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

[David Katz, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. Mr. Justin Harleman represented the State. Dr. McGraw motions to approve the order. Dr. Hale seconds, and the motion passes.

[Kenneth Sullivan, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did his legal representative, Mr. Thomas Wiseman, appear on his behalf. Mr. Justin Harleman represented the State. Dr. Hale motions to approve the order. Dr. Christiansen seconds, and the motion passes.

[Leigh Anne Dunlap, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did her legal representative, Mr. Stephen Johnson, appear on his behalf. Mr. Justin Harleman represented the State. Dr. Christiansen motions to approve the order. Mr. Ellis seconds, and the motion passes.

[Indu Bali, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on her behalf. Ms. Candace Carter represented the State. Dr. Hale motions to approve the order. Dr. Christiansen seconds, and the motion passes.

[Gregory Uhl, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did his legal representative, Mr. Garrett Asher, appear on his behalf. Ms. Candace Carter represented the State. Dr. Hale motions to approve the order. Dr. Christiansen seconds, and the motion passes.

[Allen Uhlik, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. Ms. Candace Carter represented the State. Dr. Christiansen motions to approve the order. Ms. Claxton seconds, and the motion passes.

[Stephen Watson, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. Ms. Candace Carter represented the State. Dr. Hale motions to approve the order. Mr. Ellis seconds, and the motion passes.

[Fred Wilson, Jr., MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did his legal representative, Mr. Michael McLaren, appear on his behalf. Ms. Candace Carter represented the State. Dr. Anderson recused. Dr. McGraw motions to approve the order. Dr. Hale seconds, and the motion passes with Dr. Anderson recused.

[Dinia Cruz, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did her legal representative, Mr. Michael McLaren, appear on her behalf. Ms. Ashley Fine represented the State. Dr. McGraw motions to approve the order. Dr. Christiansen seconds, and the motion passes.

[Niansen Liu, MD\\*](#) – did not appear before the Board nor did his legal representative, Mr. Stephen Barham, appear on his behalf. Ms. Ashley Fine represented the State. Dr. Hale motions to approve the order. Dr. Christiansen seconds, and the motion passes.

**Susan Webb, MD** – did not appear before the Board nor did her legal representative, Mr. Stephen Ross Johnson, appear on her behalf. Mr. Michael Varnell represented the State. Dr. Christiansen and Dr. Pearson recused. Respondent was licensed on June 11, 1997, which is currently set to expire on November 30, 2024. In September of 2012, Respondent agreed to a consent order that was ratified by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners that placed Respondent’s Tennessee medical license on probation for no less than five (5) years for chemical dependency on opiates. That Order further required Respondent to maintain lifetime advocacy with the Tennessee Medical Foundation (“TMF”) and remain compliant with the terms and conditions of any contract with TMF. Respondent currently has TMF advocacy. Respondent maintains an active Drug Enforcement Agency (“DEA”) registration number that was renewed by DEA on September 16, 2022. Respondent is a gynecologist but was treating patients for opioid addiction part-time. On or about January 28, 2016, Respondent signed a three (3) year Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”), with the DEA to run through February 1, 2019, for failure to properly maintain dispensing records as to meperidine and testosterone, other recordkeeping violations, and failure to inform DEA of the 2012 Consent Order placing her medical license on probation. Pursuant to the terms of this MOA, Respondent was prohibited from ordering, storing, administering, or dispensing controlled substances, to include samples. Under the terms of the MOA, Respondent agreed to personally review her DEA registration and accurately answer all liability questions on the application at any time in the future. When Respondent renewed her DEA registration number in 2016 and 2018, the applications asked if her state medical license was ever suspended, denied or place on probation for any reason. Respondent’s DEA renewal applications in 2016 and 2018 did not accurately reflect that her Tennessee medical license was placed on probation in 2012. Respondent contends her office manager, Glenn Zink, renewed her DEA registration via the online application process in 2016 and 2018. Respondent contends she was later informed that her office manager did not answer that her Tennessee medical license was placed on probation in the 2016 and 2018 renewals. Respondent further contends the DEA was aware of the probationary status of her Tennessee medical license due to the above-mentioned MOA with the DEA, which was entered into before the 2016 and 2018 renewals with the DEA. On or about July 12, 2018, Respondent applied to Amerisource Bergan to order vivitrol. Respondent’s application was denied because her DEA address did not match the address on her application. On or about November 16, 2018, Respondent applied to Amerisource Bergan to order vivitrol and buprenorphine (Schedule III controlled substances). This was approximately two (2) months before the MOA with the DEA was set to expire.

Here, the pharmaceutical application with Amerisource Bergan asked if Respondent had ever been disciplined by a state board or the DEA. The answer to this question was marked “yes”. The follow up question on the application was “If yes, for what reason?” The answer to this question was “see attached letter”. Respondent contends the application was filled out by her office manager, Glenn Zink. The letter that Respondent attached to the questionnaire provided a narrative of the reason for the disciplinary action disclosed on the questionnaire: that Respondent had developed an addiction to opiates in 2011 after four surgeries that year, that Respondent completed residential addiction treatment in 2012, and that Respondent continue to participate in a program with the Tennessee Medical Foundation. However, the attached letter did not explain the type of discipline imposed by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners or that Respondent was under an active MOA with the DEA. Respondent contends the timing of the application (two months before the MOA expiration with the DEA) and the narrative answer in the attached letter were negligence and interpretation errors on the part of her office manager. Respondent contends she unintentionally did not catch or correct these errors due to her own negligence in supervising the office manager. This application with Amerisource Bergan was approved. On or about December 3, 2018, Respondent received 2,220 8 mg tablets of buprenorphine. Respondent made subsequent orders to Amerisource Bergan for buprenorphine for a total of 5,299 8 mg tablets. On or about June 17, 2020, the DEA executed a warrant for inspection on Respondent’s office. Here, the DEA discovered that Respondent was not storing the buprenorphine ordered from Amerisource Bergan at her office, which is her DEA registration address. Instead, she was storing the buprenorphine at her personal home residence. Further, when conducting an audit of the buprenorphine tablets stored at Respondent’s personal home residence, the DEA discovered that 221 8 mg tablets of buprenorphine were missing and unaccounted for. Respondent’s dispensing log did not contain the address of the patient or the name of the individual who dispensed the buprenorphine. On at least ten (10) different occasions, Respondent’s dispensing log did not list the full name of the individual receiving the buprenorphine. Respondent contends that during this time she employed an office manager named Glenn Zink. Respondent contends Mr. Zink signed Respondent’s name to applications for addiction medication. Respondent contends that Mr. Zink did not accurately maintain addiction medicine dispensing records and did not properly store medications. Respondent contends she was unaware of Mr. Zink’s actions, and that she terminated his employment. Respondent contends she stopped treating addiction patients in or around September of 2020. The facts stipulated are grounds for discipline. This order shall reprimand Respondent’s medical license. Pursuant to the consent order ratified by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners in September 2012, Respondent is required to maintain lifetime advocacy with TMF and remain one hundred percent (100%) compliant with the terms and conditions of any TMF contract. Respondent shall not prescribe or dispense controlled substances for at least six (6) months and until successful completion of the continuing education contained in this Order. During any period in which Respondent is restricted from prescribing or dispensing controlled substances, Respondent shall not serve as collaborating physician or substitute collaborating physician. During any period of in which Respondent is restricted from prescribing or dispensing controlled substances, Respondent shall not supervise, or substitute supervise any mid-levels. At the expiration of the six (6) month period, and after Respondent has provided proof to the Disciplinary Coordinator that she has completed the coursework requirement, Respondent may petition the Board to lift the restriction on prescribing and dispensing controlled substances on her license imposed by this Order. Respondent must enroll in and successfully complete within one (1) year, the course entitled “Prescribing Controlled Drugs” offered at The Center for Professional Health at Vanderbilt University Medical Center located in Nashville, Tennessee, or an equivalent course approved in advance by the Board’s Medical Director. Respondent shall pay two (2) Type A civil penalties in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Respondent shall pay all actual and reasonable costs of the case not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00). It is the general consensus of the Board that based on the facts stipulated, the discipline was too minimal. Dr. McGraw motions to approve the order. Without a second, the motion fails. Dr. Hale motions to reject the order. Dr. Anderson seconds, and the motion passes with Dr. Christiansen and Dr. Pearson recused.

**Troy Potthoff, MD\*** – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. Mr. Michael Varnell represented the State. Dr. Hale motions to approve the order. Mr. Diaz-Barriga seconds, and the motion passes.

**Raymond Ahles, ACU\*** – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. Mr. John Heacock represented the State. Dr. Hale motions to approve the order. Dr. Christiansen seconds, and the motion passes.

**Traci Matthews, ADS\*** – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on her behalf. Mr. John Heacock represented the State. Dr. Hale motions to approve the order. Dr. McGraw seconds, and the motion passes.

**Bryan Merrick, MD\*** – did not appear before the Board nor did a legal representative appear on his behalf. Ms. Francine Baca-Chavez presented on behalf of Ms. Jessica Turner who represented the State. Dr. McGraw motions to approve the order. Dr. Hale seconds, and the motion passes.

## VII. **ORDERS OF COMPLIANCE**

**Cortez Tucker, MD** – appeared before the Board without legal representation. Ms. Francine Baca-Chavez presented the Order of Compliance. The petition requests the Board lift the probation on Dr. Tucker’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. Dr. Pearson motions to accept the order of compliance. Mr. Ellis seconds the motion, and it passes.

**Raju Indukuri, MD** – appeared before the Board with his legal representation, Mr. Scott McDearman. Dr. Blake recused. Ms. Francine Baca-Chavez presented the Order of Compliance. The petition requests the Board lifts the restrictions on prescribing opioids on petitioner’s license. It is the position of the Disciplinary Coordinator and the Office of General Counsel that he is not in compliance with the terms of his previous order. Mr. Scott McDearman spoke on behalf of Dr. Indukuri. Dr. Indukuri admits to prescribing opioids after the six (6) month period stipulated in the ratified Order, but prior to the lifting of the restriction through an Order of Compliance. It is the consensus of the Board that there was a violation of the Board Order, therefore Dr. Indukuri is not in compliance. Dr. Christiansen motions to charge civil penalties in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) per opioid prescribed and to extend the period of restriction of prescribing opioids for an additional three (3) months, at which time Dr. Indukuri will need to petition the Board for an Order of Compliance again and reappear to have the restrictions lifted. Dr. McGraw seconds the motion, and it passes with Dr. Blake recused.

**Trent Cross, MD** – appeared before the Board with his legal representation, Mr. Sam Helmbrecht. Mr. Ellis recused. Ms. Francine Baca-Chavez presented the Order of Compliance. The petition requests the Board lift the probation on Dr. Cross’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. Dr. Christiansen motions to accept the order of compliance. Mr. Diaz-Barriga seconds the motion, and it passes with Mr. Ellis recused.

### **Next Development Committee Agenda**

- a. Updates on Pain Clinic and Pain Management Guidelines
- b. Public Chapters 211 and 470

## VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**The Board recessed at 2:44 pm CT.**





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

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

**Wednesday, September 27, 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 Room Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243.

Board members present: Melanie Blake, MD, President  
Robert Ellis, Consumer Member, Secretary  
Deborah Christiansen, MD  
Keith Anderson, MD  
Jennifer Claxton, Consumer Member  
John McGraw, MD

Staff present: Francine Baca-Chavez, JD, Office of General Counsel  
Stacy Tarr, BME Executive Director  
Brandi Allocco, Administrative Director  
Samantha Green, Board Administrator  
Jeffrin Zachariah, Board Administrator

**Contested Case – Iris Room**

**[Delenya Allen, MD\\*](#) v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners**

**Iris Room**

**Administrative Law Judge: Richard Murrell**

**Panelists: Deborah Christiansen, MD, Keith Anderson, MD, and Jennifer Claxton, 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 her behalf. A panel of the Board, chaired by Dr. Anderson, 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.

**IX. ORDERS OF COMPLIANCE (CONTINUED)**

**Mark Simpson, MD** – appeared before a panel of the Board without legal representation. Ms. Francine Baca-Chavez presented the Order of Compliance. The petition requests the Board lift the probation on Dr.

Simpson'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. Dr. Christiansen motions to accept the order of compliance with the Condition of lifetime monitoring by the Tennessee Medical Foundation to remain. Ms. Claxton seconds the motion, and it passes.

#### **Contested Case – Iris Room**

**[Charles Cox, MD\\*](#) v. State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners**

**Iris Room**

**Administrative Law Judge: Richard Murrell**

**Panelists: Deborah Christiansen, MD, Keith Anderson, MD, and Jennifer Claxton, Consumer Member**

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

**Counsel for Respondent: Phillip Lawrence, Esq**

The Respondent appeared before a panel of the Board with his legal representation, Mr. Phillip Lawrence. A panel of the Board, chaired by Dr. Anderson, heard from both parties and witnesses prior to deliberation. The panel went through the proposed Orders and Dr. Christiansen motions to accept the proposed Final Order from the State with the amendment of removal of paragraph 14. Ms. Claxton seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

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