

Board of Licensure in Medicine
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August 8, 2023

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**Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine
Minutes of August 8, 2023**

Board Members Present: Chair Maroulla S. Gleaton, M.D.; Secretary Christopher R. Ross, P.A.; Holly W. Fanjoy, M.D.; Renee Fay-LeBlanc, M.D.; Public Member Gregory Jamison, RPh; Brad Waddell, M.D. and Public Member Lynne M. Weinstein

Board Members Absent: Noah Nesin, M.D. and Public Member Jonathan Sahrbeck

Board Staff Present: Executive Director Dennis E. Smith, J.D.; Assistant Executive Director Timothy E. Terranova; Medical Director Paul Smith, M.D.; Complaint Coordinator Kelly L. McLaughlin; Investigative Secretary Faith L. McLaughlin; Administrative Assistant Maureen S. Lathrop; Licensing Specialist Tracy A. Morrison and Licensing Specialist Savannah Okoronkwo

Attorney General's Office Staff Present: Assistant Attorney General Michael Miller

The Board met in public session except during the times listed below which were held in executive session. Executive sessions are held to consider matters which, under statute, are confidential (*e.g.*, 1 M.R.S. § 405; 10 M.R.S. § 8003-B; 22 M.R.S. § 1711-C; 24 M.R.S. § 2510; 32 M.R.S. § 3282-A). The Board moved, seconded, and voted the following executive session times. During the public session of the meeting, actions were taken on all matters discussed during executive session. In addition, though not required by law, the meeting was made virtually available to the public not attending the meeting in person using the platform Zoom. A link for the public to access the Board meeting virtually was included on the Board's agenda and posted on its website.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

PURPOSE

9:15 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(E) to consult and seek legal advice regarding pending litigation

12:59 p.m. – 1:18 p.m.

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) to discuss a personnel matter

2:13 p.m. – 2:28 p.m.

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(E) to consult and seek legal advice regarding pending and potential litigation

RECESSES

9:57 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.

Recess

12:06 p.m. – 12:37 p.m.

Lunch

2:06 p.m. – 2:12 p.m.

Recess

I. Call to Order

Dr. Gleaton called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

A. Amendments to Agenda (none)

B. Scheduled Agenda Items (none)

II. Licensing

A. Applications for Individual Consideration

1. Initial Applications

a. Joseph T. Dell’Orfano, Jr., M.D.

Mr. Ross moved to approve Dr. Dell’Orfano’s license application. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:23 a.m. the Board revisited this matter.

Dr. Fanjoy moved to table Dr. Dell’Orfano’s license application and request that he submit a statement explaining what he learned as a result of the malpractice case and how his practice has changed as a result. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. Ronald D. Howell, M.D.

Mr. Ross moved to grant Dr. Howell’s request for a waiver for more than three attempts to pass USMLE Step 3 and not completing the examination series within seven years and to approve his license application. Ms. Weinstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Jon Stauffer, M.D.

Dr. Waddell moved to table Dr. Stauffer’s license application and request that he submit a statement explaining what he learned as a result of the malpractice case and how his practice has changed as a result. Mr. Ross seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. Coletta Hargis, M.D.

Dr. Waddell moved to allow Dr. Hargis two weeks to either provide information previously requested by Board staff or withdraw her license

application while not under investigation and to preliminarily deny her license application if she does not choose either option. Mr. Ross seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

e. Michael A. Wack, M.D.

Dr. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc moved to approve Dr. Wack's license application. Dr. Fanjoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Reinstatement Applications (none)

3. Renewal Applications

a. Thomas Bugbee, M.D.

Dr. Fay-LeBlanc moved to approve Dr. Bugbee's renewal application. Dr. Fanjoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. La Tania M. Akers-White, M.D.

This matter was tabled to be discussed in conjunction with another matter later in the meeting.

c. Tracy L. Weigel, M.D.

Mr. Ross moved to 1) allow Dr. Weigel two weeks to provide evidence of completion of continuing medical education (CME) requested as the result of random audit at renewal and issue a citation for failure to meet CME requirements at license renewal as confirmed by random audit. Dr. Weigel's license will be issued upon payment of the fine; 2) allow Dr. Weigel to withdraw her license application while not under investigation; or 3) to preliminarily deny Dr. Weigel's renewal application if she does not choose either option. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. Emil P. Miskovsky, M.D.

Mr. Ross moved to 1) allow Dr. Miskovsky two weeks to provide evidence of completion of continuing medical education (CME) requested as the result of random audit at renewal and issue a citation for failure to meet CME requirements at license renewal as confirmed by random audit. Dr. Miskovsky's license will be issued upon payment of the fine; 2) allow Dr. Miskovsky to withdraw his license application while not under investigation; or 3) to preliminarily deny Dr. Miskovsky's renewal application if he does not choose either option. Ms. Weinstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. **Requests to Convert to Active Status (none)**
5. **Requests to Withdraw License/License Application (none)**
6. **Requests for Collaborative/Practice Agreements**

- a. **Daniel T. Moyer, P.A.**

Mr. Ross moved to approve Mr. Moyer's practice agreement. Dr. Fanjoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. Other Items for Discussion

1. **Jessica Morse, M.D. Request to Terminate Reentry Plan**

Dr. Fay-LeBlanc moved to grant Dr. Morse's request to terminate her reentry to clinical practice plan. Dr. Fanjoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. **Missing Exams**

Mr. Jamison moved to issue complaints against four physicians licensed through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact who have failed to complete jurisprudence exams despite multiple contacts from Board staff. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Following discussion of the issue, Mr. Ross moved to delegate authority to Board staff to issue a complaint against any physician licensed through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact who fails to complete the jurisprudence exam following four contacts from Board staff. Ms. Weinstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Citations and Administrative Fines

This material was presented for informational purposes. No Board action was required.

D. Licensing Status Report

This material was presented for informational purposes. No Board action was required.

E. Licensing Feedback (none)

III. Board Orders/Consent Agreements/Resolution Documents for Review

A. CR22-121 Bernard H. Perlman, M.D. Consent Agreement

Dr. Fanjoy moved to approve the consent agreement. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. Milos Sinik, M.D. Consent Agreement for Licensure

Dr. Fay-LeBlanc moved to approve the consent agreement for licensure. Dr. Fanjoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. Complaints

1. CR21-156

Dr. Waddell moved to dismiss the complaint. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION: The relevant malpractice suit alleges clinical incompetence relating to a laparoscopic cholecystectomy – specifically, failure to diagnose postoperative biloma in a timely manner which ultimately led to the patient’s death. External peer review supports the care provided by the licensee.

2. CR21-177

At 9:15 a.m. Mr. Ross moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(E) to consult and seek legal advice regarding pending litigation. Mr. Jamison seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:20 a.m. Ms. Weinstein moved to come out of executive session. Mr. Ross seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Following discussion, the Board will maintain status quo.

3. CR22-147

Ms. Weinstein moved to close the matter with no further action and report the expiration of the physician’s license while under investigation to the appropriate databanks. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION: A patient complains the physician closed his practice and she was not notified of the closure or how to obtain her medical records. The physician did reach out to the patient after the complaint was received and provided her with a referral and medical records.

This complaint was reviewed in February 2023 and further questions were asked of the physician, mainly to provide documentation and clarity of how and when he or his

staff notified patients of the office closure. He responded with one vague e-mail about reaching out to a representative from his electronic medical record provider to see if they could help to locate a message sent to patients. The Board has had no further contact with this physician. The phone number on file is not valid and he has not responded further to Board staff e-mail communication. A recent telephonic interview with his practice manager (at the time of the office closure) did not provide any additional helpful information. The physician's license expired in June of this year.

4. CR23-98

Ms. Weinstein moved to close the matter with no further action and report the expiration of the physician's license while under investigation to the appropriate databanks. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION: A patient complains she called this physician's office to schedule an appointment and learned the office was permanently closed. She had seen this specialist for several years and could not obtain her medical records. The phone number Board staff has on file is not current and the physician has not responded to e-mail. The physician claimed he now resides in Europe.

5. CR22-232

Dr. Fay-LeBlanc moved to dismiss the complaint upon receipt of the physician's written representation that she will not perform obstetrics. Ms. Weinstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION: The patient was a 34-year-old female at forty-one weeks gestation who felt her family practice clinician lacked care and practiced negligently. Specifically, she felt that her not ordering a pre-induction ultrasound was inappropriate prior to elective induction. Additionally, she states the clinician did not assist with a mental health treatment plan resulting in protracted post-partum depression, and that she was expelled from the practice without warning or cause.

Review of the records indicate appropriate perinatal and post-partum care including mental health screening. The licensee attests that she is no longer practicing OB and does not intend to in the future.

6. CR22-238

Dr. Fanjoy moved to investigate further and request that the physician complete a course regarding medical record documentation and report to the Board what she gained from the course. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. CR22-239

Dr. Waddell moved to allow the physician to withdraw his renewal application while not under investigation and with the written representation that he will not reapply for licensure in Maine and to direct the physician to undergo a § 3286 comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation if he chooses not to withdraw his renewal application. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. CR23-31 Srikanth Padma, M.D.

Dr. Gleaton moved to dismiss the complaint with a letter of guidance. Mr. Ross seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION: The Board initiated the complaint following a report from a health care facility regarding the physician's failure to timely complete medical record documentation despite having provided him with time to do so. The physician responded to the complaint and explained the circumstances regarding his failure to timely complete the medical record documentation.

The guidance is as follows: Complete, accurate and timely medical record documentation is essential to good patient care. Failure to ensure such medical documentation creates risk for inaccuracies or omissions, unnecessary delay in patient management, and difficulty with coordinating patient care going forward.

9. CR23-48

Dr. Fay-LeBlanc moved to dismiss the complaint. Mr. Ross seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION: The patient reports that the provider acted unprofessionally and did not address her concerns during a prenatal visit. The patient was being cared for by a nurse midwife and the licensee is the supervising physician. The patient requested induction of labor at thirty-seven weeks, then at thirty-eight weeks due to some underlying medical conditions and fears around the baby's size and transportation once labor started. The licensee advised the patient that induction before thirty-nine weeks is not done unless there is a medical indication (in this situation there was not). The records include a maternal fetal medicine note that also advise against elective induction at less than thirty-nine weeks. The medical records documented by the licensee are thorough and it does appear that an entire visit with the patient did occur.

10. CR23-51

Dr. Waddell moved to dismiss the complaint. Mr. Jamison seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION: The patient alleges that surgery on his hand was not properly performed resulting in poor outcome. He is not satisfied with the outcome in direct comparison to is opposite hand on which a similar procedure was performed two years prior. Review of the records indicates that appropriate care was provided. Patient noncompliance with recommendations regarding splinting and occupational therapy may be factors contributing to the less-than-optimal outcome.

11. CR23-52

Dr. Gleaton moved to dismiss the complaint. Ms. Weinstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION: A patient complains about the surgical care she received by an orthopedist who performed a revision of a previous rotator cuff surgery and correction of an impingement. Review of the records reveals reasonable, appropriate care. Despite the surgeon trying to explain that the biceps was normal on surgical inspection and on imaging testing and that her pain was likely referred from the recently reoperated rotator cuff, the patient did not feel this was true and sought a second opinion elsewhere. This referral elsewhere was expedited by the licensee's staff.

12. CR23-53

Dr. Fanjoy moved to investigate further, obtain an expert review and request that the physician complete a communication course and report to the Board what he gained from the course. Ms. Weinstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

13. CR23-60

Dr. Fay-LeBlanc moved to dismiss the complaint. Mr. Ross seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION: The complaint is twenty-five pages in length. In addition, there are several documents from the complainant, including medical evaluations, newspaper clippings, and court proceedings. There is also an eight-page rebuttal as well as additional information. The complaint centers around one interaction between the licensee and the patient. The heart of the complaint appears to be that the patient did not feel heard, felt that an incorrect diagnosis was assigned and that his request for a cream that he had been using was misinterpreted as a request for opioids. The information provided reveals that the patient has had a significant amount of trauma, some of which through the medical community. The licensee is meeting the patient for the first time and appears to have reviewed the records that were available to him at the time. These records and the comments of other providers are carried forward into the licensee's note. The licensee does document that the patient disagreed with the diagnosis when they discussed it and the licensee's assessment includes some alternative diagnosis and a referral for a psychiatric evaluation.

14. CR23-61

Dr. Fanjoy moved to table the matter. Dr. Waddell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

15. CR23-84

Mr. Ross moved to dismiss the complaint. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION: The patient complains that the physician assistant minimized her concerns about fast heart rate and refused to treat it. The physician assistant also refused to sign proof of disability paperwork. The physician assistant responded that she reviewed the patient's issues, and her testing was appropriate. While reviewing records the physician assistant noted that a previous provider refused to sign disability paperwork and when she asked the patient about it, she said that another provider signed it for her. Review of the records revealed that the patient received reasonable care.

16. CR23-87 Joseph H. Anderson, M.D.

Mr. Jamison moved to dismiss the complaint with a letter of guidance. Mr. Ross seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION: The complaint was filed by the mother of a minor patient who was upset when she expected that her children would be accepted into the physician's practice, and subsequently was advised that they would not be a good fit. The physician responded to the complaint, provided a copy of the medical records, and explained his rationale for the decisions and actions of himself and his office staff.

The guidance is as follows: Great care in communication should be taken particularly when establishing a new clinical relationship. All parties should be clear from the start regarding expectations so that an appropriate relationship can be initiated, and the risk of confusion, misunderstanding, and disappointment can be minimized.

17. CR23-92

Mr. Ross moved to dismiss the complaint. Dr. Fanjoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION: The patient's mother complains that the physician started her daughter on a medication without a full evaluation. The physician responded that she did meet with the patient multiple times and had seen other providers for the same issue and that the medication was believed to be the most appropriate treatment. Review of the records revealed that the patient received reasonable care.

18. CR23-99

Dr. Fay-LeBlanc moved to table the matter. Dr. Fanjoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

19. CR23-111

Dr. Waddell moved to investigate further, obtain an expert review by a critical care surgeon and request that the physician explain a discrepancy regarding referral for a second opinion and provide any available documentation. Mr. Ross seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

20. Intentionally left blank

V. Assessment and Direction

21. AD23-22

Dr. Fay-LeBlanc moved to issue a complaint (**CR23-161**), request five additional patient charts and obtain an expert review. Mr. Ross seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

22. AD23-72

Dr. Fanjoy moved to issue a complaint (**CR23-163**), obtain an expert review and confirm that the New Hampshire Board of Medicine received notification regarding the prescribing practices of the physician. Mr. Jamison seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

23. AD23-81

Dr. Waddell moved to issue a complaint (**CR23-164**) and request that the physician respond to specific questions included in the notice of complaint. Dr. Fanjoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

24. AD23-119

Dr. Waddell moved to close the matter with no further action. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

25. AD23-120

Dr. Fanjoy moved to issue a complaint (**CR23-165**), direct that the physician undergo a § 3286 comprehensive evaluation to include polygraph testing, and request that he convert his license to inactive status until resolution of this matter. Ms. Weinstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

26. AD23-130

Dr. Fay-LeBlanc moved to offer the physician the opportunity to permanently surrender his Maine medical license while not under investigation and if he chooses not to surrender his license, issue a complaint, request that the physician provide all documentation regarding all actions reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, and undergo a clinical competency assessment by the Center for Personalized Education for Professionals (CPEP). Dr. Waddell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

27. AD23-136

Mr. Ross moved to issue a complaint (**CR23-166**), issue an Order of Immediate Suspension, and allow the physician forty-eight hours to convert his license to inactive status until resolution of this matter in lieu of the immediate suspension of his license. Dr. Fanjoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

28. Intentionally left blank

29. Pending Adjudicatory Hearings and Informal Conferences Report

This material was presented for informational purposes. No Board action was required.

30. Consumer Assistance Specialist Feedback

This material was presented for informational purposes. No Board action was required.

VI. Informal Conference (none)

VII. Minutes for Approval

A. July 11, 2023

Mr. Ross moved to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023, meeting. Mr. Jamison seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. July 28, 2023

Ms. Weinstein moved to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2023, meeting. Mr. Jamison seconded the motion, which passed 6-0-1-0 with Mr. Ross abstaining.

VIII. Consent Agreement Monitoring

A. Monitoring Reports

1. CR22-207 La Tania M. Akers-White, M.D.

Mr. Ross moved to offer Dr. Akers-White one week to withdraw her renewal application while not under investigation and if she chooses not to withdraw her application, preliminarily deny her renewal application based on non-compliance with her consent agreement. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. CR20-133 Cameron R. Bonney, M.D.

Mr. Ross moved to offer Dr. Bonney an amendment to his consent agreement to allow him to work a total of thirty clinical and administrative hours per week, require monthly submission of his time sheets for six months at which time the Board will review the requirement, and allow reports from the practice monitor to be submitted quarterly rather than monthly. Ms. Weinstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IX. Adjudicatory Hearing (none)

X. Remarks of Chair

Dr. Gleaton reported that she attended an FSMB meeting in July. Results of a recent physician census conducted by the FSMB were discussed as well as AI and medical regulation. Dr. Gleaton also noted participation by Canadian colleagues who noted similar issues concerning lack of enough providers to care for the patient population.

Ms. Weinstein reported on her recent attendance at the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Innovation in Regulation conference. The conference was attended by fifty – sixty participants. Ms. Weinstein reported that smaller number of attendees, variety of regulatory boards and format of the conference was beneficial in sharing ideas.

A. Personnel Matter

At 12:59 p.m. Mr. Ross moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) to discuss a personnel matter. Ms. Weinstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 1:18 p.m. Dr. Waddell moved to come out of executive session. Mr. Ross seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Ross moved to hire Timothy E. Terranova as the Executive Director of the Board effective October 1, 2023, based upon his twenty-three-years of experience with the Board, including eight years as the Assistant Executive Director; commitment to the mission of the Board; involvement with medical regulatory organizations on local, national and international levels; and innovation in implementing processes to

improve efficiency and service. Mr. Terranova's salary was set at Grade 89, Step 3. Dr. Waddell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

XI. Remarks of Executive Director

A. Discussion on Referrals of MCAP and Other Entities

Mr. Ross moved to authorize staff to select one of the following three entities to conduct evaluations when the Board has requested that a licensee be evaluated by the Multidisciplinary Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) and MCAP is not able to conduct the evaluation:

- Acumen Assessments
- Pine Grove Behavioral Health & Addiction Services
- Professional Renewal Center

Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

XII. Assistant Executive Director's Monthly Report

Mr. Terranova informed the Board that the legislature approved the budget including all increases requested by the Board.

Mr. Terranova reported continued progress implementing an API with the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact to transfer renewal information electronically.

Mr. Terranova noted that Nathan Fitts has been assisting the Federation of State Medical Boards with updates to the PDC and his feedback has been extremely helpful. Mr. Fitts will receive a commendation in his file.

Mr. Terranova shared statistics from the Board's recent newsletter. Board members suggested an article with guidance on closing a medical practice be included in an upcoming newsletter.

Mr. Terranova reported on the creation of the Commission Regarding Foreign Trained Physicians Living in Maine. The legislature has requested participation of a representative of the Board.

Mr. Ross moved to appoint Mr. Terranova as the Board's representative. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A. PMP Advisory Committee Controlled Substances Document

This material was presented for informational purposes. No Board action was required.

XIII. Medical Director's Report (none)

XIV. Remarks of Assistant Attorney General

AAG Miller reported on a Stipulation of Dismissal filed in regard to pending litigation.

At 2:13 p.m. Mr. Jamison moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(E) to consult and seek legal advice regarding pending and potential litigation. Dr. Fay-LeBlanc seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 2:28 p.m. Mr. Ross moved to come out of executive session. Mr. Jamison seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

XV. Rulemaking (none)

XVI. Policy Review (none)

XVII. Requests for Guidance (none)

XVIII. Board Correspondence (none)

XIX. FSMB Material (none)

XX. FYI

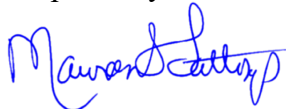
This material was presented for informational purposes. No Board action was required.

XXI. Other Business (none)

XXII. Adjournment 2:29 p.m.

At 2:29 p.m. Dr. Waddell moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ross seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Maureen S. Lathrop
Administrative Assistant