

**State Medical Board of Ohio**  
**Formal Action Report – January 13, 2021**

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Please find below a summary of actions taken or initiated by the State Medical Board of Ohio and an update of Board matters pending or decided in courts as of January 13, 2021.

**PRE-HEARING SUSPENSIONS**

**NEUHOFF**, Ronica Ann, M.D., (#35.067710) - Boyne City, Michigan

Pursuant to Section 4731.22(G), medical license summarily suspended based on Board's determination that there is clear and convincing evidence that doctor is in violation of Section 4731.22(B)(19), Ohio Revised Code, and that her continued practice presents a danger of immediate and serious harm to the public. Order effective 1/13/21. Suspension effective 1/13/21. (See also: Citations/Proposed Denials below.)

**CITATIONS/PROPOSED DENIALS**

**BORDER**, Rachel, M.T. Applicant - Chesterhill, Ohio

Massage therapist notified of right to request a hearing on the question of whether her failure to submit to a Board ordered examination was due to circumstances beyond her control. Based on the applicant's submission of an application for a license to practice massage therapy; and on the legal presumption that the applicant's failure to submit to the examination constitutes an admission that the applicant is unable to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care because of habitual or excessive use or abuse of drugs, alcohol, or other substances that impair ability to practice; and an inability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care by reason of mental illness or physical illness, including, but not limited to, physical deterioration that adversely affects cognitive, motor, or perceptive skills. Notice of opportunity for a hearing mailed 1/14/21.

**COOK**, Brett, M.T. Applicant - Milan, Indiana

Massage therapist notified of right to request a hearing on the question of whether his failure to submit to a Board ordered examination was due to circumstances beyond his control. Based on the applicant's submission of an application for a license to practice massage therapy, and on the legal presumption that the applicant's failure to submit to an examination constitutes an admission that the applicant is unable to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care because of habitual or excessive use or abuse of drugs, alcohol, or other substances that impair ability to practice. Notice of opportunity for a hearing mailed 1/14/21.

**NEUHOFF, Ronica Ann, M.D., (#35.067710) - Boyne City, Michigan**

Doctor notified of right to request a hearing on the question of whether her failure to submit to a Board ordered examination was due to circumstances beyond her control. Based on the legal presumption that the doctor's failure to attend the board ordered examination constitutes an admission that the doctor is unable to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care by reason of mental illness or physical illness, including, but not limited to physical deterioration that adversely affects cognitive, motor, or perceptive skills. Opportunity for Hearing on Failure to Submit to an Examination, and Notice of Summary Suspension mailed 1/14/21.

**OPPONG, Bernard K., D.O., (#34.005401) - Columbus, Ohio**

Based on allegations that the doctor's conviction in the United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, to one felony count of Health Care Fraud Scheme, three felony counts of Health Care False Statements, and one felony count of Conspiracy to Distribute and Dispense a Controlled Substance, individually and/or collectively constitute a plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, or a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction for, a felony; and the obtaining of, or attempting to obtain, money or anything of value by fraudulent misrepresentations in the course of practice. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 1/14/21.

**WATSON, Noel J., M.D., (#35.033754) - Germantown, Ohio**

Based on allegations with respect to the care and treatment of 10 identified patients, the doctor inappropriately treated and/or failed to appropriately treat or document treatment, failed to take appropriate actions or change prescribing practices for patients whom were receiving controlled substances from multiple prescribers, to refer patients to pain management or other appropriate consults or specialists, to administer urine screens, or conduct or document appropriate tests, which individually and/or collectively would constitute: a failure to maintain minimal standards applicable to the selection or administration of drugs, or failure to employ acceptable scientific methods in the selection of drugs or other modalities for treatment of disease; violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate, any provisions or rule of the Board, to wit: Utilizing Prescription Drugs for the Treatment of Intractable Pain; Utilizing Prescription Drugs for the Treatment of Chronic Pain; Prescribing for Subacute and Chronic Pain; and the Standards and Procedures for Review of Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 1/14/21.

### **NON-DISCIPLINARY CITATIONS**

**FERGUSON, Kimberly, M.T. Applicant - Cleveland, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)**

Proposed conditional approval of application to practice massage therapy so long as the applicant takes and passes the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination within six months, based on the submission of an application to practice massage therapy; and on allegations that the

applicant has not been engaged in the active practice of massage therapy for two years. Notice of opportunity for a hearing mailed 1/14/21.

**GRANT, Tori, M.T., (#33.022747) - Cincinnati, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)**

Proposed conditional approval of application for restoration of license to practice massage therapy so long as the applicant takes and passes the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination within six months, based on the submission of an application for restoration of license to practice massage therapy; and on allegations that the applicant has not been engaged in the active practice of massage therapy for two years. Notice of opportunity for a hearing mailed 1/14/21.

**MCCULLOUGH, Gerald, R.C.P. Applicant - South Shore, Kentucky (Non-Disciplinary)**

Proposed conditional approval of application to practice respiratory care so long as the applicant takes and passes the Therapist Multiple Choice for Certified Respiratory Therapists within six months, based on the submission of an application to practice respiratory care; and on allegations that the applicant has not been engaged in the active practice of respiratory care for two years. Notice of opportunity for a hearing mailed 1/14/21.

**PARIS, Da'Vonna Me'Shay, M.T. Applicant - Cleveland, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)**

Proposed conditional approval of application to practice massage therapy so long as the applicant takes and passes the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination within six months, based on the submission of an application to practice massage therapy; and on allegations that the applicant has not been engaged in the active practice of massage therapy for two years. Notice of opportunity for a hearing mailed 1/14/21.

**PRUITT, Jesse L., M.T., (#33.020426) - Bedform Heights, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)**

Proposed conditional approval of application for restoration of license to practice massage therapy so long as the applicant takes and passes the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination within six months, based on the submission of an application for restoration of license to practice massage therapy; and on allegations that the applicant has not been engaged in the active practice of massage therapy for two years. Notice of opportunity for a hearing mailed 1/14/21.

**RUSSELL, Jami, R.C.P. Applicant - Sarasota, Florida (Non-Disciplinary)**

Proposed conditional approval of application to practice respiratory care so long as the applicant takes and passes the Therapist Multiple Choice for Certified Respiratory Therapists within six months, based on the submission of an application to practice respiratory care; and on allegations that the applicant has not been engaged in the active practice of respiratory care for two years. Notice of opportunity for a hearing mailed 1/14/21.

## **FINAL ORDERS**

**BHAMBHANI**, Ghanshyam, M.D., (#35.069411) - Flushing, New York

License to practice medicine and surgery permanently revoked, and fined eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000.00). Based on the doctor's plea of guilty in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, to Conspiracy to Pay Healthy Care Bribes and Kickbacks; and based on a prior action by the New York State Board of Professional Conduct, which accepted the doctor's voluntary surrender of his license in response to the New York Board's citation alleging professional misconduct, which individually and/or collectively constitute a plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, or a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction for, a felony; and any of the following actions taken by an agency responsible for authorizing, certifying, or regulating an individual to practice a health care occupation or provide health care services in this state or another jurisdiction, for any reason other than the nonpayment of fees: the limitation, revocation, or suspension of an individual's license to practice; acceptance of an individual's license surrender; denial of a license; refusal to renew or reinstate a license; imposition of probation; or issuance of an order of censure or other reprimand. Order effective 1/14/21. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

**FLYNN**, Freeda J., M.D., (#35.066409) - Cincinnati, Ohio

License to practice medicine and surgery revoked. Based on the finding that when the doctor executed a Surrender For Cause of DEA Certificate of Registration of Controlled Substances Privileges, that act individually and/or collectively, constitute the revocation, suspension, restriction, reduction, or termination of clinical privileges by the United States department of defense or department of veterans affairs or the termination or suspension of a certificate of registration to prescribe drugs by the drug enforcement administration of the United States department of justice. Order effective 1/28/21.

**FRANZESE**, Joseph Michael, M.D., (#35.126850) - Cincinnati, Ohio

Commencing on the thirty-first day following the effective date of the order, license to practice medicine and surgery indefinitely suspended for at least two years, fined eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000.00), and subject to conditions for reinstatement, probationary terms, conditions and limitations for at least three years, and the imposition of a permanent prohibition and limitation requiring the presence of a third-party chaperone while examining female patients, and prohibiting the doctor from prescribing Schedule II controlled substances. Based on the finding that when the doctor failed to properly conduct examinations or document the prescribing of controlled substances; improperly shared patient medications; engaged in inappropriate sexual conduct with a patient prior to termination of doctor-patient relationship; and engaged in inappropriate behavior while treating a patient; those acts individually and/or collectively constitute: violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the

violation of, or conspiring to violate, any provisions of this chapter or any rule promulgated by the board; and commission of an act that constitutes a felony in this state, regardless of the jurisdiction in which the act was committed; and commission of an act in the course of practice that constitutes a misdemeanor in this state, regardless of the jurisdiction in which the act was committed; and a departure from, or the failure to conform to, minimal standards of care of similar practitioners under the same or similar circumstances, whether or not actual injury to a patient is established. Order effective 1/28/21.

**KHAN, Mohammad Raza, M.D., (#35.072499) - Barrington, Illinois**

License to practice medicine and surgery permanently revoked, and fined eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000.00). Based on the doctor's plea of guilty and conviction in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to Conspiracy to Receive Health Care Bribes and Kickbacks; and on a prior action by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, which issued a 12/4/2018 Order indefinitely suspending the doctor's license, which individually and/or collectively constitute a plea of guilty to, a judicial finding of guilt of, or a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction for, a felony; and would constitute any of the following actions taken by an agency responsible for authorizing, certifying, or regulating an individual to practice a health care occupation or provide health care services in this state or another jurisdiction, for any reason other than the nonpayment of fees: the limitation, revocation, or suspension of an individual's license to practice; acceptance of an individual's license surrender; denial of a license; refusal to renew or reinstate a license; imposition of probation; or issuance of an order of censure or other reprimand. Order effective 1/14/21. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

**KIM, Jong W., M.D., (#35.080212) - Bladenboro, North Carolina**

License to practice medicine and surgery revoked, and fined one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Based on the prior action by the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, which issued an 7/12/2018 Order of Temporary Suspension; and on the prior action by the North Carolina Medical Board which issued a 9/5/2018 Interim Non-Practice Agreement; and on the prior action by the Pennsylvania Board of Medicine which issued a 4/26/2019 Final Order that indefinitely suspended the doctor's license; and on the prior action by the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board which issued a 4/19/2019 Order that suspended the doctor's license, all of which as individually and/or collectively, constitute any of the following actions taken by an agency responsible for authorizing, certifying, or regulating an individual to practice a health care occupation or provide health care services in this state or another jurisdiction, for any reason other than the nonpayment of fees: the limitation, revocation, or suspension of an individual's license to practice; acceptance of an individual's license surrender; denial of a license; refusal to renew or reinstate a license; imposition of probation; or issuance of an order of censure or other reprimand. Order effective 1/14/21. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

**MAMAJEK FU, Amy, R.C.P. Applicant - Columbus, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)**

Application for a license to practice respiratory care approved, provided they take and pass the Clinical Simulation Examination within one year of the date of mailing of the Notice of

Opportunity for a Hearing. Based on the submission of an application to practice respiratory care; and on the finding that the applicant has not been engaged in the active practice of respiratory care for two years. Order effective 1/14/21. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

**MCKNIGHT, Rosia, M.T.** Applicant - Toledo, Ohio

Application for a license to practice massage therapy denied. Based on the finding that when the Ohio Board of Nursing permanently revoked the massage therapist's license to practice as a licensed practical nurse due to the massage therapist's misdemeanor conviction for Possession of Controlled Substances in the Toledo Municipal Court; those acts, or omissions individually and/or collectively constitute any of the following actions taken by an agency responsible for authorizing, certifying, or regulating an individual to practice a health care occupation or provide health care services in this state or another jurisdiction, for any reason other than the nonpayment of fees: the limitation, revocation, or suspension of an individual's license to practice; acceptance of an individual's license surrender; denial of a license; refusal to renew or reinstate a license; imposition of probation; or issuance of an order of censure or other reprimand; and an inability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care because of habitual or excessive use or abuse of drugs, alcohol, or other substances that impair ability to practice. Order effective 1/14/21. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

**OVERMYER, Kimberly, M.T., (#33.016790)** - Toledo, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)

Application for restoration of license to practice massage therapy approved, provided they take a pass the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination within one year of the date of mailing of the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing. Based on the submission of an application for restoration of massage therapy license; and on the finding that the applicant has not been engaged in the active practice of massage therapy for two years. Order effective 1/14/21. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

**PIERCE, Kori A., M.T., (#33.020925)** - Bedford Heights, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)

Application for restoration of license to practice massage therapy approved, provided they take a pass the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination within one year of the date of mailing of the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing. Based on the submission of an application for restoration of massage therapy license; and on the finding that the applicant has not been engaged in the active practice of massage therapy for two years. Order effective 1/14/21. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

**RICHARDSON, Monica Lynn, M.T., (#33.020903)** - Bellaire, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary?)

Application for restoration of license to practice massage therapy denied. Based on the massage therapist's submission of a restoration application, and on the finding that applicant's psychiatric assessment, which concluded the applicant is not currently capable of practicing according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care, individually and/or collectively constitute: an inability to practice according to acceptable and prevailing standards of care by reason of mental illness or physical illness, including, but not limited to, physical deterioration that adversely

affects cognitive, motor, or perceptive skills. Order effective 1/14/21. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

**SHARMA, Anjmun, M.D., (#35.086983) - Colorado Springs, Colorado**

License to practice medicine and surgery reprimanded, and fined one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Based on the finding that the prior action by the New Mexico Medical Board, which issued a 11/18/2019 Order that reprimanded the doctor's license and imposed a fine of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00), constitutes any of the following actions taken by an agency responsible for authorizing, certifying, or regulating an individual to practice a health care occupation or provide health care services in this state or another jurisdiction, for any reason other than the nonpayment of fees: the limitation, revocation, or suspension of an individual's license to practice; acceptance of an individual's license surrender; denial of a license; refusal to renew or reinstate a license; imposition of probation; or issuance of an order of censure or other reprimand. Order effective 1/28/21.

**TRIPLETT, Stephens R., D.O., (#34.006600) - Mesa, Arizona**

License to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery revoked, and fined three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00). Based on the submission of an application for restoration of license to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery; and on the finding that the doctor's failure to respond to board requests for documentation of CME completion, individually and/or collectively, constitute a failure to cooperate in an investigation conducted by the board, including failure to comply with a subpoena or order issued by the board or failure to answer truthfully a question presented by the board in an investigative interview, an investigative office conference, at a deposition, or in written interrogatories, except that failure to cooperate with an investigation shall not constitute grounds for discipline under this section if a court of competent jurisdiction has issued an order that either quashes a subpoena or permits the individual to withhold the testimony or evidence in issue. Order effective 1/14/21. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

**URADU, Onyinyechi Rose, M.D., (#35.088677) - Russell, Kentucky (Non-Disciplinary)**

Application for a certificate to recommend medical use of marijuana is denied. Based on the doctor's submission of an application for a certificate to recommend the medical use of marijuana, and on the finding that the doctor's prior disciplinary history is based in whole or in part on inappropriate prescribing, personally furnishing, dispensing, diverting, administering, supplying or selling a controlled substance or other dangerous drug. Order effective 1/14/21.

### **CONSENT AGREEMENTS**

**HENRY, Jimmy M., M.D., (#35.096049) - New Albany, Ohio**

License to practice medicine and surgery indefinitely suspended, and subject to general probationary terms, and conditions for reinstatement. Based on the doctor's admission that an indictment filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Eastern District,

charging him with nine counts of Unlawful Distribution and Dispensing of Controlled Substances, one count of Conspiracy to Unlawfully Distribute Controlled Substances, one count of Soliciting and Receiving Health Care Kickbacks, and one count of Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud; and on the doctor's admission that based on the advice of counsel and his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, he declines to provide the Board with certain factual information concerning the pending criminal matter, which information is currently being sought by the Board in the course of its investigation, which individually and/or collectively, constitute a failure to cooperate in an investigation conducted by the board. Including failure to comply with a subpoena or order issued by the Board, or failure to answer truthfully a question presented by the Board in an investigative interview, an investigative office conference, at a deposition, or in written interrogatories. Agreement effective 1/13/21. Indefinite suspension effective 2/28/21.

**REYNOLDS, Vern D., D.O., (#34.006761) - Columbus, Ohio**

License to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery reprimanded, and subject to probationary terms until he submits satisfactory documentation of successful completion of medical education courses. Based on the doctor's admission that when he pre-signed a prescription for a controlled substance without having included the patient's name or date, that act constitutes the commission of an act in the course of practice that constitutes a misdemeanor in this state, regardless of the jurisdiction in which the act was committed. Agreement effective 1/13/21.

### **VOLUNTARY PERMANENT SURRENDERS, RETIREMENTS, REVOCATIONS, WITHDRAWALS**

**BERRY, Jimmy L., R.C.P., (#RCP.8158) - Kettering, Ohio**

Permanent surrender of license to practice respiratory care, authorized by respiratory care professional, in lieu of formal disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Section 4761.09(A)(11), Ohio Revised Code, to wit: 4761-15-01(B); and 4731-26-02(A), prohibitions related to sexual activity. Effective 1/13/21.

**BERING, Thomas G., M.D., (#35.088008) - York, PA**

Permanent revocation of license to practice medicine and surgery authorized by doctor, in lieu of formal disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Section 4731.22(B)(26), Ohio Revised Code. Effective 1/13/21.

**MACHERET, Leonid, M.D., (#35.056178) - Cincinnati, Ohio**

Permanent revocation of license to practice medicine and surgery authorized by doctor, in lieu of further formal disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Sections 4731.22(B)(2), (B)(6), and (B)(20), Ohio Revised Code. Effective 1/13/21.

## **PROBATIONARY REQUESTS AND MODIFICATIONS**

**BAULA**, Marvin M., M.D., (#35.099925) - Fairborn, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of a reduction in personal appearances from every six months to once annually, granted by vote of the Board on 1/13/21.

**BOYER**, Brent A., M.D., (#35.127587) - Milford, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of assessor to perform return to work assessment, granted by vote of the Board on 1/13/21.

**JADCHERLA**, Yamini, M.D., (#35.136900) - Galena, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of a reduction in personal appearances from every three months to every six months; and a reduction in recovery meeting attendance from three per week to two per week, with a minimum of ten meetings per month, granted by vote of the Board on 1/13/21.

**RASMUSSEN**, Robert D., D.O., (#34.005755) - Richfield, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of an extension to complete controlled substance prescribing and medical records courses, granted by vote of the Board on 1/13/21.

## **RELEASE FROM PROBATION**

**ERICKSON**, Mary Jo-Ellen, M.D., (#35.073493) - Dayton, Ohio

Doctor's request for release from the terms of the 1/13/2016 Step II Consent Agreement, granted by vote of the Board on 1/13/21. Release effective immediately.

**SIDDIQUI**, Siraj, M.D., (#35.065056) - Mansfield, Ohio

Doctor's request for release from the terms of the 4/11/2012 Board Order, granted by vote of the Board on 1/13/21. Permanent restriction limiting doctor from utilizing controlled substances for weight reduction to remain in place. Release effective 1/14/21.

## **COURT ACTIONS**

**HANOVER**, Kenneth M., M.D., (#35.083567) – Lima, Ohio

Decision and Entry affirming the Board's order, filed on 12/11/2020 in the Franklin County Ohio Court of Common Pleas.

Please note that revocation and suspension Orders are not always effective immediately. If you have questions about effective dates or conditions governing a doctor's practice before a Board Order takes effect, please contact the office.

Ohio law permits appeal of a Board Order to the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. Due to this possibility and the potential for a stay that might delay the imposition of a Board action, you may wish to contact us periodically to verify a given practitioner's licensure status.

Most current citation letters, Board Orders, consent agreements and voluntary surrenders or retirements are available on the Medical Board's website under "Lookup a License." If you have questions or need additional details about Citations, Board Orders, or Court Actions, please contact the Case Control Office. If you have questions regarding a Consent Agreements, probationary modification or a probationary request, please contact the Compliance Office. Our offices may be reached at (614) 466-3934.