

State Medical Board of Ohio
Formal Action Report – February 12, 2020

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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 February 12, 2020.

PRE-HEARING SUSPENSIONS

BAILEY, Thomas A., M.D., (#35.080265) - Youngstown, Ohio

Pursuant to Section 3719.121(C), Ohio Revised Code, doctor's license to practice medicine and surgery is immediately suspended based upon the doctor's conviction in the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio, to one felony count of Dispensing of a Controlled Substance. Order effective 2/12/2020. (See also; Citations/Proposed Denials below).

SMITH, Arthur Harry, M.D., (#35.083898) - Austintown, Ohio

Pursuant to Section 3719.121(C), Ohio Revised Code, doctor's license to practice medicine and surgery is immediately suspended based upon the doctor's conviction in the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio, to one felony count of Dispensing of a Controlled Substance. Order effective 2/12/2020. (See also; Citations/Proposed Denials below).

CITATIONS/PROPOSED DENIALS

BAILEY, Thomas, M.D., (#35.080265) - Youngstown, Ohio

Based on the doctor's plea of guilty in the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio, to one felony count of Dispensing of a Controlled Substance, which would 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. Notice of Immediate Suspension and Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/13/2020.

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

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 would 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. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/13/2020.

COLOMBINI, Chelsie, L.M.T., Applicant - Columbus, Ohio

Based on the massage therapist's submission of an application to practice massage therapy, in which the applicant disclosed several arrests and/or convictions for possession of marijuana, drug abuse, and possession of drug paraphernalia; and based on the applicant's diagnoses of substance use disorder; and upon the determination that the applicant is impaired and not capable of practicing at acceptable and prevailing standards of care; which would individually and/or collectively constitute impairment of ability 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 2/13/2020.

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

Based on the care and treatment of three specified patients, during which the doctor: failed to properly conduct examination 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 upon inappropriate behavior while treating a patient; which would 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. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/13/2020.

KAPLAN, Paul E., M.D., (#35.058417) - Folsom, California

Based on a prior action by the Medical Board of California, which issued an Accusation alleging inappropriate care and treatment and inappropriate prescribing of controlled substances to seven specified patients; and upon a Decision Granting Interim Suspension Order, issued by the California Board, wherein the California Board found that the doctor suffered from a mental condition rendering the doctor unsafe to practice medicine; and upon a Stipulated Surrender of License, in which the doctor surrendered his California license to practice medicine and surgery, which would 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. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/13/2020.

KHORASHADI, Farhad, M.D., (#35.096782) - San Diego, California

Based on a prior action by the Medical Board of California, which issued an Accusation based on the doctor's plea of guilty to and conviction of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol in the Orange County Superior Court of California; and a Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, in which the California Medical Board revoked the doctor's license, stayed the revocation, and placed the doctor on probation for three years, which would 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. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/13/2020.

KUNZ, Harrison L., Jr., R.C.P., (#RCP.7962) - Columbus, Ohio

Based on a 6/18/2019 Step I Consent Agreement; and based upon the respiratory care therapist's alleged failure to: submit quarterly declarations; to appear in person for an interview before the Board; to submit to random toxicology screenings; submit documentary evidence of continuing compliance of participation in an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program; and submit documentary evidence of entering into an aftercare contract, which individually and/or collectively constitute a violation of the conditions of limitation placed by the board upon a license or permit. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/13/2020.

MEHRA, Maneesh Lal, M.D., (#35.094934) - Elyria, Ohio

Based on a 7/8/2015 Step II Consent Agreement; and based on the doctor's alleged failure to: submit documentary evidence of continuing compliance of participation in an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program; maintain a Board approved monitoring physician; to timely call in or submit to random drug and alcohol screenings; or submit a psychiatric report, all of which would individually and/or collectively constitute violation of the conditions of limitation placed by the board upon a license or certificate to practice. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/13/2020.

ROSENFELD, Jonathan L., M.D., (#35.124430) - Toledo, Ohio

Based upon a prior action by the Texas Medical Board, which issued an Order of Temporary Suspension that temporarily suspended the doctor's license based in part on the finding that the doctor's continued practice of medicine constitutes a continued threat to public welfare, which would 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. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/13/2020.

SMITH, Arthur H., M.D., (#35.083898) - Austintown, Ohio

Based on the doctor's plea of guilty in the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio, to one felony count of Dispensing of a Controlled Substance, which would 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. Notice of Immediate Suspension and Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/13/2020.

NON-DISCIPLINARY CITATIONS

CRUZ, Antonio S., Jr., M.T., Applicant - Anchorage, Alaska

Based on the massage therapist's submission of an application to practice massage therapy, and based upon the massage therapist having not provided evidence showing completion of a course of instruction that meets course requirements as determined by the rules of the Board. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/18/2020.

DAVIS, Ava Jie, M.T., Applicant - Sidney, Ohio

Based on the massage therapist's submission of an application to practice massage therapy; and based upon the massage therapist having not provided evidence showing completion of a course of instruction that meets course requirements as determined by the rules of the Board. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/18/2020.

FLETCHER, Aaron M., M.T., Applicant - Cincinnati, Ohio

Based on the massage therapist's submission of an application to practice massage therapy; and based upon not having been engaged in the active practice of massage therapy for more than two years. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/18/2020.

GARNIER, Jay A., R.C.P., Applicant - Moorestown, New Jersey

Based on the respiratory care therapist's submission of an application to practice respiratory care; and based upon the therapist not having been engaged in the active practice of respiratory care for more than two years. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/18/2020.

KAWALEK, Wayne K., M.D. – Oakwood Village, Ohio

Based on the doctor's submission of an application for a certificate to recommend the medical use of marijuana; and based upon the doctor having been previously subject to disciplinary action by a licensing agency that was based, in whole or in part, on the applicant's inappropriate prescribing, personally furnishing, dispensing, diverting, administering, supplying, or selling a controlled substance or other dangerous drug. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/18/2020.

LAROCCA, Francis M., M.T., Applicant - Mundelein, Illinois

Based on the massage therapist's submission of an application for restoration of his license to practice massage therapy; and based upon not having been engaged in the active practice of massage therapy for more than two years. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/18/2020.

YANG, Lihua A., M.T., Applicant – Hacienda Heights, California

Based on the massage therapist's submission of an application to practice massage therapy, and based upon the applicant's failure to provide satisfactory evidence that they have successfully passed an examination approved by the Board. Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing mailed 2/18/2020.

FINAL ORDERS

BITTNER, Brigitta, M.D., Applicant - Tampa, Florida (Non-Disciplinary)

Application for license to practice medicine and surgery granted, provided the doctor takes and passes the Special Purpose Examination within six months of mailing of the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing. Based on the doctor's submission of an application to practice medicine and surgery, and on the finding that the doctor has not been actively engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in excess of two years. Order effective 2/13/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

HALL, Kristian A., M.T., Applicant - Cleveland, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)

Application for license to practice massage therapy granted, provided that the massage therapist takes and passes the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination within six months from the effective date of the order. Based on the massage therapist's submission of an application for a license to practice massage therapy; and on the finding that the massage therapist has not been engaged in the active practice of massage therapy for more than two years. Order effective 2/13/2020.

KANIECKI-SNOW, Kristina M., L.M.T., (#33.011319) - Athens, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)

Application for restoration of license to practice massage therapy granted, provided that the massage therapist takes and passes the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination within six months of the date of mailing of the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing. Based on the massage therapist's submission of an application for restoration of license to practice massage therapy; and on the finding that the massage therapist has not been engaged in the active practice of massage therapy for more than two years. Order effective 2/13/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

KELEMAN, John J., III M.D., (#35.131526) - Pewaukee, Wisconsin

License to practice medicine and surgery reprimanded, and subject to a three thousand five hundred (\$3,500.00) fine. Based on the finding that the prior action by the Wisconsin medical Examining Board, which issued a 12/19/2018 Board Order reprimanding the doctor's license, 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 2/13/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

KUNTZ, Rebekah, M.T., Applicant - West Springfield, Pennsylvania (Non-Disciplinary)

Based on the finding that the massage therapist does not currently hold a diploma or certificate from a school, college, or institution in good standing as determined by the Board or in another state or jurisdiction that meets the Board's required course of instruction, or hold a current license, registration or certificate of good standing in another state for at least the preceding five years. Order effective 2/13/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

LAZZERINI, Frank D., M.D., (#35.092741) - Akron, Ohio

License to practice medicine and surgery is permanently revoked, and subject to a twenty thousand dollar (\$20,000.00) fine. Based on the finding that the doctor's multiple felony convictions in the Court of Common Pleas of Stark County, Ohio, to Involuntary manslaughter, Aggravated Drug Trafficking, Drug Trafficking, Illegal Processing of Drug Documents, Medicaid Fraud, and Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, 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. Order effective 2/13/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

MORGAN, Kaci J., M.T., (#33.018526) - Urbana, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)

Application for restoration of license to practice massage therapy granted, provided that the massage therapist takes and passes the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination within

six months of mailing of the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing. Based on the massage therapist's submission of an application for restoration of license to practice massage therapy; and on the finding that the massage therapist has not been engaged in the active practice of massage therapy for more than two years. Order effective 2/13/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

MUELLER, Mercedes A., M.T., (#33.020400) - West Chester, Ohio (Non-Disciplinary)

Application for restoration of license to practice massage therapy granted, provided that the massage therapist takes and passes the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination within six months of mailing of the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing. Based on the massage therapist's submission of an application for restoration of license to practice massage therapy; and on the finding that the massage therapist has not been engaged in the active practice of massage therapy for more than two years. Order effective 2/13/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

ROAN, Kelly N., D.O., (#34.012707) - Richmond Heights, Ohio

License to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery permanently revoked, and subject to an eight thousand dollar (\$8,000.00) fine. Based on the finding that the doctor's conviction in the Cuyahoga Court of Common Pleas, Cuyahoga County, Ohio to three felony counts of rape, 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. Order effective 2/13/2020.

STRUNK, Ashley R., M.T., (#33.021428) - Fairfield, Ohio

License to practice massage therapy revoked, and subject to a three thousand dollar (\$3,000.00) fine. Based on the finding that when the massage therapist failed to respond to Board investigators, or Board interrogatories, those acts, conduct, and or omissions, 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 2/13/2020. (Journal Entry-No Hearing Requested).

WILLIAMS, Rodney J., M.D., Applicant - Zanesville, Ohio

Application for a license to practice medicine and surgery granted, provided the doctor otherwise meets all statutory and regulatory requirements, and subject to the probationary terms, conditions, and limitations for at least six months. Based on the doctor's submission of an application for a license to practice medicine and surgery; and also based on the finding that the doctor's surrender of his DEA registration to the Drug Enforcement Agency, and a prior action

issued by the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs that reprimanded the doctor's license, 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 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 2/25/2020.

CONSENT AGREEMENTS

ALDERSON, Julie M., D.O., (#34.014253) - Columbus, Ohio

License to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery reinstated, and subject to probationary terms, conditions, and limitations for at least five years. Based on the doctor having completed all requirements for reinstatement of license pursuant to the terms of a 12/11/2019 Consent Agreement. Agreement effective 2/12/2020.

VOLUNTARY PERMANENT SURRENDERS, RETIREMENTS, REVOCATIONS, WITHDRAWALS

DAVIS, Matthew D., M.T., (Applicant) – Lyndhurst, Ohio

Permanent withdrawal of application to practice massage therapy authorized by massage therapist, in lieu of formal disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Section 4731.22(B)(26), Ohio Revised Code. Agreement effective 2/12/2020.

ROBINSON, Allison A., M.D., (#35.052638) - Elyria, Ohio

Permanent revocation of license to practice medicine and surgery authorized by doctor in lieu of further investigation pursuant to Section 4731.22(B)(34), Ohio Revised Code. Agreement effective 2/12/2020. Revocation effective 4/1/2020.

PROBATIONARY REQUESTS AND MODIFICATIONS

ALDERSON, Julie M., D.O., (#34.014253) - Columbus, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of treating psychiatrist; and mental health provider, approved by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020.

BLECHER, Saul I., M.D., (#35.063813) - Cincinnati, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of a reduction in personal appearances from every six months to once per year; and approval of to discontinue the chart review requirement, approved by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020.

GUPTA, Anshuli, M.D., (#35.126707) - Columbus, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval to discontinue the chart review requirement, approved by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020.

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

Doctor's request for approval of a reduction in appearances from every three months to every six months; and approval of a reduction in recovery meeting attendance from three per week to two per week with a minimum of ten per month, approved by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020.

JOHNSON, James C., D.O. (#34.007672) - Grove City, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval to discontinue the chart review requirement, approved by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020.

MARSH, James A., (#34.009757) - Milan, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval to discontinue the drug log requirement, and approval to discontinue the chart review requirement, approved by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020.

MEESE, Stephen P., D.O., (#35.006666) - Sardinia, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of physician-patient boundary course, approved by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020.

SIMMONS, Luke, M.D., (#57.245466) - Columbus, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of doctor to conduct return to work assessment, approved by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020.

STODDARD, Frank G., D.P.M., (#36.003130) - Medina, Ohio

Doctor's request for approval of a reduction in recovery meeting attendance from three per week to two per week; and approval of new monitoring physician, approved by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020.

PROBATION TERMINATED

AMBROSE, Martin P., M.D. (#35.060025) - Dayton, Ohio

Doctor's request for release from the terms of the 1/14/2015 Step II Consent Agreement, granted by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020. Release effective 2/13/2020

BONNER, Courtney D., D.O., (#34.006885) - Cambridge, Ohio

Doctor's request for release from the terms of the 11/5/2014 Step II Consent Agreement, granted by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020. Release effective immediately.

DOSS, Larry L., M.D. (#35.074064) - Lancaster, Ohio

Doctor's request for release from the terms of the 1/9/2019 Board Order, approved by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020. Release effective immediately.

PATEL, Dennis A., M.D., (#35.127412) - Lima, Ohio

Doctor's request for release from the terms of the 2/11/2015 Step II Consent Agreement, approved by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020. Release effective immediately.

SMILO, John M., D.P.M., (#36.002663) - Coshocton, Ohio

Doctor's request for release from the terms of the 2/14/2018 Consent Agreement, approved by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020. Release effective 2/15/2020.

VARGO, Bradley J., D.O., (#34.004864) - Kirtland, Ohio

Doctor's request for release from the terms of the 5/14/2014 Board Order, approved by vote of the Board on 2/12/2020. Release effective 2/26/2020

COURT ACTIONS

DEMINT, Franklin D., M.D., (#34.005493) – Kingston, Ohio

Decision and Judgment Entry, and Notice of Final Appealable Order filed 01/28/2020, in the Court of Common Pleas, Franklin County Ohio, affirming the Board's Order.

MA, Muyuan, M.D., (#35.130288) – Parma, Ohio

Decision and Judgment Entry filed 02/05/2020, in the Court of Appeals of Ohio, Tenth Appellate District, overruling doctor's sole assignment of error.

ROSS, John Allen, M.D., (#35.064459) – Fostoria, Ohio

Decision and Judgment Entry, and Notice of Final Appealable Order, filed 01/30/2020, in the Court of Common Pleas, Franklin County, Ohio, affirming the Board's Order.

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.