



BOARD HEARING MINUTES

North Carolina Medical Board

December 10 - 11, 2020

**3127 Smoketree Court
Raleigh, North Carolina**

The North Carolina Medical Board held its regularly scheduled December 2020 meeting at its offices at 3127 Smoketree Court, Raleigh, NC. Venkata Jonnalagadda, M.D., President and Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 8:15 a.m. Board members participating were: John W. Rusher, M.D.; Christine M. Khandelwal, D.O.; Shawn Parker, J.D.; Damian F. McHugh, M.D.; W. Howard Hall, M.D.; and Devdutta G. Sangvai, M.D. Also attending was the Honorable Fred Morelock, Independent Legal Counsel to the Board.

Presidential Remarks:

Dr. Jonnalagadda commenced the meeting by reminding the Board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest with respect to any matters coming before the Board as required by the State Government Ethics Act.

HEARINGS

SHANTON, GREGORY DAMON, PA – NEWPORT, NC

The Board was represented by Mr. Brian Blankenship. Mr. Shanton was represented by Mr. Peter Hanna.

The North Carolina Medical Board denied Mr. Shanton's application for a North Carolina medical license pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6), 90-14(a)(5), 90-14(a)(7), 90-14(a)(11), and 90-14(a)(11a). Mr. Shanton requested a hearing on the denial of his license application.

Following the hearing, the Board found that Mr. Shanton's unprofessional conduct, described and admitted to in his October 21, 2004 Consent Order with the Board is a basis to deny his application for reinstatement of license to practice medical acts, tasks and functions as a physician assistant within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6); Mr. Shanton's excessive use of alcohol, drugs or chemicals, described and admitted to in his July 3, 2007 Consent Order with the Board, and which led to Mr. Shanton being unable to practice as a physician assistant with reasonable skill and safety to patients is a basis to deny his application for reinstatement of his license to practice medical acts, tasks and functions as a physician assistant within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(5); Mr. Shanton's excessive use of

alcohol, drugs or chemicals, described and admitted to in his November 3, 2010 Consent Order with the Board, and which led to Mr. Shanton being unable to practice as a physician assistant with reasonable skill and safety to patients is a basis to deny his application for reinstatement of his license to practice medical acts, tasks and functions as a physician assistant within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(5); Mr. Shanton's violation of a law involving the practice of medicine, described and admitted to in the October 21, 2004 Consent Order with the Board, is a basis to deny his application for reinstatement of license to practice medical acts, tasks and functions as a physician assistant within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(7); Mr. Shanton lacks professional competence to perform medical acts, tasks, and functions with a reasonable degree of skill and safety for patients or he failed to maintain acceptable standards of one or more practice areas of professional practice, within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(11); and Mr. Shanton's not having actively practiced as a physician assistant for the two-year period immediately preceding the filing of his application to reinstate his physician assistant license is a basis to deny his application for reinstatement of license to practice medical acts, tasks and functions as a physician assistant within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(11a).

The Board voted to reinstate Mr. Shanton's license to practice as a physician assistant with the following limitations or conditions:

1. Mr. Shanton must enroll, comply and complete a CPEP administered remediation plan;
2. Mr. Shanton must maintain and comply with his NCPHP agreement;
3. All of Mr. Shanton's clinical worksites, including volunteer worksites, require prior approval by the Board;
4. Mr. Shanton is required to have a chaperone present with all female patient at all times;
5. Mr. Shanton must complete a continuing education course on sexual boundaries of a minimum of 8.0 hours within one year of the date of the Final Order;
6. Mr. Shanton will appear for an Investigative Interview one year after the date of the Final Order; and
7. Failure to comply with any of the terms or conditions of the Final Order shall constitute grounds for the Board to summarily suspend Mr. Shanton's physician assistant license.

The hearing adjourned at 4.55 p.m. on December 10, 2020.

ZAHRA, MICHAEL SORKIS, MD – ILLINOIS

The Board was represented by Mr. Patrick Balestrieri. Dr. Zahra did not appear.

Dr. Zahra was charged with being unsafe to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(5), unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6), and having his license to practice medicine restricted or acted against by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(13).

Following the hearing, the Board found Dr. Zahra unsafe to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(5), to have committed unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6), and the action taken by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional regulation, Division of Professional Regulation to have constituted Dr. Zahra having his license to practice medicine restricted or acted against by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(13).

The Board voted to revoke Dr. Zahra's license to practice medicine.

The hearing adjourned at 10.39 a.m. on December 11, 2020.

Adjournment:

This meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m., Friday, December 11, 2020.



Michaux R. Kilpatrick, M.D.

Secretary/Treasurer