

**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
MARCH 23, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David W. McClendon, Jr., M.D., Ocean Springs, President
Michelle Y. Owens, M.D., Jackson, Vice President
C. Kenneth Lippincott, M.D., Tupelo, Secretary

ALSO PRESENT:

Stan T. Ingram, Counsel for the Board
Paul Barnes, Board Attorney
Alexis Morris, Special Assistant Attorney General
Kenneth Cleveland, Executive Director
Mike Lucius, Deputy Director
Jay Ledbetter, Chief of Staff
Arlene Davis, IT Director
Anna Boone, Director of Licensure Division
Kristin Wallace, Compliance Officer
Jonathan Dalton, Director of Investigations
Frances Carrillo, Staff Officer

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure met on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 9:05 a.m. in the Board Room of the Office of the Board located at 1867 Crane Ridge Drive, Jackson, Mississippi. This meeting was broadcast via Zoom.

Dr. McClendon opened the meeting and introduced the Executive Committee and attendees that were present.

**PERSONAL APPEARANCE (VIA ZOOM) BY AMANDA MENARD, PA
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSE PA00560**

Ms. Menard joined the meeting and was not represented by legal counsel. Ms. Menard executed a written agreement for this informal meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

Ms. Menard summarized her request and briefly described her practice which is associated with Ochsner Health System, working with a branch of a telemedicine group in the emergency room. She is located in River Parish, supervised by Jeffrey Kuo, M.D., who is licensed in Mississippi. Ms. Menard is seeking an exception to Rule 1.2. of Part 2615, regarding the Practice of Physician Assistants, specifically the requirement that her supervising physician practice within the state a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 23, 2022

Page 2

Dr. Kuo is the Director of the Emergency Department of the Telehealth Program located in New Orleans.

After discussion and questions from the Executive Committee, a motion was made by Dr. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Owens, and carried, to close the meeting and consider going into executive session. A motion was made by Dr. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Owens that the Board enter into executive session for the discussion regarding a course of action in this matter.

Upon a motion by Dr. Owens, seconded by Dr. Lippincott and carried, the Executive Committee came out of Executive Session at which time Dr. McClendon asked Dr. Lippincott to report on their decision. Dr. Lippincott reported that it was the Executive Committee's decision to recommend to the Board to grant the waiver contingent upon modifying the protocol to stipulate that patients will be seen by the onsite provider after triage.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE (VIA ZOOM) BY AARON WEBB, PA PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSE PA00552

Mr. Webb joined the meeting and was not represented by legal counsel. He was accompanied by Dr. Chuck Burnell, Chief Medical Officer with Acadian Companies and Dr. Stephen Bell, Medical Director of Acadian Ambulance in Mississippi. Mr. Webb executed a written agreement for this informal meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

Mr. Webb summarized his request and briefly described his practice, which is associated with Acadian Ambulance as the medical control for the ambulance medics. He works with Dr. Burnell and Dr. Bell who are located primarily in Lafayette, Louisiana. Mr. Webb is seeking an exception to mileage requirement in Rule 1.7 of Part 2615, Practice of Physician Assistants. Dr. Bell's location is on Highway 57 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi which is greater than 75 miles away.

After discussion and questions from the Executive Committee, a motion was made by Dr. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Owens and carried, to recommend to the Board to grant the request for a waiver.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE BY WILLIAM WALTER JOHNSON, M.D. MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE 14886

Dr. Johnson joined the meeting and was not represented by legal counsel. Dr. Johnson executed a written agreement for this informal meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 23, 2022

Page 3

Dr. Johnson summarized his practice beginning with an OB/GYN clinic which he closed two years ago. Currently, Dr. Johnson is practicing part time in a methadone practice and a weight loss practice in New Albany. Dr. Johnson is considering collaborating with a NP licensed in Mississippi, but located in Omaha, Nebraska. The NP treats patients in Mississippi in an addiction practice. Dr. Johnson is seeking an exception to Rule 1.4 of Part 2630 of the regulations, Collaboration with Nurse Practitioners, specifically the mileage limitation of seventy-five (75) miles.

After discussion and questions from the Executive Committee, a motion was made by Dr. Owens, seconded by Dr. Lippincott, and carried, to recommend to the Board to deny Dr. Johnson's request for an exception because the methods used in this practice violate the current Telemedicine regulations.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE BY ABY THOMAS, M.D. APPLICANT

Dr. Thomas joined the meeting and was not represented by legal counsel. Dr. Thomas executed a written agreement for this informal meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

Dr. Thomas advised that he did not meet one of the requirements for a permanent license listed in regulation Rule 1.1.D.2, Licensure by Credentials. Dr. Thomas is an international medical graduate, certified by the American Board of Radiology, a specialty board recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties. However, his post-graduate training at the University of Tennessee was not ACGME-approved.

Dr. Thomas briefly summarized his training as an attending physician in Singapore and India in adult radiology. He is currently board-certified in radiology. Additionally, he will be eligible for certification in the subspecialty of Pediatric Radiology in approximately one year. Dr. Thomas presented a letter of reference from the Associate Professor, Vice Chair of Clinical Operations, Department of Radiology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dr. Thomas is seeking an exception to Rule 1.1.D.2, of Part 2605, Licensure by Credentials, based on the training and experience he described in his application for his application for a permanent Mississippi medical license.

After discussion and questions from the Executive Committee, a motion was made by Dr. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Owens, and carried, to recommend to the Board to grant Dr. Thomas an exception to the requirement for the one year of ACGME-approved post-graduate training.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 23, 2022
Page 4

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Cleveland provided a brief summary regarding events and activities for the months of January and February 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 10:31 am.


David W. McClendon, Jr., M.D.
President

Minutes taken and transcribed.
By Frances Carrillo
Staff Officer
March 23, 2022



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

Agreement to Appear Informally Before Executive Committee by Applicant For Licensure

I, **Aby Thomas** have requested an opportunity to appear informally before the Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (hereinafter "Board") to discuss my pending application for a Mississippi medical license, the current investigation being conducted by the Board, possible grounds for denial, and possible resolution of the matter. It is the purpose of the informal meeting to discuss the facts of the case, to give me an opportunity to ask questions of the Committee or its staff, and to give the Committee or its staff an opportunity to ask questions of me. Because the meeting is informal, no disciplinary action will be taken without my express written consent. In so doing, I have been advised and understand the following:

1. During the meeting, the Executive Committee may or may not be represented by legal counsel. Notwithstanding, I understand that I have a right, if I so choose, to employ legal counsel and have counsel present during the informal meeting.
2. I authorize the Committee Members to review and examine any statements, documentary evidence, or materials concerning the possible grounds for denial of licensure during my informal appearance.
3. Because the purpose of my appearance is to avoid a hearing before the Board, I agree that presentation to and consideration by the Committee of any facts, matters, and documents pertaining to my case shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Committee members from further participation or consideration in the event a formal show cause hearing is later conducted. Stated differently, in the event the pending matter is not resolved following my appearance before the Committee, I will not object to any of the Committee members from further participating in subsequent meetings or hearings that may be conducted in relation to this matter.
4. By signing my name in the space provided below, I hereby authorize the Executive Committee to proceed with the informal appearance, subject to the stipulations and understandings as noted above. I have elected to proceed:

_____ with legal counsel present (name of counsel: _____)

without legal counsel present

EXECUTED, this the 18 day of March, 2022.

Licensee: *Aby Thomas*

Witness: *[Signature]*