

**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
August 22, 2024**

A Specially called meeting of the Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure was held on August 22, 2024, at 1867 Crane Ridge Drive, Suite 200B, Jackson, MS, after being duly noticed on the Mississippi Public Notice website, this Board's website, and the front door of the Board's offices in accordance with law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michelle Y. Owens, M.D., Jackson, President
C. Kenneth Lippincott, M.D., Tupelo, Vice President
Thomas Joiner, M.D., Jackson, Secretary via Zoom

ALSO PRESENT:

Paul Barnes, Board Attorney, Complaint Counsel
Alexis Morris, Special Assistant Attorney General
Kenneth Cleveland, Executive Director
Anna Boone, Director of Licensure Division
Jonathan Dalton, Director of Investigations
Jerod Smoote, IT Director
Jackie McKenzie, Legal Assistant
Frances Carrillo, Executive Assistant

NOT PRESENT:

**PERSONAL APPEARANCE BY JOSE PEREZ, M.D.
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE 30778**

Dr. Perez joined the meeting and was represented by legal counsel. Dr. Perez executed a written agreement for this informal meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference. Dr. Perez is accompanied with legal counsel Mr. Barry Cockrell and Allen Tyra, Chief Executive Officer of Ochsner Rush Medical Center in Meridian.

Dr. Perez briefly summarized his request seeking an exception to the regulation, 20/80 hour in- state physician practice requirement of the regulation, Collaboration with Nurse Practitioners, Part 2630. Dr. Perez summarized the plan to maintain the level III NICU utilizing Telehealth Neonatology at Rush Hospital in Meridian, Mississippi. Dr. Perez practices with Ochsner's Health System located in New Orleans, Louisiana. There was discussion and questions regarding Ochsner's telehealth's Nurse Practitioners and Physicians providing neonatology services virtually from New Orleans, Louisiana to Meridian, Mississippi.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2024

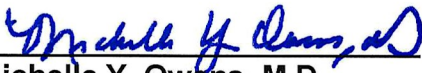
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Dr. Robert Blubaugh, M.D., joined the meeting via Zoom. Dr. Blubaugh summarized his practice history with Rush Hospital's NICU unit. Dr. Blubaugh is opposed to utilizing virtual care for the Neonatology unit at Rush Hospital.

After additional discussion and questions from the Executive Committee a motion was made by Dr. Joiner, seconded by Dr. Lippincott, and carried that the Executive Committee enter into executive session for discussion regarding a course of action.

Upon a motion by Dr. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Joiner and carried, the Executive Committee came out of Executive Session at which time Dr. Owens asked Dr. Joiner to report on the Executive Committee's decision. Dr. Joiner reported that the decision was to **DENY** Dr. Perez's request for a waiver.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 10:37 a.m.


Michelle Y. Owens, M.D.
President

Minutes taken and transcribed.
By Frances Carrillo
Executive Assistant
August 22, 2024