BOARD MINUTES
MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
JULY 15, 2026

A regularly called meeting of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure was held on July 15, 2026, at 805 South Wheatley Street, Suite 600, Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157, 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.

A QUORUM OF NINE (9) VOTING MEMBERS WAS PRESENT ON JULY 15, 2026:

Roderick Givens, M.D., Natchez, President
Kirk L. Kinard, D.O., Oxford, Vice President
Randy Roth, M.D., Pascagoula, Secretary
Renia Dotson, M.D., Greenville
William E. Loper, M.D., Ridgeland
Carlos Latorre, M.D., Vicksburg
James A. Rish, M.D., Tupelo
H. Allen Gersh, M.D., Hattiesburg
Michelle Y. Owens, M.D., Jackson, via Zoom
William Moore, Gulfport, Consumer Member
Shoba Gaymes, Jackson, Consumer Member
Temika Simmons, Greenville, Consumer Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Paul Barnes, General Counsel
Meagan Guyse, Deputy General Counsel
Sara Hartzog, Special Assistant Attorney General
Kenneth Cleveland, M.D., Executive Director
Jay Ledbetter, Chief of Staff
Anna Boone, Director of Licensure
Jackie McKenzie, Paralegal
Colleen Wheeler, Paralegal
Jerod Smoote, IT Director
Kaelin T. Hanson, Data Analyst
Jonathan Dalton, Director of Investigations
Amy Key, Court Reporter, eDeposition

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Dr. Givens, President. Dr. Loper gave the invocation and pledge. Dr. Cleveland, Executive Director, called the roll and reported there was a quorum present.

Dr. Givens introduced Sara Hartzog, Special Assistant Attorney General, who served as the Board's Hearing Officer, and Amy Key, Court Reporter with eDeposition.

Ms. Hartzog administered the oath to the newly appointed board member, Dr. James A. Rish, M.D..

Executive Director Report (Agenda Item #6)

Dr. Cleveland provided a summary of the Licensure and Investigative Divisions operations for May and June 2026. Dr. Cleveland reported that all consumer members vacancies have been filled with the additions of Mr. Moore and Ms. Simmons. Dr. Cleveland noted that half of the Board members have filled out and submitted the FSMB survey and requested that the remaining half do so.

Dr. Cleveland reminded the Board members of the upcoming Board Retreat and to contact Francis Carillo regarding room reservations. Dr. Cleveland noted that the FSMB Outreach Program is ongoing and the social media campaign has started.

Review and Approval of the May 21, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (Agenda Item #7)

Upon review of the May 21, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, Dr. Latorre moved for approval of the minutes as submitted. Dr. Kinard seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Review and Approval of the May 21, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes (Agenda Item #8)

Upon review of the May 21, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes, Dr. Kinard moved for approval of the minutes as submitted. Dr. Latorre seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Report of July 15, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting (Agenda Item #9)

Dr. Roth reported on the matters considered by the Executive Committee on July 15, 2026, and the recommendations made.

A motion was made by Dr. Dotson, seconded by Dr. Loper, and carried to accept the report and ratify the recommendations as reported by the Executive Committee.

HEARING IN THE CASE OF JOHN MARLEY BERNARD, M.D.
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE #28332
APPROVAL OF CONSENT ORDER
(Agenda Item #10)

Ms. Guyse briefly summarized the matter that led to a proposed Consent Order based on violations of certain provisions of the Mississippi Medical Practice Act, specifically, Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-29(13) and 30 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2630, Ch. 1, R. 1.2, R. 1.3, and R.4; Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-29(8)(d); and Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-83(a).

Dr. Bernard and his counsel, Jeffrey Moore, Esq., appeared via Zoom.

Dr. Bernard was sworn in by the court reporter.

Dr. Bernard answered questions from Ms. Guyse.

Ms. Guyse reviewed the terms of the proposed Consent Order with Dr. Bernard. Dr. Bernard accepted the terms of the proposed Consent Order.

Defense counsel, Jeffrey Moore, introduced himself, summarized the terms of the consent order, and questioned Dr. Bernard regarding the same.

Dr. Bernard answered questions from the Board.

Dr. Kinard made a motion, seconded by Dr. Owens, and carried unanimously to **APPROVE** the Consent Order.

A copy of the Consent Order is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

The official account of this proceeding was recorded by Amy Key, Court Reporter, eDeposition.

HEARING IN THE CASE OF ASAD KHAN NIAZI, M.D.
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE #33320
APPROVAL OF CONSENT ORDER
(Agenda Item #11)

Ms. Guyse briefly summarized the matter that led to the proposed Consent Order based on disciplinary action taken by another federal, state, or local licensing authority in violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-29(9).

Dr. Niazi and his counsel, Nathalie Heineman, Esq., appeared via Zoom.

Dr. Niazi was sworn in by the court reporter.

Dr. Niazi answered questions from Ms. Guyse.

Ms. Guyse reviewed the terms of the proposed Consent Order with Dr. Niazi. Dr. Niazi accepted the terms of the proposed Consent Order.

Dr. Niazi answered questions from the Board.

Dr. Kinard made a motion, seconded by Dr. Latorre, and carried unanimously to **APPROVE** the Consent Order.

A copy of the Consent Order is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

The official account of this proceeding was recorded by Amy Key, Court Reporter, eDeposition.

HEARING IN THE CASE OF MATTHEW THOMAS TIPTON, D.O.
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE #23169
APPROVAL OF CONSENT ORDER
(Agenda Item #12)

Ms. Guyse briefly summarized the matter that led to a proposed Consent Order based on disciplinary action taken by another federal, state, or local licensing authority in violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-29(9).

Dr. Tipton appeared via Zoom, and his counsel, Doug Mercier, Esq., appeared in-person.

Dr. Tipton was sworn in by the court reporter.

Dr. Tipton answered questions from Ms. Guyse.

Ms. Guyse reviewed the terms of the proposed Consent Order with Dr. Tipton. Dr. Tipton accepted the terms of the proposed Consent Order.

Defense counsel Doug Mercier introduced himself, summarized the terms of the Consent Order, and questioned Dr. Tipton regarding the same.

A motion was made by Dr. Latorre, seconded by Dr. Owens, and carried unanimously to **APPROVE** the Consent Order.

A copy of the Consent Order is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

The official account of this proceeding was recorded by Amy Key, Court Reporter, eDeposition.

HEARING IN THE CASE OF RICHARD EARL RHODEN, M.D.
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE #06460
MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE
(Agenda Item #13)

Ms. Guyse advised that there is a conflict with the July hearing date for the experts retained by the Board and the Licensee. Therefore, Licensee requested a second continuance until the September 2026 Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Owens, seconded by Dr. Latorre, and carried unanimously to **APPROVE** the motion to continue this matter until the September Board Meeting.

A copy of the Second Order of Continuance is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

The official account of this proceeding was recorded by Amy Key, Court Reporter, eDeposition.

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES:
EARL BLAIR MAES, M.D.
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE #28022
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER (Agenda Item #14)

Ms. Guyse advised that Dr. Maes surrendered his license to practice medicine in the State of Mississippi, effective March 25, 2026, due to a violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-29(10).

HEARING IN THE CASE OF MICHAEL LAWRENCE SANDERS, M.D.
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE #15970
(Agenda Item #15)

Mr. Barnes introduced exhibits into the record (MSBML 000001-000498, 003129-003175) with the exception of MSB 003156-3160. Counsel for Licensee, Doug Mercier, made no objections to the Board's exhibits.

Ms. Hartzog stated that all records with confidential information will be admitted under seal. The exhibits will need to be redacted before being produced publicly.

Dr. Sanders and Mr. Jonathan Dalton were sworn in by the court reporter.

Mr. Barnes made an opening statement.

Mr. Mercier made an opening statement.

Mr. Barnes called Dr. Sanders as an adverse witness.

Dr. Sanders answered questions from Mr. Barnes.

Dr. Sanders answered questions from Mr. Mercier.

THE BOARD RECESSED FOR LUNCH AT 12:05 PM AND RECONVENED AT 1:01 PM

DR. OWENS LEFT THE MEETING AT 1:00 PM AND WILL NOT BE PART OF THE DELIBERATION

Dr. Sanders answered questions from the Board.

Dr. Sanders answered questions from Mr. Barnes.

Dr. Sanders answered questions from the Board.

Complaint Counsel rested their case-in-chief.

Mr. Mercier called Mr. Dalton to the stand as an adverse witness.

Mr. Dalton answered questions from Mr. Mercier.

Mr. Dalton answered questions from Mr. Barnes.

Mr. Dalton answered questions from the Board.

Licensee's counsel rested.

Mr. Barnes made a closing statement.

Mr. Mercier made a closing statement.

A motion was made by Dr. Dotson, seconded by Dr. Kinard, and carried that the Board hearing be closed to discuss going into executive session.

CLOSED SESSION

During the closed session, a motion was made by Dr. Dotson, seconded by Dr. Kinard, and carried that the Board enter into executive session to deliberate the charges against Dr. Sanders. The Motion passed unanimously. The Board entered executive session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to come out of executive session. Dr. Roth reported that the Board finds as follows:

Count I: Licensee is guilty of knowingly performing an act which in any way assists an unlicensed person to practice medicine by virtue of Licensee's failure to oversee the use of medications ordered under his authority, all in violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-29(8)(b). **The Board found Licensee NOT GUILTY as to Count I.**

Count II: Licensee is guilty of prescribing, administering, or dispensing medications without a good faith prior examination or medical indication, in violation of Title 30, Part 2640, Rule 1.4, *Maintenance of Records and Inventories,* of the Board's Administrative Code, all in violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-29(13). **The Board found Licensee NOT GUILTY as to Count II.**

Count III: Licensee is guilty of unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, being guilty of any dishonorable or unethical conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-25-29(8)(d) and 73-25-83(a). **The Board found Licensee NOT GUILTY as to Count III.**

Dr. Givens recommended that Dr. Sanders review the Board's Rules and Regulations regarding collaboration with advanced practice registered nurses, recordkeeping, and allowing mid-levels to use his DEA and NPI numbers.

PURSUANT TO MISS. CODE ANN. § 25-41-7(d), INVESTIGATIVE SUBPOENAS FOR APPROVAL, CASE NUMBERS 2026-001, 2026-080, 2025-012, and 2026-076. THIS IS A MATTER FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION TO BE HELD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS INVESTIGATIVE PROCEEDINGS REGARDING ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT OR VIOLATIONS OF LAW.
(Agenda Item #16)

Dr. Givens advised that Agenda Item #16 concerns requests for the issuance of investigative subpoenas. A motion was made by Dr. Dotson, seconded by Dr. Latorre, and carried that the Board meeting be closed to discuss whether to enter into executive session for the purpose of approving the issuance of investigative subpoenas for case numbers 2026-001, 2026-080, 2025-012, and 2026-076 pursuant to the authority of Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7(d).

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to enter executive session. The Board entered executive session.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to return to open session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session. Dr. Roth reported that during the Executive Session, the Board voted unanimously to **APPROVE** the requests for issuance of investigative subpoenas for case numbers 2026-001, 2026-080, 2025-012, and 2026-076. Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-27, the Executive Director of the Board is hereby authorized to issue the requested investigative subpoenas, and this authorization shall be deemed an order spread on the minutes of the Board.

SEPTEMBER 2026 BOARD MEETING DATES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, AND THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 (Agenda Item #17)

After discussion regarding dates, the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board was set for Wednesday, September 16, 2026, and Thursday, September 17, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Roderick Givens, M.D.
President

Minutes taken and transcribed by:
Jackie McKenzie
Paralegal
July 15, 2026

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 8:00 am
6th Floor
Board Room

Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 10:00 am
6th Floor
Board Room

BOARD MEETING AGENDA
MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
July 15, 2026 at 10:00 am

1. Meeting called to order.

2. Invocation, Pledge

3. Roll Call

4. Public Comment

5. Report from the Executive Director

6. Approval of Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting dated May 21, 2026.

7. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting dated May 21, 2026.

8. Report of July 15, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting.

9. Hearing in the case of John Marley Bernard, M.D.
   Mississippi Medical License 28332
   Approval of Consent Order

10. Hearing in the case of Asad Khan Niazi, M.D.
    Mississippi Medical License 33320
    Approval of Consent Order

11. Hearing in the case of Matthew Thomas Tipton, D.O.
    Mississippi Medical License 23169
    Approval of Consent Order

12. Hearing in the case of Richard Earl Rhoden, M.D.
    Mississippi Medical License 06460
    Motion for Continuance

13. Hearing in the case of Michael Lawrence Sanders, M.D.
    Mississippi Medical License 15970

14. Pursuant to MS Code § 25-41-7, Investigative Subpoena for approval, Case numbers 2026–001 and 2026-080. This is a matter for review and discussion to be held in executive session to discuss Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violations of law.

15. September 2026 Board Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, September 16 and Thursday, September 17, 2026.

Report of July 15, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting

Dr. Roth reported on the matters considered by the Executive Committee on July 15, 2025, and the recommendations made. Dr. Roth briefly summarized the matters considered by the Executive Committee.

A motion was made by Dr. Dotson, seconded by Dr. Kinard, and carried unanimously, to accept the report and ratify the recommendations as reported by the Executive Committee. Copies of the approved minutes are attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

IN THE MATTER OF PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE OF JOHN MARLEY BERNARD, M.D., LICENSE NO. 28332 **CASE NO. 2024-056**

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, John Marley Bernard, M.D., hereinafter referred to as "Licensee," is a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Mississippi, currently holding License Number 28332. Said license expires on June 30, 2026;

WHEREAS, Licensee reports his area of practice to be Emergency Medicine conducted with Doctalkgo at 10 Trefoil Terrace, Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054;

WHEREAS, the Investigative Staff of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, hereinafter referred to as the "Board," has conducted an investigation of Licensee and has in its possession evidence which, if produced during the course of an evidentiary hearing, would substantiate that Licensee has violated certain provisions of the Mississippi Medical Practice Act, specifically, Miss. Code Ann. § 7325-29(13) and 30 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2630, Ch. 1, R. 1.2, R. 1.3, and R. 1.4; and Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-29(8)(d) and Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-83(a); and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of Licensee to avoid an evidentiary hearing before the Board and, in lieu thereof, has agreed to enter into this Consent Order, thereby admitting the facts and allegations set forth herein, subject to the terms specified below.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, with consent of Licensee as signified by his joinder herein, does hereby take the following action:

Licensee is hereby **REPRIMANDED**.

1. Within three (3) months from the date of this Order, Licensee shall enroll and successfully complete an AMA Category 1 Continuing Medical Education course in the area of Medical Ethics. Following completion of the course, Licensee shall submit to the Board's Compliance Officer documentary proof of successful completion.
2. Licensee shall obey all federal, state and local laws, and all rules and regulations governing the practice of medicine. Any further acts of misconduct may result in further action.
3. Licensee expressly agrees he will not seek an appearance before the Board prior to the completion of the terms of this Order and, further, agrees the terms of the Order, once executed, will not be reconsidered.
4. Licensee understands and expressly acknowledges that, should Licensee challenge or dispute any provision or statement in this agreement during the Board approval process, this Consent Order will automatically be rendered null and void, formal charges will be brought, and this matter shall be set for a full evidentiary hearing at the convenience of the Board.
5. Licensee shall reimburse the Board for all costs incurred in relation to the pending matter pursuant to Miss. Code Ann., § 73-25-30. Licensee shall be advised of the total assessment by separate written

notification and shall tender to the Board a certified check or money order made payable to the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, on or before forty (40) days from the date the assessment is mailed to Licensee via U.S. Mail to Licensee's current mailing address.

This Consent Order shall be subject to approval by the Board. If the Board fails to approve this Consent Order, in whole or in part, it shall have no force or effect on the parties. It is further understood and agreed that the purpose of this Consent Order is to avoid a hearing before the Board. In this regard, Licensee authorizes the Board to review and examine any documentary evidence or material concerning the Licensee prior to or in conjunction with its consideration of this Consent Order.

Licensee understands that he may participate in the Board meeting scheduled for July 16, 2026, via zoom or other virtual platform, at which time the Board will consider approval of this Consent Order. Licensee further acknowledges that he may be required to personally appear before the Board on a scheduled hearing date to answer any questions which the Board may have.

Should this Consent Order not be accepted by the Board, it is agreed that presentation to, and consideration by the Board of, this Consent Order and other documents and matters pertaining thereto, including Licensee's answers to questions, shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Board or any of its members from participation in any further proceedings. Should the Board hereafter receive documented evidence of Licensee violating any of the terms of this Consent Order, or of any further actions(s) taken related to the facts and terms stated herein, the Board shall have the right, following a full evidentiary

hearing, to revoke the medical license of Licensee, suspend it for a time deemed proper by the Board, or take any other action determined as necessary by the Board.

Licensee understands and expressly acknowledges that this Consent Order, if approved and executed by the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, shall constitute a public record of the State of Mississippi. Licensee further acknowledges that the Board shall provide a copy of this Order to, among others, the National Practitioners Data Bank (NPDB), the Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH), the Federation of State Medical Boards, the Office of the Inspector General, United States Department of Health and Human Services (OIG-HHS), the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Mississippi Division of Medicaid, the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy, and the Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA). The Board makes no representation as to action, if any, which any other agency or jurisdiction may take in response to this Order.

Recognizing his right to notice of charges specified against him, to have such charges adjudicated pursuant to Miss. Code Ann.,§ 73-25-27, to be represented therein by legal counsel of his choice, and to a final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, **JOHN MARLEY BERNARD, M.D.**, nevertheless, hereby waives his right to notice and a formal adjudication of charges and authorizes the Board to enter an order accepting this Consent Order.

[INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK; SIGNATURE TO FOLLOW]

EXECUTED, this the 18th day of June, 2026.

John Marley Bernard, M.D.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED, this the 15th day of July, 2026, by the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure.

Roderick Givens, M.D.
Board President

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

IN THE MATTER OF PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE OF ASAD KHAN NIAZI, M.D., LICENSE NO. 33320 **CASE NO. 2025-058**

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Asad Khan Niazi, M.D., hereinafter referred to as "Licensee," is a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Mississippi, currently holding License Number 33320. Said license expires on June 30, 2027;

WHEREAS, Licensee reports his area of practice to be Internal Medicine conducted with NuggMD at 5306 Maybrook Park Lane, Katy, TX 77450;

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2026, the Washington Medical Commission ("Washington Board") entered a Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Agreed Order, resulting in several restrictions being placed on Licensee's Washington medical license;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann., § 73-25-29(9), the aforementioned action by the Washington Board constitutes action against Licensee's ability to practice in another jurisdiction, grounds for which the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (the "Board), may suspend his right to practice for a time deemed proper by the Board, place his license on probation, the terms of which may be set by the Board, or take any other action in relation to his license as the Board may deem proper under the circumstances;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of Licensee to avoid an evidentiary hearing before the Board and, in lieu thereof, has agreed to enter into this Consent Order, thereby

admitting to the facts set forth herein, subject to the terms, conditions and restrictions specified below.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, with consent of Licensee as signified by his joinder herein, does hereby place the following terms on Licensee's certificate (No. 33320) to practice medicine in the State of Mississippi, to wit:

1. Licensee must comply with all requirements set forth in the aforementioned Washington Board Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Agreed Order. Licensee shall provide proof of the successful relief of the Washington Board Order prior to the lifting of this Consent Order.
2. Licensee is hereby restricted from practicing telemedicine with patients located in the State of Mississippi until he successfully complies with all the requirements set forth in the aforementioned Washington Board Order and provides proof of the successful relief of the Washington Board Order to this Board.
3. Licensee is permanently restricted from issuing written certifications for medical cannabis to patients located in the State of Mississippi.
4. Licensee shall obey all federal, state and local laws, and all rules and regulations governing the practice of medicine. Any further acts of misconduct may result in further action.

5. Licensee shall reimburse the Board for all costs incurred in relation to the pending matter pursuant to Miss. Code Ann., § 73-25-30, said amount not to exceed $10,000. Licensee shall be advised of the total assessment by separate written notification and shall tender to the Board a certified check or money order made payable to the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, on or before forty (40) days from the date the assessment is mailed to Licensee via U.S. Mail to Licensee's current mailing address.

Should the Board hereafter receive documented evidence of Licensee violating any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, the Board shall have the right, pursuant to a full evidentiary hearing, to revoke the medical license of Licensee, suspend it for a time deemed proper by the Board, or take any other action determined as necessary by the Board.

This Consent Order shall be subject to approval by the Board. If the Board fails to approve this Consent Order, in whole or in part, it shall have no force or effect on the parties. It is further understood and agreed that the purpose of this Consent Order is to avoid a hearing before the Board. In this regard, Licensee authorizes the Board to review and examine any documentary evidence or material concerning the Licensee prior to or in conjunction with its consideration of this Consent Order.

Should this Consent Order not be accepted by the Board, it is agreed that presentation to and consideration of this Consent Order and other documents and matters pertaining thereof by the Board, including Licensee's answers to questions,

shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Board or any of its members from participation in any further proceedings.

Licensee understand and expressly acknowledges that, should Licensee challenge or dispute any provision or statement in this agreement during the Board approval process, or if the Board accept the terms as set forth herein, this Consent Order will automatically be rendered null and void, and this matter shall be set for full evidentiary herein at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

Licensee understands and expressly acknowledges that this Consent Order, if approved and executed by the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, shall constitute a public record of the State of Mississippi, thereby accessible through the Board's website. Licensee further acknowledges that the Board shall provide a copy of this Order to, among others, the National Practitioners Data Bank (NPDB), the Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH), the Federation of State Medical Boards, the Office of the Inspector General, United States Department of Health and Human Services (OIG-HHS), the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Division of Medicaid, the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy, and the Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMS). The Board makes no representation as to what action, if any, which any other agency or jurisdiction may take in response to this Consent Order.

Recognizing his right to notice of charges specified against him, to have such charges adjudicated pursuant to Miss. Code Ann., § 73-25-27, to be represented therein by legal counsel of his choice, and to a final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, **ASAD KHAN NIAZI, M.D.,** nevertheless,

hereby waives his right to notice and a formal adjudication of charges, thereby suspending his medical license, subject to those terms and conditions listed above.

EXECUTED, this the **19th**, day of **June**, 2026.

ASAD KHAN NIAZI, M.D.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED, this the 15th, day of July 2026, by the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure.

Roderick Givens, M.D.
Board President

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

IN THE MATTER OF THE PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE OF MATTHEW THOMAS TIPTON, D.O., LICENSE NO. 23169 **CASE NO. 2025-061**

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, MATTHEW THOMAS TIPTON, D.O., hereinafter referred to as "Licensee," is the current holder of Mississippi Medical License No. 23169, said license number expires on June 30, 2027;

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2025, the Tennessee Board of Osteopathic Examination, hereinafter referred to as the "Tennessee Board", entered a Final Order, resulting in Licensee's Tennessee Osteopathic Physician license being placed on probation for a period of at least one (1) year, prohibited Licensee from supervising or collaborating with any mid-level providers, fined Licensee $3,000.00, and set forth certain requirements for Licensee to obtain additional continuing medical education (CME);

WHEREAS, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann., § 73-25-29(9), the aforementioned actions by the Tennessee Board constitutes action against Licensee's ability to practice in another jurisdiction, grounds for which the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, hereinafter referred to as the "Board", may suspend his right to practice for a time deemed proper by the Board, place his license on probation, the terms of which may be set by the Board, or take any other action in relation to his license as the Board may deem proper under the circumstances; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of Licensee to avoid an evidentiary hearing before the Board and, in lieu thereof, has agreed to enter into this Consent Order, thereby admitting to the facts set forth herein, subject to the terms, conditions and restrictions specified below.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, with consent of Licensee as signified by his joinder herein, does hereby take the following action:

1. Licensee is hereby **REPRIMANDED.**
2. Licensee must comply with all requirements set forth in the aforementioned Tennessee Board Final Order. Licensee shall provide proof of the successful relief of the Tennessee Board Final Order prior to the lifting of this Consent Order.
3. Licensee shall obey all federal, state, and local laws, and all rule and regulations governing the practice of medicine during the period of probation, the violation of which may result in further action.
4. Licensee shall reimburse the Board for all costs incurred in relation to the pending matter pursuant to Miss. Code Ann., § 73-25-30, said amount not to exceed $10,000. Licensee shall be advised of the total assessment by separate written notification and shall tender to the Board a certified check or money order made payable to the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, on or before forty (40) days from the

date the assessment is mailed to Licensee via U.S. Mail to Licensee's current mailing address.

Should the Board hereafter receive documented evidence of Licensee violating any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, the Board shall have the right, pursuant to a full evidentiary hearing, to revoke the medical license of Licensee, suspend it for a time deemed proper by the Board, or take any other action determined as necessary by the Board.

This Consent Order shall be subject to approval by the Board. If the Board fails to approve this Consent Order, in whole or in part, it shall have no force or effect on the parties. It is further understood and agreed that the purpose of this Consent Order is to avoid a hearing before the Board. In this regard, Licensee authorizes the Board to review and examine any documentary evidence or material concerning the Licensee prior to or in conjunction with its consideration of this Consent Order.

Should this Consent Order not be accepted by the Board, it is agreed that presentation to and consideration of this Consent Order and other documents and matters pertaining thereof by the Board, including Licensee's answers to questions, shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Board or any of its members from participation in any further proceedings.

Licensee understand and expressly acknowledges that, should Licensee challenge or dispute any provision or statement in this agreement during the Board approval process, or if the Board accept the terms as set forth herein, this Consent

Order will automatically be rendered null and void, and this matter shall be set for full evidentiary herein at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

Licensee understands and expressly acknowledges that this Consent Order, if approved and executed by the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, shall constitute a public record of the State of Mississippi, thereby accessible through the Board's website. Licensee further acknowledges that the Board shall provide a copy of this Order to, among others, the National Practitioners Data Bank (NPDB), the Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH), the Federation of State Medical Boards, the Office of the Inspector General, United States Department of Health and Human Services (OIG-HHS), the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Division of Medicaid, the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy, and the Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMS). The Board makes no representation as to what action, if any, which any other agency or jurisdiction may take in response to this Consent Order.

Recognizing his right to notice of charges specified against him, to have such charges adjudicated pursuant to Miss. Code Ann., § 73-25-27, to be represented therein by legal counsel of his choice, and to a final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, **MATTHEW THOMAS TIPTON, D.O.**, nevertheless, hereby waives his right to notice and a formal adjudication of charges, thereby suspending his medical license, subject to those terms and conditions listed above.

EXECUTED, this the 24 day of June, 2026.

MATTHEW THOMAS TIPTON, D.O

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED, this the 15th, day of July 2026, by the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure.

Roderick Givens, M.D.
Board President

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

IN THE MATTER OF THE PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE OF RICHARD EARL RHODEN, M.D., LICENSE NO. 06460 **CASE NO. 2023-052**

SECOND ORDER OF CONTINUANCE

THIS MATTER came on regularly for consideration by the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure ("Board") in response to a second unopposed request for continuance of the hearing set for this date made by Dr. Rhoden.

After consideration of the matter, the Board finds the motion is well-taken and is hereby **GRANTED**.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, that this matter is continued until September 16th-17th, 2026.

SO ORDERED this 15th, day of July 2026.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

BY: _____

Roderick Givens, M.D.
President

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

IN THE MATTER OF THE PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE OF EARL BLAIR MAES, LICENSE NO. 28022

CASE NO. 2026-048

SURRENDER OF MEDICAL LICENSE

WHEREAS, Earl Blair Maes, hereinafter referred to as "Licensee," is the current holder of Mississippi Medical License Number 28022, to practice medicine in the State of Mississippi. Said license expires on June 30, 2026;

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2026, Licensee voluntarily surrendered his license to practice medicine in the state of Virginia;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-29(10), the aforementioned surrender constitutes action against Licensee's ability to practice in another jurisdiction, grounds for which the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure may revoke Licensee's Mississippi medical license, suspend his right to practice for a time deemed proper by the Board, place his license on probation, the terms of which may be set by the Board, or take any other action in relation to his license as the Board may deem proper under the circumstances;

NOW, THEREFORE, to resolve this matter and to avoid a hearing before the Board, Licensee hereby voluntarily surrenders his license to practice medicine in the state of Mississippi and understands said Surrender shall be effective immediately upon execution. Licensee understands this is an unconditional surrender and is reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank and other entities such as the Federation of State Medical Boards and shall constitute a public record of the State

of Mississippi. Licensee expressly agrees that he will not seek renewal or reinstatement of his license to practice medicine in Mississippi, nor will he seek a new license to practice in this State.

Recognizing his right to notice of charges specified against him, to have such charges adjudicated pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-27, to be represented therein by legal counsel of his choice, and to a final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, Earl Blair Maes, M.D., nevertheless, hereby waives his right to notice and a formal adjudication of charges and hereby voluntarily executes this **Surrender of Medical License.**

EXECUTED, this the 25, day of Mar, 2026.

EARL BLAIR MAES, M.D.

This document was signed before me by Earl Maes, MD.

3/25/26

THOMAS LEEWAYNE COBB
My Commission Expires
06-27-2028
NOTARY SEAL
Polk
County
Commission # 24851801
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MISSOURI

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

IN THE MATTER OF:

MICHAEL LAWRENCE SANDERS, M.D. LICENSE NO. 15970

DETERMINATION AND ORDER

The above-titled matter came before the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure ("Board") at its offices in Ridgeland, Madison County, Mississippi, on July 15, 2026, for a formal hearing on the First Amended Summons and First Amended Affidavit issued against Michael Lawrence Sanders, M.D. ("Licensee"), Mississippi Medical License No. 15970.

The Board received a complaint alleging prescribing issues concerning Licensee's role as Medical Director of CORE Cryotherapy and Wellness in Ridgeland, Mississippi. Following investigation, a First Amended Summons and First Amended Affidavit were issued to Licensee's Counsel on or about June 3, 2026, charging Licensee with three counts as more particularly set forth below.

Board members present for the July 15, 2026, proceedings were Roderick Givens, M.D., President; Kirk L. Kinard, D.O., Vice President; Randy Roth, M.D., Secretary; Allen Gersh, M.D.; William Eugene Loper, III, M.D.; Renia R. Dotson, M.D.; Carlos A. Latorre, M.D., MS, FAAFP, DABFM; and James A. Rish, M.D. Consumer members Koomarie "Shoba" Gaymes; William Mauldin Moore, MBA, MHA; and Temika Simmons, Ph.D were also present. Michelle Y. Owens, M.D., was present for a portion of the hearing but did not participate in the Board's deliberations. Accordingly, a quorum of Board members was present throughout the hearing and deliberation.

Board Counsel Paul E. Barnes, Esq., presented the charges as set forth in the First Amended Affidavit filed herein. Licensee, having been served with the First Amended Summons and First Amended Affidavit and being fully informed of his rights to a formal hearing before the Board, was represented by Douglas G. Mercier, Esq.

Sara Hartzog, Special Assistant Attorney General, served as Administrative Hearing Officer presided over the hearing, and was directed to prepare the Board's written decision in accordance with its deliberations.

At the hearing, the Board's Composite Exhibit, marked Exhibit B-1, was received into evidence under seal without objection. Licensee's Exhibit, marked Exhibit R-1, was received into evidence without objection.

And now, upon consideration of all the materials produced in the record before the Board along with the testimony and evidence presented at the hearing, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board is established pursuant to the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure Act, Title 73, Chapter 43 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and is charged with the duty of licensing and regulating the practice of medicine in the State of Mississippi under Title 73, Chapter 25 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

2. Sections 73-25-29, 73-25-83, and 73-25-87 of the Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), as amended, provide that the Board may revoke or suspend a license, or take any other action as deemed necessary, if a licensee has violated any provision therein. The burden rests upon Board counsel to prove such violations by clear and convincing evidence.

3. All parties were properly noticed for the matter now pending before the Board.

4. Licensee is a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Mississippi, having been issued Mississippi Medical License Number 15970 on July 28, 1998.

5. On or about the dates alleged, the Board received a complaint alleging prescribing issues. Investigation determined that from approximately September 9, 2019, to May 10, 2022, Licensee served in name as "Medical Director" for CORE Cryotherapy and Wellness ("CORE"), a business in Ridgeland, Mississippi, administering intravenous ("IV") fluids and related therapies. The Board issued its Summons and Affidavit to Dr. Sanders' Counsel on March 2, 2023; the First Amended Summons and First Amended Affidavit were issued to Dr. Sanders' Counsel on June 3, 2026.

6. The First Amended Affidavit alleged that Licensee provided his professional licensing information so that CORE could order supplies, including IV fluids and other prescriptive additives, and that Licensee executed a collaboration agreement with a mid-level provider, but failed to conduct meaningful oversight, chart review, or quality review of CORE's operations during his tenure as Medical Director.

7. Based on the foregoing allegations, Count I of the First Amended Affidavit charged Licensee with "knowingly performing an act which in any way assists an unlicensed person to practice medicine by virtue of Licensee's failure to oversee the use of medications ordered under his authority, all in violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-29(8)(b)."

8. Count II of the First Amended Affidavit charged Licensee with "prescribing, administering, or dispensing medications without a good faith prior examination or medical indication, in violation of Title 30, Part 2640, Rule 1.4 *Maintenance of Records and Inventories,* of the Board's Administrative Code, all in violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-29(13)."

9. Count III of the First Amended Affidavit charged Licensee with "unprofessional conduct, which includes being guilty of any dishonorable or unethical conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public, in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-25-29(8)(d) and 73-25-83(a)."

10. On June 18, 2026, Licensee, through counsel, timely filed his *Response to First Amended Affidavit and Summons* denying each of the three counts and demanding strict and competent proof of the allegations.

TESTIMONY OF LICENSEE

11. Licensee testified that he is a family medicine physician who has practiced primary care in Ridgeland, Mississippi, and has served as a hospice medical director for approximately ten years. Licensee testified that he does not perform IV hydration therapy as part of his own practice, has no training in IV hydration therapy, and refers patients needing such treatment to others.

12. Licensee testified that Brent Holloway, an acquaintance, contacted him around June or July 2019 about collaborating with a nurse practitioner at CORE so that CORE could begin offering testosterone replacement therapy ("TRT"). Licensee testified that he agreed to help Mr. Holloway, without compensation or ownership interest, out of personal friendship.

13. Licensee testified that he signed vendor and pharmacy authorization and purchasing documents, including with Medline, ASP Cares, and Axia

Pharmaceutical, beginning on or about January 29, 2020, using the title "Medical Director," so that CORE could open supply accounts. Licensee acknowledged that his medical license number, NPI, and DEA number were used on these forms, but testified that he never personally ordered specific medications or supplies and never authorized their misuse.

14. Licensee testified that he never held a written contract with CORE defining duties as medical director, was never paid, held no ownership interest, never had a key to the facility, and was physically present at the CORE premises on no more than two occasions during a period of approximately two and a half years.

15. Licensee testified that his role was limited to serving as a collaborating physician for CORE's nurse practitioners, principally regarding TRT, and that only four nurse practitioners worked at CORE at various points, often with lengthy gaps of months during which no nurse practitioner was on-site at all.

16. Licensee testified that he was not aware, during his affiliation with CORE, that unlicensed or unauthorized personnel, including paramedics or emergency medical technicians, at times administered IV hydration therapy at CORE, and that he did not review charts or documentation reflecting physical examinations of IV hydration clients because none were provided to him.

17. Licensee testified that Dr. Massie Headley, a co-owner of CORE, was regularly consulted by CORE staff on clinical and business matters, referred his own patients to CORE, and that Licensee was unaware of the extent of Dr. Headley's involvement in CORE's operations during the relevant period.

18. Licensee testified that in a May 10, 2022, email to Mr. Holloway, he stated that although he was "listed as the medical director," he was "really not serving in that capacity," and requested that his name be removed as medical director within three to four months, after which Dr. Headley assumed the title of medical director.

TESTIMONY OF JONATHAN DALTON

19. Jonathan Dalton, the Board's Director of Investigations, testified that he authored the First Amended Affidavit in consultation with the Board's legal staff, and acknowledged that the term "medical director" is not defined in the Mississippi Medical Practice Act or the Board's Administrative Code.

20. Mr. Dalton testified that the principal evidentiary basis for the allegation that Licensee functioned as medical director in more than name only consisted of

the vendor and pharmacy authorization and purchasing forms bearing Licensee's credentials and the title "Medical Director."

21. Mr. Dalton acknowledged that the investigative file did not contain evidence that Licensee personally ordered any medication or supply used at CORE, that Licensee prescribed, administered, or dispensed any legend drug, or that any specific patient received treatment using medication ordered under Licensee's credentials.

22. Mr. Dalton acknowledged that no statute or regulation required Licensee, as an unpaid, non-contracted collaborating physician, to conduct on-site inspections, inventory reviews, or oversight of CORE's day-to-day clinical operations, and that he was not aware of any similar requirement applicable to physicians serving as collaborating or nominal medical directors generally.

23. Mr. Dalton agreed that the record reflected substantially more extensive evidence of Dr. Massie Headley's direct involvement in patient referrals, clinical decision-making, and oversight at CORE, including Dr. Headley's own sworn testimony at his May 18, 2023, consent order hearing (Exhibit R-1), than any comparable evidence concerning Licensee.

DETERMINATIONS

24. As to Count I, the Board finds that Board Counsel did not meet its burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that Licensee violated Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-29(8)(b). Licensee is therefore found **NOT GUILTY** of Count I.

25. As to Count II, the Board finds that Board Counsel did not meets its burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that Licensee violated 30 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 2640, Rule 1.4, and Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-29(13). Licensee is therefore found **NOT GUILTY** of Count II.

26. As to Count III, the Board's vote resulted in a tie, with four (4) members voting to find Licensee guilty and four (4) members voting to find Licensee not guilty of unprofessional conduct in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §§ 73-25-29(8)(d) and 73-25-83(a). Because the burden of proving a charge by clear and convincing evidence rests upon Board Counsel, a tie vote fails to satisfy that burden. Licensee is therefore found **NOT GUILTY** of Count III.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board finds the following Order to be appropriate under the circumstances.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Licensee is found **NOT GUILTY** of Counts I, II, and III set forth in the Board's First Amended Affidavit.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Licensee's Mississippi Medical License Number 15970 shall remain in full force and effect, unaffected by this proceeding.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Final Determination and Order is a final order of the Board and is conclusive evidence of the matters described herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Final Determination and Order shall be public record. It may be shared with other licensing boards (in and out of state) and the public, and may be reported to the appropriate entities as required or authorized by state and/or federal law or guidelines. This action shall be spread upon the Minutes of the Board as its official act and deed.

SO ORDERED this the 15th day of July 2026.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

BY: _____

RODERICK GIVENS, M.D.,
PRESIDENT

BOARD MEETING AGENDA
MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

Pursuant to MS Code § 25-41-7, Investigative Subpoena for approval, Case numbers 2026–001, 2026-080 and 2025-012. This is a matter for review and discussion to be held in executive session to discuss Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct or violations of law.

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Additional information to be provided by the Executive Director and / or Board Attorney.