## BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

## IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF:

PRISCILLA HOGAN RESSER, PA-C

License No. PA00473

### DETERMINATION AND ORDER

On March 20, 2025, the above titled matter came before the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure ("Board") in Jackson, Hinds County Mississippi, on an Order of Temporary Action Pending Hearing in the matter of Priscilla Hogan Resser, PA-C, (Licensee).

Board Counsel Paul Barnes, *Esq.*, presented the charges as set forth in the Affidavit filed herein. Licensee, having been served with the Summons and Affidavit and being fully informed of her rights to a formal hearing before the Board, was not represented by counsel. Alexis E. Morris, 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 their deliberations.

Board members present for the proceedings were: Michelle Y. Owens, M.D., President; Ken Lippincott, M.D.; Kirk Kinard, D.O.; William Eugene Loper, M.D.; Renia R. Dotson, M.D.; and Randy Roth, M.D. Board members Thomas Joiner, M.D., Allen Gersh, M.D., and Rodrick Givens, M.D., appeared and participated in the proceedings via Zoom. Accordingly, a quorum of the Board was present throughout the hearing and deliberation.

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

#### 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 (1972) as amended provide that the Board may revoke or suspend a license or take any other actions as deemed necessary if a licensee has violated any provisions therein.
- 3. All parties were properly noticed for the matter now pending before the Board.
- 4. On January 27, 2020, Licensee was issued Mississippi Physician Assistant License Number PA00473, and Licensee was a physician assistant duly licensed to practice medicine in the State of Mississippi, with said license number current until June 30, 2024.
- 5. In March 2024, the Board received information alleging that Licensee's erratic behavior and suspected substance abuse, beginning in approximately October 2023, led to Licensee losing her job. Licensee was suspected of abusing amphetamines. Accordingly, the Board sent investigators to interview purported witnesses of Licensee's erratic behavior.
- 6. The investigation revealed that Licensee had exhibited distressed behavior and had appeared in videos on Facebook that also depicted distressed behavior.
- 7. Consequently, Licensee was ordered to appear before the Examining Committee (EC) on April 9, 2024, for the purpose of determining her fitness to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of possible mental illness and/or the excessive use or abuse of drugs, including alcohol. The EC was to report the findings of Licensee's examination to the Board regarding her fitness to practice medicine with reasonable skill. However, Licensee failed to appear before the EC in April 2024. Thus, the EC issued an Interim Report dated April 26, 2024 making a finding that Licensee presented an imminent threat to public safety if she were allowed to continue practicing medicine, and referring the matter back to the Board for action.
- 8. On or about May 16, 2024, based on the EC's Interim Report, the Board issued a Determination of Need and an Order of Temporary Action, suspending Licensee's Mississippi physician assistant license, pending the outcome of a hearing scheduled for July 18, 2024. However, Licensee, instead, appeared before the EC in early July 2024. Thereafter, Licensee complied with EC orders and recommendations. The Board continued the final hearing of this matter beginning July 18, 2024 until all evaluations and reports were complete. The EC recommended that Licensee complete a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, substance use and psychiatric evaluation. After Licensee successfully completed the evaluation conducted at Pine Grove Behavioral Health & Addiction Services, the EC sent its final opinion and

recommendations as to Licensee's fitness to practice to the Board in a report dated March 6, 2025. On March 7, 2025, the Mississippi Physicians Health Program (MPHP) issued a letter of advocacy opining that under certain restrictions, Licensee could return to practice with reasonable skill and safety for the public. This matter was scheduled for final hearing on March 20, 2025.

- 9. At the March 20, 2025 hearing, Kristin Powell, LCSW, Associate Director of MPHP, and Dr. James A. Cloy, Medical Director of MPHP, testified that Licensee could return to work with certain restrictions—including workplace monitoring.
- 10. Licensee admitted to having a substance abuse problem and apologized for her behavior (and series of unprofessional emails) to the Board and to MPHP. Licensee stated that she was committed to her recovery and would notify any future employers regarding steps toward her recovery.
- 11. Accordingly, the Board found Licensee guilty of failing to comply with the April 9, 2024 EC's Order to submit to a mental or physical examination. However, the Board declined to render discipline for the violation, because Licensee's medical physician assistant license was suspended for a year—pending a hearing—and because Licensee ultimately completed the evaluation as ordered.
- 12. The Board reviewed all exhibits and documentation, including Licensee's Evaluation and Treatment Records, the EC's Final Report, Licensee's MPHP Contract, MPHP's Letter of Advocacy, and found by clear and convincing evidence that Licensee was fit to return to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to the public with restrictions detailed in the report and advocacy documents.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board finds the following order, restrictions, and conditions to be appropriate under the circumstances:

#### **ORDER**

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that the Order of Temporary Action Pending Hearing (Temporary Suspension) be lifted.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Licensee is on probation for a period of no less than twelve (12) months.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Licensee has direct supervision for the first twenty-five (25) patient encounters after securing employment.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Licensee follow all recommendations and return-to-work plans in her IOP and her MPHP monitoring agreement.

SO ORDERED this the 20th day of March 2025.

# MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

Michelle Y. Owens, M.D. President BY:

President