

**Minutes From the Meeting of the
Medical Licensing Board of Indiana**

September 28, 2023

**Indiana Government Center – South Building
Room W064
402 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

I. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum

8:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

Board Members Present:

John Strobel, MD
Kirk Masten, DO
Frank Messina, MD
Heidi Dunniway, MD
Victoria McCann, JD
Rebecca Mueller, MD

Board Members Absent:

Bharat Barai, MD

PLA Staff:

Alyssa Servies, JD, MPH
Kiko Dixon

Advisory Counsel:

Adam Harvey, JD

II. Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Masten/Dunniway 6-0-0.

III. Adoption of the Minutes

1. June 22, 2023

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes from June 22, 2023.
Masten/Messina 5-0-0. Mueller abstains.

2. July 27, 2023

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes from July 27, 2023.
Masten/Messina 5-0-0. McCann abstains.

3. August 24, 2023

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes from August 24, 2023. Masten/Dunniway 5-0-0. Mueller abstains.

IV. Administrative Hearings

A. Proposed Settlement Agreements

1. Eric Douglas Aitken, M.D., 01063349A

Cause No.: 2021 MLB 0015

DAG: Ryan Eldridge

Respondent: Not present

Witness(es): None

Exhibit(s): None

A motion was made and seconded to accept the settlement agreement and issue a Letter of Reprimand. Strobel/Dunniway 6-0-0.

2. Taylor Paden, M.D., 75000058A

Cause No.: 2023 MLB 0025

DAG: Ryan Eldridge

Respondent: Present with counsel, Laura Iosue

Witness(es): None

Exhibit(s): None

A motion was made and seconded to accept the settlement agreement and renew the license on indefinite probation. Mueller/Messina 6-0-0.

B. Petition For Probation Modification or Withdrawal

1. Cortney Lee Schwartz, M.D., 01045897A

Cause No.: 2015 MLB 0054

Re: Probation Modification

DAG: Ryan Eldridge with Carlos Montenegro, Certified Legal Intern

Respondent: Present with counsel, Lorie Brown

Witness(es): Cortney Schwartz, MD

Exhibit(s): Petitioner's Exhibit A – Verification of Certification
Petitioner's Exhibit B – SPEX Examination Results

A motion was made and seconded to modify the probation. McCann/Dunniway 6-0-0.

V. Discussion Items

1. OAG Report

The OAG Report was delivered by Section Chief of Medical Licensing, Amy Osborne.

VI. Personal Appearances

A. Waiver Requests

1. Tareq Qdaisat, M.D.

Dr. Qdaisat appeared before the Board with a request for a waiver of the requirements on his initial application. He appeared with a representative of his employer. The waiver was in response to his testing schedule, specifically taking all three USMLE steps within ten (10) years. He is a pathologist who has full licensure in Nebraska and Kentucky. In Indiana, he will be working with St. Elizabeth Hospital as a pathologist. He is fully employed and has a two-year contract. St. Elizabeth (in Dearborn) is a rural hospital in Southeast Indiana. A motion was made and seconded to approve the waiver request pending an updated contract to show three years of employment. Messina/Strobel 6-0-0.

B. Initial Application

1. Kasey Gildersleeve, M.D. – **CONTINUED**
2. Anis Mekhail, M.D.

Dr. Mekhail appeared before the Board on a positive response on an initial application. Dr. Mekhail is currently practicing on the southside of Chicago and the practice is expanding into Indiana. Dr. Mekhail disclosed multiple medical malpractice cases in the recent years but said none are pending. A motion was made and seconded to approve the application and issue the license free and clear. Masten/Dunniway 6-0-0.

3. Lindsey Porta, M.D.

Dr. Porta appeared before the Board on a positive response on an initial application. Dr. Porta disclosed that her California license on probation for a period of five years. She is entering into a contract with a hospital in Brookville Indiana. A motion was made and seconded to approve the application and issue the license free and clear pending receipt of a 5-year ISMA PAP contract. McCann/Messina 6-0-0.

C. Renewal Application

1. Sinan Alo, D.O.

Dr. Alo appeared before the Board for a positive response on a renewal application. He appeared with Victoria Vance, an attorney from Ohio. A medical malpractice settlement was disclosed on the renewal application. It is the first medical malpractice case of his career. A motion was made and seconded to renew the license free and clear. Masten/McCann 6-0-0.

2. Steven Svabek, D.O.

Dr. Svabek appeared before the Board for failing to disclose a medical malpractice settlement on his renewal application. He appeared with counsel, Mike Roth. Dr. Svabek stated he was unaware of the settlement as the insurance company gave an attorney authority to settle the case on his behalf. He has not worked in Indiana since 2011. A motion was made and seconded to renew the license free and clear without issuing a civil penalty for failing to disclose on the renewal application. Messina/Masten 6-0-0.

3. David Szentes, M.D.

Dr. Szentes appeared before the Board for failing to disclose a medical malpractice settlement on his renewal application. He appeared with counsel, Angela Rineheart. He stated he misread the question, specifically he did not realize it included settlements. Since he received a "joint stipulation of dismissal," he failed to understand that this meant a settlement was reached in the case. This is the first time he has ever had a settlement in his twenty-six (26) year career. A motion was made and seconded to renew his license free and clear and issue a \$250 civil penalty for failing to disclose the medial malpractice settlement. Masten/Messina 6-0-0.

4. Roberto Darroca, M.D.

Dr. Darroca appeared before the Board for a positive response on his renewal application. He appeared with counsel, Barclay Wong. Dr. Darroca disclosed two medical malpractice settlements. He has been practicing as an OB/GYN since 1991 and these are two of the approximate six medical malpractice cases in his career. He has recently retired from clinical practice and is a preceptor for Wright State University. A motion was made and seconded to renew the license free and clear. Masten/Messina 4-0-0.

5. Maximina Boutselis, M.D. – **CONTIUNUED**

6. Luis Gomez, M.D.

Dr. Gomez appeared before the Board for a positive response on his renewal application. He disclosed an OWI from December 2022. His employer is aware of the OWI. In the criminal matter, he received a substance use evaluation. Dr. Gomez stated he is currently awaiting a plea agreement from the Court. He has had one other OWI in 2012 while living in Texas. A motion was made and seconded to renew the license free and clear pending confirmation of an ISMA PAP evaluation and decision. Dr. Gomez agreed to the contingency. McCann/Dunniway 6-0-0.

7. Masood Siddiqui, D.O. – **CONTIUNUED**

8. Jamie Cooper, D.O.

Dr. Cooper failed to appear and will be scheduled for a later date.

9. William Geiger, M.D.

Dr. Geiger failed to appear and will be scheduled for a later date.

10. Jennifer Barker, M.D.

Dr. Barker appeared before the Board for a positive response on her renewal application. Dr. Barker disclosed a medical malpractice settlement. A motion was made and seconded to renew the license free and clear. Strobel/Masten 4-0-0. Dunniway and Mueller recused.

11. Manjunath Markandaya, M.D.

Dr. Markandaya appeared before the Board for failing to disclose a medical malpractice settlement on his renewal application. His license was also briefly under investigation by the North Carolina Board, but the investigation was closed with a Letter of Concern. A motion was made and seconded to renew the license free and clear. Strobel/Masten 6-0-0.

12. Erica Kaufman West, M.D.

Dr. Kaufman West appeared before the Board for failing to disclose a medical malpractice settlement on her renewal application. She appeared with counsel, Chase McDermotts. The insurance company incorrectly included her in a settlement for a case she had been dismissed from and had not sent a corrected NPDB report. McDermotts presented the corrected NPDB report at the appearance. A motion was made and seconded to renew the license free and clear. Masten/Dunniway 6-0-0.

13. Donald Berman, M.D.

Dr. Berman failed to appear and will be rescheduled for a later date.

14. Anand Tandra, M.D.

Dr. Tandra appeared before the Board for a positive response on his renewal application. Dr. Tandra appeared with counsels, Mike Gaerte and SJ Han. Dr. Tandra answered yes to the question on workplace discipline on his renewal application. A confrontation between Dr. Tandra and another physician occurred at his workplace while the two were in the presence of a patient. Dr. Tandra voluntarily agreed to attend conflict resolution and anger management courses at Vanderbilt University. He is now an independent contractor for the same workplace, has privileges at several other Indiana hospitals, and has had no other issues. A motion was made and seconded to renew the license free and clear. Dunniway/Masten 6-0-0.

15. Daa Soliman, M.D.

Dr. Soliman failed to appear and will be rescheduled for a later date.

16. Keith Ramsey, M.D.

Dr. Ramsey appeared before the Board for a positive response on his renewal application. He disclosed a medical malpractice settlement. He practices as an OB/GYN in Northwest Indiana. He has been practicing for over thirty years and this is only his second settlement. A motion was made and seconded to renew the license free and clear. Masten/Dunniway 6-0-0.

17. James Creighton, M.D.

Dr. Creighton appeared before the Board for failing to disclose a medical malpractice settlement on his renewal application. He disclosed that he retired in 2019 and he was unaware of the civil tort case and settlement after the close of the medical review panel. A motion was made and seconded to renew the license free and clear and to not issue a civil penalty. Masten/Mueller 6-0-0.

18. Mark Feldner, M.D.

Dr. Feldner appeared before the Board for failing to disclose a medical malpractice settlement on his renewal application. He appeared with counsel, Mike Grubbs. Dr. Feldner did not authorize the settlement. It was a result of work he was temporarily doing in an urgent care setting. He has only had four medical malpractice cases in his thirty-six-year career. A motion was made and seconded to renew the license free and clear and issue a \$250 civil penalty for failing to disclose the settlement on his renewal application. Masten/Strobel 6-0-0.

19. John Salter, M.D.

Dr. Salter failed to appear and will be rescheduled for a later date.

20. Alan Ladd, M.D.

Dr. Ladd appeared before the Board for failing to disclose a medical malpractice settlement on his renewal application. He appeared with counsel, Kelly Pitcher. There was an issue with the timing of the settlement and the reporting on the renewal application. A motion was made and seconded to renew the license free and clear and not issue a civil penalty. Masten/Mueller 5-0-0. Messina recused.

21. Ravi Yarlagadda, M.D. – CONTIUNUED

22. Neeraj Jain, M.D. – CONTINUED

23. William Fisher, D.O. – CONTINUE

24. Saiful Kabir, M.D.

Dr. Kabir failed to appear and will be rescheduled for a later date.

25. George Fayez Labib Youssief Gad, M.D. – CONTIUNUED

26. Alexander Lakowsky, M.D. - CONTIUNUED

VII. Adjournment

The Board adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Upcoming Board Dates

October 26, 2023
December 7, 2023
January 25, 2024
February 22, 2024
March 21, 2024
April 25, 2024
May 23, 2024
June 27, 2024
July 25, 2024
August 22, 2024
September 26, 2024
October 24, 2024
December 5, 2024