

**MEDICAL LICENSING BOARD OF INDIANA  
INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER SOUTH  
402 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
ROOM W064  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204**

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2017**

Kirk Masten, D.O., President, called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. A quorum was declared in accordance with IC 25-22.5.

**Members Present:** Kirk Masten, M.D., President  
John Strobel, M.D., Vice President  
Bharat Barai, M.D., Secretary  
Michael Busk, M.D., Member  
Scott Green, M.D., Member  
Victoria McCann, J.D., Member (arrived at 8:46 a.m.)

**Members Absent:** Rebecca Mueller, M.D., Member

**Staff Present:** Darren R. Covington, J.D., Board Director  
Professional Licensing Agency  
Kimberly A. Letko, Assistant Board Director  
Professional Licensing Agency  
James Schmidt, Deputy Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General

The Board voted to adopt the agenda.

**Participating Board Members:** Kirk Masten, M.D., John Strobel, M.D., Bharat Barai, M.D., Michael Busk, M.D., Scott Green, M.D.

**Strobel/Barai, 5/0/0**  
Motion carries

The Board voted to adopt the minutes of the September 28, 2017 meeting.

**Participating Board Members:** Kirk Masten, M.D., John Strobel, M.D., Bharat Barai, M.D., Michael Busk, M.D., Scott Green, M.D.

**Barai/Green, 5/0/0**  
Motion carries

## DISCUSSION

Participating Board Members: Kirk Masten, M.D., John Strobel, M.D., Bharat Barai, M.D., Michael Busk, M.D., Scott Green, MD, Victoria McCann, J.D.

### Citations

After discussion, the Board moved to IMPOSE a CIVIL PENALTY of FIVE HUNDRED (\$500.00) DOLLARS to be PAID IN THIRTY (30) DAYS on the following Physicians for failing to answer "yes" to a question on their renewal application:

Thomas Whitten, M.D. – 01055526A – failure to disclose

Hoang, Tran, M.D. – 01063016A – failure to disclose

Merit Lemke, M.D. – 01045007A – failure to disclose

Luis A. Nidea, M.D. – 01058943A – failure to disclose

Maurice John, M.D. – 01025213B – failure to disclose

Paul F. Siami, M.D. – 01039135A – failure to disclose

Hassan F. Hamed, M.D. – 01062191A – failure to disclose

Michael S. Skulsi, M.D. – 01052032A – failure to disclose

Peter M. Voss, M.D. – 01038857A – failure to disclose

Atiman Damodaran, M.D. – 01028450B – failure to disclose

McCann/Barai, 6/0/0  
Motion carries

### Licensure Application Review

**John M. Snowden, M.D. – Waiver Request – Unapproved Foreign Medical School, Aureus University School of Medicine, Oranjestad, Aruba**

After discussion, the Board moved to request that Dr. Snowden appear before them at the next Board meeting.

Masten/McCann, 6/0/0

Motion carries

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES**

The following personal appearances were rescheduled for the next Board meeting:

**John Kencos, M.D. - 01027285A – Positive Response on renewal**

**Andrew Kawecki, M.D. – Initial Application – Failed to disclose, not worked in U.S. since 2008**

Participating Board Members: Kirk Masten, M.D., John Strobel, M.D., Bharat Barai, M.D., Michael Busk, M.D., Scott Green, MD, Victoria McCann, J.D.

Dr. Kawecki failed to appear before the Board for the third time regarding his failure to answer yes on his application. Dr. Kawecki has not worked as a physician in a clinical setting in the U.S. since 2008.

After discussion, the Board moved to ABANDON Dr. Kawecki's application for licensure due to the application received date being over a year old and his failure to appear before the Board multiple times.

McCann/Masten, 6/0/0  
Motion carries

**Barry Ring, M.D. – Renewal Application - Positive Response**

Participating Board Members: Kirk Masten, M.D., John Strobel, M.D., Bharat Barai, M.D., Michael Busk, M.D., Scott Green, MD, Victoria McCann, J.D.

Dr. Ring appeared before the Board with counsel, Derek Peterson.

Dr. Ring answered yes to the following question on his renewal application:

1. Since you last renewed, has any professional license, certificate, registration, or permit you hold or have held been disciplined or are formal charges pending in any state?
2. Since you last renewed, have you surrendered your DEA registration at any time or had any limitations or discipline placed on your DEA registration?

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) received info from a DEA inquiry in 2011 regarding Dr. Ring's alleged prescribing practices that

included prescribing controlled substances to patients at his private practice without adequately taking into consideration warning signs of drug abuse or diversion.

On March 30, 2017, Dr. Ring entered into a Consent Order which placed license on five (5) years of probation and fine of fifty thousand (50,000.00) dollars, to be paid within five (5) years, in ten thousand (10,000.00) dollar increments. The Order also stipulated that Dr. Ring had to (1) complete in-person the following Continuing Medical Education courses: (I) Controlled Substance Prescribing, (II) Medical Charting/Record Keeping, (III) Addiction Medicine; and (2) Take and pass all five (5) topic areas of the Ethics and Boundaries Post-Licensure (EBAS) Essay Examination.

While on probation, Dr. Ring is also only allowed to practice in a group setting with one or more Illinois physicians who shall have unrestricted Illinois Physician and Surgeon Licenses that have never been disciplined by any State and or Federal entities or have any pending formal matters against their licenses. Dr. Ring is required to request one of the group setting physicians and the Department's Chairperson from any health-care institution where Dr. Ring is holding admitting privileges and or practicing medicine to submit quarterly reports to the Department regarding Dr. Ring's clinical performance, attendance record and any and all other issues. Dr. Ring must also employ a practice monitor at his own expense who will submit quarterly reports to the IDFPR. Dr. Ring must also complete ten (10) Category I CMEs per year in the area of professional responsibility.

On or around April of 2017, Dr. Ring surrendered his DEA in Illinois on advice of a previous lawyer and is now in the process of appealing this decision to reinstate his DEA.

After discussion, the Board moved to place Dr. Ring's Indiana license on INDEFINITE PROBATION WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT FOR 2 YEARS, with quarterly reports from Illinois and Indiana INSPECT as well as submission of his self-generated prescribing log, a copy of Illinois practice monitor's quarterly reports, and compliance with Illinois Board Consent Order.

Strobel/Green, 5/0/1, (McCann)  
Motion carries

**Claudia M. Rodriguez-Arredondo, M.D., - Waiver Request – USMLE 3 Attempt Rule**

Participating Board Members: Kirk Masten, M.D., John Strobel, M.D., Bharat Barai, M.D., Michael Busk, M.D., Scott Green, MD, Victoria McCann, J.D.

Dr. Rodriguez-Arredondo is requesting a waiver of the USMLE 3 Attempt Rule.

Dr. Rodriguez-Arredondo appeared with counsel, Monique Hannam.  
Dr. Rodriguez-Arredondo was also accompanied by her employer, Ibrahim Najauddin, Administrator, Community Care Network

Dr. Rodriguez-Arredondo submitted the following documents to the Board in support of her waiver request:

1. Three (3) year employment contract with Community Care Network
2. Proof of three (3) years cumulative of postgraduate training at Mount Sinai Hospital and one (1) year of postgraduate training at Louisiana State University.
3. Letters of recommendation from:
  - a) E.C. Lampley, M.D., Director of MEM, Director of Obstetrics, Chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center
  - b) Howard T. Strassner, M.D., Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Rush University Medical Center
4. Full license in Illinois
5. Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology from the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG)
6. Community Care Network treats low income in underserved areas.
7. Community Care Network agreed to report to the Board annually on Dr. Rodriguez-Arredondo's employment status and responsibilities.

After discussion, the Board moved to APPROVE Dr. Rodriguez-Arredondo's WAIVER for MEDICAL LICENSURE IN THE STATE OF INDIANA.

Barai/McCann, 6/0/0  
Motion carries

### **ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

#### **Robert Bonzani, M.D., License No. 01078104A, Cause No. 2016 MLB 0049**

Respondent appeared in person and without counsel regarding a Petition to Withdraw Probation scheduled before the Board. The State of Indiana was represented by Patricia Gibson, Deputy Attorney General and the court reporter sworn in for this matter was Sherri Rutledge with Rutledge Independent Reporting.

Participating Board Members: Kirk Masten, M.D., John Strobel, M.D., Bharat Barai, M.D., Michael Busk, M.D., Scott Green, MD, Victoria McCann, J.D.

Respondent's Illinois license was suspended on May 9, 2016 in response to an Illinois criminal conviction for theft and damage to property. Respondent's license was then placed on probation on August 8, 2016. Respondent's DEA license was suspended as a result of his medical license being suspended.

Respondent appeared before the Board on December 1, 2016 and the Board moved to place respondent's license on Indefinite Probation with no petitioning for removal until the conclusion of his Illinois medical license probation.

Respondent has petitioned the Board to withdraw his probation due to issues with credentialing with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. He states this has had a negative impact on the hospital where he works and his ability to practice.

Respondent was diagnosed with PTSD with psychotic break due to divorce in 2010. He is currently undergoing weekly therapy/counseling and on an anti-depressant. He underwent outpatient therapy in 2016.

Respondent stated that he has completed 450 of the Illinois Board ordered 480 hours of community service.

Respondent has currently accepted a position at a hospital in Michiana. Signed employment contract with Goshen Physicians in January 2017.

Respondent was accompanied by Derek Yoder, Goshen Health Administration Representative, Service Line Manager who spoke on behalf of the Respondent's Probation withdraw request.

Respondent admitted the following exhibit:

1: Letter from Richard T. Tarske, Vice President for Goshen Physicians

Respondent is licensed in North Dakota and Wisconsin, both on probation due to reciprocity.

After discussion, the Board moved to WITHDRAW Respondent's probation contingent upon signing a contract with ISMA PAP.

Barai/Strobel, 5/1/0, McCann opposed  
Motion carries

**Michael Cozzi, M.D., License No. 01045203A, Cause No. 2016 MLB 0013**

Respondent failed to appear in person or with counsel regarding an Extension of Summary Suspension scheduled before the Board. The State of Indiana was represented by Jessica Krug, Deputy Attorney General and the court reporter sworn in for this matter was Sherri Rutledge with Rutledge Independent Reporting.

Participating Board Members: John Strobel, M.D., Bharat Barai, M.D., Michael Busk, M.D., Scott Green, MD, Victoria McCann, J.D.

The State requested an extension of Respondent's Summary Suspension for an additional ninety (90) days due to needing more time to establish a settlement agreement.

After discussion, the Board moved to ACCEPT the EXTENSION of SUMMARY SUSPENSION for an additional NINETY (90) DAYS.

Busk/McCann, 5/0/1, Masten recused  
Motion carries

**Michael Love, M.D., License No. 01048505A, Cause No. 2016 MLB 0046**

Respondent failed to appear in person or with counsel regarding an Extension of Summary Suspension scheduled before the Board. The State of Indiana was represented by Stacy Oliver, Deputy Attorney General and the court reporter sworn in for this matter was Sherri Rutledge with Rutledge Independent Reporting.

Participating Board Members: Kirk Masten, M.D., John Strobel, M.D., Bharat Barai, M.D., Michael Busk, M.D., Scott Green, MD, Victoria McCann, J.D.

Both parties agreed to a Settlement Agreement that will extend the Summary Suspension for an additional ninety (90) days due to Respondent's criminal trial being set for March 2018.

After discussion, the Board moved to ACCEPT the SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT and EXTEND the SUMMARY SUSPENSION for an additional NINETY (90) DAYS.

Green/McCann, 6/0/0  
Motion carries

**Jamiere Yolande Smith, M.D., License No. 01041991A, Cause No. 2017 MLB 0030**

Respondent failed to appear in person or with counsel regarding a Disciplinary Hearing scheduled before the Board. The State of Indiana was represented by Timothy Webber, Deputy Attorney General and the court reporter sworn in for this matter was Sherri Rutledge with Rutledge Independent Reporting.

Participating Board Members: Kirk Masten, M.D., John Strobel, M.D., Bharat Barai, M.D., Michael Busk, M.D., Scott Green, MD, Victoria McCann, J.D.

On October 13, 2016, Respondent's Illinois license was placed on Indefinite Probation for two (2) years, fined, required to complete quarterly personal reports, required to submit quarterly reports from institutions where Respondent has admitting privileges, required to obtain a practice monitor, and complete and pass the Ethics and Boundaries Post Licensure Essay Examination, due to an individual employed by the Respondent,

who was not a medical doctor, performing several pap smears and signing a prescription while working in Respondent's office.

Both parties agreed to a Settlement Agreement which places Respondent's Indiana medical license on Indefinite Probation, without the ability to petition for withdrawal of Probation until she has complied with all stipulations of the Illinois Consent Order, and all restrictions have been lifted from her Illinois license.

After discussion, the Board moved to ACCEPT the SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

Green/Busk, 6/0/0  
Motion carries

**John K. Sturman, M.D., License No. 01064902A, Cause No. 2017 MLB 0035**

Respondent appeared in person and with counsel, Jillian D. Kiefner regarding a Disciplinary Hearing scheduled before the Board. The State of Indiana was represented by Jessica Krug, Deputy Attorney General and Aaron Milewski, Deputy Attorney General. The court reporter sworn in for this matter was Sherri Rutledge with Rutledge Independent Reporting.

Participating Board Members: Kirk Masten, M.D., John Strobel, M.D., Bharat Barai, M.D., Michael Busk, M.D., Scott Green, MD, Victoria McCann, J.D.

The State requested that the Board allow the separation of State's witnesses and Respondent's witnesses while waiting to testify.

After discussion, the Board moved to APPROVE the SEPARATION of WITNESSES.

Masten/Barai, 6/0/0  
Motion carries

The State presented to the Board that Respondent began treating patients at a Clarian Health office based clinic known as the Pain Management Clinic in 2008, through the Anesthesiology Department. Sometime later, Clarian Health changed its name to IU Health.

On or about 2010, the Anesthesiology department determined it was "no longer a good fit" to have Respondent working in that department and he and his patients were transferred to a clinic operated through the Department of Neurology.

The State alleged, and Respondent denied, that Respondent's controlled substance prescribing patterns violated professional standards and practices while at Clarian and IU.

Respondent had criminal charges related to controlled substances in two (2) counties in Indiana, but was found not guilty on all counts.



Respondent has not practiced medicine since his employment ended with IU around 2012-2013.

**The State admitted the following exhibits into evidence:**

- 1-14: Death Certificates and Coroner's reports for Patients B through O
- 15: Dr. Michelle Glinn's post-mortem toxicology reports for patients B through O
- 16-24: Dr. Timothy King's reports on the treatment of patients B,C,E,F,G,H,L,O and Zachery Riley
- 25: IU Health Behavioral Health Assessment and Initial Treatment Plan for Zachery Riley
- 26: Consumer Complaint against Respondent filed by the IPLA
- 27: Deposition of John Butterworth IV
- 29-61: Respondent's Inspect Reports from 3.01.12 to 3.01.2013
- 29a-61a: Morphine Equivalent Dose Charts
- 62: Affidavit of Jay Thompson
- 63: Order Granting Summary Suspension of Respondent
- 64: Respondent's Summary Suspension Order
- 68: Respondent's Renewal Application, 2014
- 69: Indiana Medical Licensing Board Minutes, December 13, 2013
- 70: Curriculum Vitae of Michele A. Glinn, Ph.D., F-ABFT
- 71: Curriculum Vitae of Timothy Earl King, M.D.
- 72: Curriculum Vitae of Palmer Johnson, Mackie
- 73: Consumer complaint against Respondent filed by Jim Ryser
- 74: Portions of deposition of Larry L. Blankenship, Jr., M.D.
- 75: Portions of deposition of Jon LeGrant, Pharm D.
- 76: Deposition of Lynn Webster
- 77: California Board Discipline portion of Respondent's application file

**The State presented the following witnesses to testify:**

- 1. Michelle Glinn, Ph.D. F - ABFT, Laboratory Director, Avertast & Essential Testing, LLC
- 2. Zachary Riley, Associate Professor of Kinesiology, IUPUI
- 3. Timothy E. King, M.D., Advanced Pain and Anesthesia Consultants PC, Crown Point, IN
- 4. Jan Beland, Executive Director of Academic Medical Health, IU Health
- 5. Jim Ryser, Director for Chronic Pain and Chemical Dependence, Methodist Hospital
- 6. Fred Frick, M.D., Community Hospital, Medical Consultant, ISMA
- 7. Taya Fernandes, Diversion Investigator, Office of the Attorney General
- 8. Palmer Mackie, Medical Director, Integrative Pain Program, Eskenazi

**The Respondent admitted the following exhibits into evidence:**

- A. Respondent's Curriculum Vitae
- B. Respondent's CMEs
- C. Respondent's Explanation of IU Health Medical Staff Termination

- D. Letter to Medical Licensing Board of Indiana from Bart Ferraro, M.D.
- E. Letter to Medical Licensing Board of Indiana from Brian Leon, M.D.
- F. Letter to Medical Licensing Board of Indiana from Robert M. Pascuzzi, M.D.
- G. Indiana University Health 2014 Pain Symposium PowerPoint Presentation
- H. Affidavit for Probable Cause filed in the criminal prosecution of John K. Sturman, M.D.
- I. Affidavit of Larry L. Blankenship, Jr.
- J. Affidavit of Jon LeGrant, Phar.D.
- K. Excerpt from deposition of Dr. Lynn Webster
- L. Affidavit of Dr. John Butterworth IV
- M. Patient Medical records for Zachery Riley
- N. Curriculum Vitae of Lynne Webster
- O. Deposition of Lynn Webster, M.D.

**The Respondent presented the following witnesses to testify on his behalf:**

1. Robert Pascuzzi, Faculty, Indiana University School of Medicine, IU Health Physicians
2. John Sturman, M.D.

After discussion, the Board found Respondent was in violation of Count I: I.C. § 25-1-9-4(a)(3)

McCann/Green, 6/0/0  
Motion carries

After discussion, the Board found Respondent was not in violation of Count II: I.C. § 25-1-9-4(a)(1)(B)

Barai/Strobel, 5/1/0, McCann opposed  
Motion carries

After discussion, the Board found Respondent was in violation of Count III: I.C. § 25-1-9-4(a)(4)(B)

Green/Masten, 4/2/0, Barai, Strobel opposed  
Motion carries

After discussion, the Board found Respondent was in violation of Count IV: I.C. § 25-1-9-4(a)(4)(C)

Green/McCann, 6/0/0  
Motion carries

After discussion, the Board found Respondent was not in violation of Count V: I.C. § 25-1-9-4(a)(1)(A)

Barai/Strobel, 6/0/0  
Motion carries

After discussion, the Board found Respondent was not in violation of Count VI: I.C. § 25-1-9-4(a)(5)

Barai/Strobel, 6/0/0  
Motion carries

After discussion, the Board found Respondent was not in violation of Count VII: I.C. § 25-1-9-4(a)(9)

Strobel/Barai, 5/0/1, McCann opposed

Motion carries

After discussion, the Board moved to Fine Respondent \$300.00 payable within 90 days of Final Order, which was a reduced amount due to Respondent's lack of employment over the previous two (2) years.

Barai/Green, 6/0/0  
Motion carries

After further discussion, the Board moved to PLACE RESPONDENT'S LICENSE on INDEFINITE SUSPENSION without the ability to petition for reinstatement for a MINIMUM of SIX (6) MONTHS until Respondent has completed 10 CMEs in Medical Record Keeping, and a Board review course in Neurology. If Respondent's license is reinstated on probation, he may not prescribe controlled substances.

Barai/Green, 6/0/0  
Motion carries

**Brett E. Wills, D.O., License No. 02004139A, Cause No. 2017 MLB 0023**

Respondent failed to appear in person or with counsel regarding an Extension of Summary Suspension scheduled before the Board. The State of Indiana was represented by Amelia Hilliker, Deputy Attorney General and the court reporter sworn in for this matter was Sherri Rutledge with Rutledge Independent Reporting.

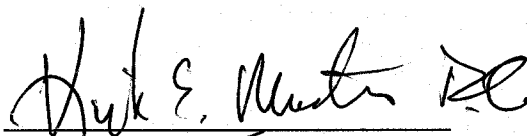
Participating Board Members: Kirk Masten, M.D., John Strobel, M.D., Bharat Barai, M.D., Michael Busk, M.D., Scott Green, MD, Victoria McCann, J.D.

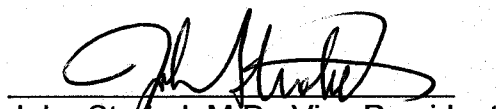
Both parties agreed to a Settlement Agreement that will extend the Summary Suspension for an additional ninety (90) days.

After discussion, the Board moved to ACCEPT the SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

Strobel/McCann, 6/0/0  
Motion carries

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 a.m. on October 27, 2017.

  
Kirk Masten, M.D., President  
D.O.

  
John Strobel, M.D., Vice President