

**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
JULY 26, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michelle Y. Owens, M.D., Jackson, President
Thomas Joiner, M.D., Jackson, Secretary
Kirk Kinard, D.O., Oxford

ALSO PRESENT:

Paul Barnes, Board Attorney, Complaint Counsel
Alexis Morris, Special Assistant Attorney General
Kenneth Cleveland, Executive Director
Mike Lucius, Deputy Director
Anna Boone, Director of Licensure Division
Jackie McKenzie, Legal Assistant
Ken Slay, IT Project Manager
Erica Coleman, IT Projects Officer
Kristin Wallace, Clinical Director of Physician Compliance
Jonathan Dalton, Director of Investigations
Frances Carrillo, Executive Assistant

NOT PRESENT:

C. Kenneth Lippincott, M.D., Tupelo, Vice President

Pursuant to Notice, the Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure met on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the Office of the Board located at 1867 Crane Ridge Drive, Jackson, Mississippi. A recorded video of the Committee Meeting is available on the Board's YouTube Channel and linked on the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure's website.

**ZOOM APPEARANCE BY CURTIS GARRISON, D.O., MEADVILLE, PA
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE 31259**

Dr. Garrison joined the meeting and was not represented by legal counsel. Dr. Garrison executed a written agreement for this informal meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference. Dr. Garrison is seeking an exception to Rule 1.2.A., of Part 2630, Collaboration with Nurse Practitioners, regarding the 20/80 hour in-state practice requirement. Dr. Garrison does not practice the minimum of twenty hours per week within state as required by the rule.

Dr. Garrison summarized to the Executive Committee that he is currently located in Pennsylvania and is contracted by a company for medical cannabis. The company planned to expand into Mississippi and to collaborate with nurse practitioners to certify patients for medical cannabis in Mississippi remotely from Pennsylvania. Patients will be

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treated via telemedicine by nurse practitioners collaborating with Dr. Garrison via Zoom. Dr. Garrison is a board certified family medicine physician.

After discussion and questions from the Executive Committee, including whether the proposed practice model would comply with Mississippi Law governing the medical cannabis, a motion was made by Dr. Joiner, seconded by Dr. Kinard, and carried that the Executive Committee enter into executive session for discussion regarding a course of action.

Upon a motion by Dr. Joiner, seconded by Dr. Kinard and carried, the Executive Committee came out of Executive Session at which time Dr. Owens asked Dr. Joiner to report the Executive Committee's decision. Dr. Joiner reported that the decision is to **DENY** the request for an exception to rule 1.2.A of Part 2630.

ZOOM APPEARANCE BY ROBERT J. HITCHCOCK, M.D., FORT WORTH, TX MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE 28706

Dr. Hitchcock joined the meeting and was not represented by legal counsel. Dr. Hitchcock executed a written agreement for this informal meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

Dr. Hitchcock summarized to the Executive Committee that he is currently located and practicing in the Dallas / Fort Worth area. Dr. Hitchcock is seeking an exception to Rule 1.2.A., of Part 2630, Collaboration with Nurse Practitioners, regarding the 20/80 hour in-state practice requirement. Dr. Hitchcock does not practice the minimum of twenty hours per week within state as required by the rule.

Dr. Hitchcock explained that he is the Medical Director of a telehealth based company that contract with higher education organizations such as universities and colleges as an extension of services to provide medical and mental health services to students and employees. There are no in-person evaluations performed.

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

Upon a motion by Dr. Kinard, seconded by Dr. Owens and carried, the Executive Committee came out of Executive Session at which time Dr. Owens asked Dr. Joiner to report the Executive Committee's decision. Dr. Joiner reported that the decision is to **DENY** the request for an exception to rule 1.2.A of Part 2630.

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ZOOM APPEARANCE BY BARRY RIPPS, M.D., PENSACOLA, FL
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE 24575

Dr. Ripps joined the meeting and was not represented by legal counsel. Dr. Ripps executed a written agreement for this informal meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference. Dr. Ripps is seeking an exception to Rule 1.2.A., of Part 2630, Collaboration with Nurse Practitioners, regarding the 20/80 hour in-state practice requirement. Dr. Ripps does not practice the minimum of twenty hours per week within state as required by the rule.

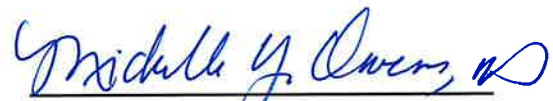
Dr. Ripps summarized to the Committee that his practice currently consists of treating patients for reproductive disorders, infertility and gynecologic endocrinology at satellite offices located along the Gulf Coast. The goal is to provide services to patients in the Biloxi, Gulfport and Kessler area utilizing nurse practitioners trained in Women's' Health

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

Upon a motion by Dr. Joiner, seconded by Dr. Kinard and carried, the Executive Committee came out of Executive Session at which time Dr. Owens asked Dr. Joiner to report the Executive Committee's decision. Dr. Joiner reported that the decision is to **APPROVE** the request for an exceKption to rule 1.2.A of Part 2630.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 10:28 a.m.



Michelle Y. Owens, M.D.
President

Minutes taken and transcribed.
By Frances Carrillo
Staff Officer
July 26, 2023



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

**Agreement to Appear Informally Before Executive Committee
by Current Licensee**

I, **Curtis Garrison, M.D. D.O.** have been asked to appear informally before the Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (hereinafter "Board") to discuss issues which may relate to my practice and possible the grounds, if any, for disciplinary action, and possible resolution of the same. It is the purpose of the informal meeting to discuss the facts of the case, to give me an opportunity to ask questions of the Committee or its staff, and to give the Committee or its staff an opportunity to ask questions of me. Because the meeting is informal, no disciplinary action will be taken without my express written consent. In so doing, I have been advised and understand the following:

1. During the meeting, the Executive Committee may or may not be represented by legal counsel. Notwithstanding, I understand that I have a right, if I so choose, to employ legal counsel and have counsel present during the informal meeting.
2. I authorize the Committee Members to review and examine any statements, documentary evidence, or materials concerning the possible grounds for disciplinary action against my license.
3. Because the purpose of my appearance is to avoid a hearing before the Board, I agree that presentation to and consideration by the Committee of any facts, matters, and documents pertaining to my case shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Committee members from further participation or consideration in the event a formal hearing is later conducted. Stated differently, in the event the pending matter is not resolved following my appearance before the Committee, I will not object to any of the Committee members from further participating in subsequent meetings or hearings that may be conducted in relation to this matter.
4. By signing my name in the space provided below, I hereby authorize the Executive Committee to proceed with the informal appearance, subject to the stipulations and understandings as noted above. I have elected to proceed:

_____ with legal counsel present (name of counsel: _____)

without legal counsel present

EXECUTED, this the 28 day of June, 2023.

Licensee: 

Witness: _____



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

Agreement to Appear Informally Before Executive Committee by Current Licensee

I, **Robert Hitchcock, M.D.** have been asked to appear informally before the Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (hereinafter "Board") to discuss issues which may relate to my practice and possible the grounds, if any, for disciplinary action, and possible resolution of the same. It is the purpose of the informal meeting to discuss the facts of the case, to give me an opportunity to ask questions of the Committee or its staff, and to give the Committee or its staff an opportunity to ask questions of me. Because the meeting is informal, no disciplinary action will be taken without my express written consent. In so doing, I have been advised and understand the following:

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2. I authorize the Committee Members to review and examine any statements, documentary evidence, or materials concerning the possible grounds for disciplinary action against my license.
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4. By signing my name in the space provided below, I hereby authorize the Executive Committee to proceed with the informal appearance, subject to the stipulations and understandings as noted above. I have elected to proceed:

_____ with legal counsel present (name of counsel: _____)

W without legal counsel present

EXECUTED, this the 5th day of July, 2023.

Licensee: 

Witness: 



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

**Agreement to Appear Informally Before Executive Committee
by Current Licensee**

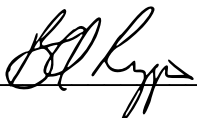
I, _____ have been asked to appear informally before the Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (hereinafter "Board") to discuss issues which may relate to my practice and possible the grounds, if any, for disciplinary action, and possible resolution of the same. It is the purpose of the informal meeting to discuss the facts of the case, to give me an opportunity to ask questions of the Committee or its staff, and to give the Committee or its staff an opportunity to ask questions of me. Because the meeting is informal, no disciplinary action will be taken without my express written consent. In so doing, I have been advised and understand the following:

1. During the meeting, the Executive Committee may or may not be represented by legal counsel. Notwithstanding, I understand that I have a right, if I so choose, to employ legal counsel and have counsel present during the informal meeting.
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4. By signing my name in the space provided below, I hereby authorize the Executive Committee to proceed with the informal appearance, subject to the stipulations and understandings as noted above. I have elected to proceed:

_____ with legal counsel present (name of counsel: _____)

_____ without legal counsel present

EXECUTED, this the _____ day of _____, _____.

Licensee: _____  barippsmd@FertilityLeaders.com
850-857-0033

Witness: _____ 