

**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
MARCH 21, 2024**

A regularly called meeting of the Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure was held on March 21, 2024, at 1867 Crane Ridge Drive, Suite 200B, Jackson, MS, 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.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michelle Y. Owens, M.D., Jackson, President
C. Kenneth Lippincott, M.D., Tupelo, Vice President
Kirk Kinard, D.O., Oxford

ALSO PRESENT:

Paul Barnes, Board Attorney, Complaint Counsel
Kristen Love, Special Assistant Attorney General
Kenneth Cleveland, Executive Director
Anna Boone, Director of Licensure Division
Jonathan Dalton, Director of Investigations
Jerod Smoote, IT Director
Jackie McKenzie, Legal Assistant
Frances Carrillo, Executive Assistant

NOT PRESENT:

Thomas Joiner, M.D., Jackson, Secretary

**ZOOM APPEARANCE BY ROOPSI BASSI, M.D.
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE 23553**

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

Dr. Bassi briefly summarized her request seeking an exception to the regulation, Part 2630, Collaboration with Nurse Practitioners, Rule 1.4, Extended Mileage. Dr. Bassi practiced with Pine Grove Behavioral Health & Addiction Services in Hattiesburg, MS for eight years and relocated to South Carolina in September 2023. Dr. Bassi would like to collaborate with Nurse Practitioners in treating psychiatric patients using telepsychiatry.

Debbie Sanford, RN MBA, Chief Officer of Pine Grove Behavioral Health & Addiction Services, joined the meeting in support of Dr. Bassi's waiver request.

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After discussion and questions from the Executive Committee a motion was made by Dr. Lippincott, 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. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Kinard and carried, the Executive Committee came out of Executive Session.

Dr. Owens advised Dr. Bassi that upon reviewing the information submitted the Executive Committee has found that the exception to the Extended Mileage rule does not apply for this case and that it would be more appropriate for her seek an exception of the 20/80 hour in-state physician practice Rule 1.2.A. Dr. Owens explained that while Dr. Bassi does practice full time, it is through telepsychiatry, so she does not meet the requirement of the rule. Dr. Owens requested Dr. Bassi to amend her request for an exception of Rule 1.2.A. ... "a physician must practice a minimum of twenty hours per week or eighty hours per month which does not include telemedicine or chart review."

Dr. Bassi amended her request of an exception to Rule 1.2.A., 20/80 hour in state physician practice requirement. Dr. Owens asked Dr. Kinard to report on the Executive Committee's decision. Dr. Kinard reported that the decision was to **APPROVE** Dr. Bassi's amended request for a waiver of the 20/80 requirement of Rule 1.2.A.

ZOOM APPEARANCE BY BRIAN KENNETH LEMPA, D.O.
MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL LICENSE 30001

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

Dr. Lempa briefly summarized his practice and his request seeking an exception of the 20/80 hour in-state physician practice requirement Rule 1.2.A. Dr. Lempa practices at a Residential treatment center at Pine Grove Behavioral Health & Addiction Services and Forrest General Hospital In Hattiesburg, MS. Dr. Lempa will be practicing telepsychiatry from Brooklyn, NY collaborating with Nurse Practitioners at the Pine Grove Residential Treatment Center in Hattiesburg, MS.

After discussion a motion was made by Dr. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Kinard, and carried unanimously to **APPROVE** the request for a waiver of the 20/80 requirement of Rule 1.2.A.

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WILLIAM HILLEGASS, M.D.

Dr. Cleveland briefly summarized the status of the re-entry program prepared for Dr. Hillegass to return to the clinical practice of cardiology. Dr. Cleveland distributed a copy of the re-entry program for the Committee's review.

After discussion a motion was made by Dr. Lippincott, seconded by Dr. Kinard and carried unanimously to **APPROVE** to issue a restricted license to Dr. Hillegass subject to compliance with the board approved cardiology re-entry program prepared by the Executive Director.

STATUS REPORT BY DR. CLEVELAND

Dr. Cleveland provided a brief summary regarding events and activities for the months of January and February 2024. Dr. Cleveland reported that he continues to meet with other Healthcare Boards and the Mississippi Physician Health Program on a monthly basis. He met with eight Licensees for Regulatory Compliance. In January 17, 2024, he attended the FSMB Conference on AI and how to regulate AI in Washinton, D.C. He has met with legislators about the upcoming legislative session. Dr. Cleveland announced his appointment to the FSMB Board of Directors.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 9:01 a.m.


Michelle Y. Owens, M.D.
President

Minutes taken and transcribed.
By Frances Carrillo
Executive Assistant
March 21, 2024

**Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure
Thursday, March 21, 2024**

1. **Zoom Appearance by Roopsi Bassi, M.D.
Mississippi Medical License 23553**

2. **Zoom Appearance by Brian Kenneth Lempa, D.O.
Mississippi Medical License 30001**

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE



Executive Committee Meeting:

Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 8:00 am

Board Room

Board Meeting:

Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 9:00 am

Board Room



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

**Agreement to Appear Informally Before Executive Committee
by Licensee Requesting Rule Exception(s)**

I, ROOAS - MASSI, have requested an opportunity to appear informally before the Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (hereinafter "Board") to discuss my request for exception(s) to certain rules or requirements found in Administrative Code or state statute. It is the purpose of this informal meeting to discuss the facts surrounding my request, to give me an opportunity to present documentation and ask questions of the Committee or its staff, and to give the Committee or its staff an opportunity to review any documentation and 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 documentation or materials concerning my request(s).
3. I agree that presentation to and consideration by the Committee of any facts, matters, and documents pertaining to my request(s) shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Committee members from further participation or consideration, in the event a formal hearing is later conducted based on the information discussed. Further, 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 9th day of Jan 2024.

Licensee: *Massi*
01/09/2024

Witness: _____



MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

Agreement to Appear Informally Before Executive Committee by Licensee Requesting Rule Exception(s)

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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 1st day of March, 2024.

Licensee: Bruce Simpson DO

Witness: [Signature]