

## LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

630 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130 Phone: (504) 568-6820; Fax: (504) 324-0994 Web site: http://www.lsbme.la.gov

BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

NUMBER: 22-A-001 IN THE MATTER OF:

MEDA KAYE COLVIN, MD (Certificate No. MD.019520) Respondent

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING HELD ON MARCH 27, 2023

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## **DECISION AND RULING**

A hearing on the merits of the administrative complaint was held on March 27th, 2023, at the office of the Board. A quorum of the Board was present consisting of Drs. Johnson, Thomas, Ali, Clark, Horton, O'Neill, Taylor, Weather, Williams and Ms. Kim Sport, JD. The Respondent was present and represented by her Counsel Kathryn Caraway. The Counsel for the Board's investigative staff, Kathryn Munson, was also presented. Both Counsels presented evidence for the Board to consider.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

Dr. Meda Colvin has been licensed to practice medicine in Louisiana since 1987, Credential No. MD. 019520. She actively practices physical medicine and rehabilitation along with pain management in the Greater New Orleans area.

The original complaint alleges Dr. Colvin violated DEA Regulation 21CFR section 1306.05(A) by failing to date and sign prescriptions for controlled substances on the date when said prescription was issued.

After receiving a complaint in December 2019, from a pharmacist that this was occurring, the Director of Investigations (DOI) and Staff met with Dr. Colvin. Thereafter, and believing no additional action was needed, the case was closed.

However, subsequently, another complaint was filed alleging the same violations were occurring.

In January 2020, a letter was sent to Dr. Colvin regarding the allegations. She did not respond but later stated that she did not receive this letter. This is plausible considering there was no copy of this letter which contains a LSBME letterhead nor a signature of a member of the DOI. In July 2020, a second letter was sent to which she responded promptly and provided the patient records requested by the DOI. Additional patients were requested by DOI in August 2020, and received shortly thereafter.

After review of these records, it was determined that Dr. Colvin violated the Board's rules regulating the treatment of non-cancer related chronic or intractable pain (LA Administrative Code Title 46, part XLV section 6915), along with the aforementioned DEA regulation.

Of particular note is the fact that after a second meeting with the DOI in January 2021, Dr. Colvin changed her prescription writing practice and followed all of the requested actions, including cognitive testing, recommended by DOI at that time.

## RULING

After considering the evidence presented, the Board finds Dr. Colvin did violate the applicable statutes and regulations when prescribing controlled substances. Nevertheless, the Board considered extenuating circumstances when rendering further action. The Board did not publish its position that "date when issued" requires a patient examination on that date.

Dr. Colvin has been practicing medicine in Louisiana for over forty years without a single complaint. At the time these violations occurred, COVID was rampant in the New Orleans area, and it was difficult or impossible to see patients in person. There is no evidence to suggest these violations were detrimental to her patients or resulted in misuse of the drugs prescribed. In

fact, Dr. Colvin testified she always followed prescription management program protocols to reduce patient abuse. There is no evidence that her violations harmed her patients or the public.

The above noted circumstances weighed heavily on the Board's actions which follow. The Board commends the DOI for its efforts to curtail the abuse of controlled substances including opioids. The Board recognizes opioid use is a serious issue, and compliance with the regulations is vitally important.

To summarize, the Board finds that in the years 2019 and 2020, Dr. Meda Colvin violated applicable regulations which require a physician to write, date, and sign prescriptions for controlled substances on the date issued. A letter of concern is to be issued to Dr. Colvin, and she is to follow all future directives of the Board.

Considering the above, the Board waived all fees which could have been imposed relating to this investigation and complaint.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Decision shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record.

NEW ORLEANS, LA this 15t day of MAy, 2023

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

BY:

Lester W. Johnson, MD

President