



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

No. 2022-I-043

IN THE MATTER OF:

RAY BONNER WORTHY, M.D.
(Credential No. MD.205358),
Respondent

INTERIM
CONSENT ORDER

This matter is before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") in connection with an on-going investigation regarding Ray Bonner Worthy ("Dr. Worthy"), a physician who at all times pertinent has been licensed to practice medicine in this state pursuant to the Louisiana Medical Practice Act (the "Act"), La. R.S. 37:1261-92, as evidenced by Credential No. MD.205358. The investigation was initiated upon receipt of apparently reliable information that Dr. Worthy had improperly prescribed controlled dangerous substances ("CDS") to Patient K.E., who had a known history of substance abuse, and the patient subsequently died from an overdose.

Investigation of the captioned matter was assigned to Lawrence H. Cresswell, III, D.O., J.D., Director of Investigations (the "Investigating Officer") for the Board. In the course of this pending investigation, the Investigating Officer confirmed that Dr. Worthy had prescribed Patient K.E. large quantities of CDS in August and September 2021 without performing a urine drug screen and, further, did not cancel these prescriptions despite later being informed by Patient K.E.'s family that he was diverting the prescribed CDS to purchase illicit substances. This conduct was particularly concerning considering that, only a few months prior to the prescriptions at issue, the Investigating Officer had counseled Dr. Worthy about the importance of performing urine drug screens and accessing and reviewing the Prescription Monitoring Program ("PMP") when treating patients with a known history of substance abuse to ensure they are not diverting the prescribed substances.¹ The investigation further revealed that Dr. Worthy's improper prescribing practices were not limited to one patient, as a review of the patient medical records from additional patients revealed that, between April 2022 and August 2022, Dr. Worthy improperly prescribed two

¹ Investigation No. 2021-371.

patients Ketamine for home use contrary to the Board's advisory opinion regarding the off-label use of Ketamine to treat mental health disorders.²

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Worthy acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information and that proof of such information upon administrative evidentiary hearing would establish sufficient cause to take action with respect to his license to practice medicine in this state pursuant to La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(6) & (13).³

Recognizing his right to have notice of any allegation or charge asserted against him, to administrative adjudication of such allegation or charge pursuant to La. R.S. 49:950 *et. seq.* and to a subsequent final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, Dr. Worthy, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to formal charges and formal adjudication and pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. By his subscription hereto Dr. Worthy acknowledges that he hereby waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Practice Act, La. R.S. 49:950 *et. seq.* or otherwise may be afforded to him by law to contest his agreement to or the force and effect of the Board's investigation or this document in any court. Dr. Worthy, furthermore, hereby authorizes the Investigating Officer designated by the Board with respect hereto to present this Consent Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation and he waives any objection to such disclosures under La. R.S. 49:977.2. Dr. Worthy expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of the information to the Board by the Investigating Officer shall be without prejudice to the Investigating Officer's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint against him or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such Complaint should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order.

Based upon the information provided, and upon the recommendation of the Investigating Officer, the Board hereby concludes that, consistent with its mandate under La. R.S. 37:1261, the interests of public health, safety, and welfare will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter by consent. Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 37:1285 and La. R.S. 49:975(D);

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Ray Bonner Worthy, M.D., to engage in the practice of medicine in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Credential No. MD.205358, be and the same is hereby **INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Ray Bonner Worthy, M.D., shall not practice medicine in any form in the State of Louisiana until and unless the Board issues and serves a written decision reinstating his license to practice following: (1) a meeting at the Board office with the Director of

² See Advisory Opinion, *The Off-Label Use of Ketamine for the Treatment of Mental Disorders and Chronic Pain*, La. St. Bd. of Med. Ex. (Oct. 10, 2016, revised May 13, 2019).

³ Pursuant to La. R.S. 37:1285(A), "[t]he board may refuse to issue, or may suspend or revoke any license or permit, or impose probationary or other restrictions on any license or permit issued under this Part for the following causes: (6) Prescribing, dispensing, or administering legally controlled substances or any dependency-inducing medication without legitimate medical justification therefor or in other than a legal or legitimate manner...[and] (13) Unprofessional conduct."

Investigations or his designee; and (2) the conclusion of the pending investigation by administrative hearing and final decision of the Board on any charges filed in these proceedings including, but not limited to, those identified in this Order; or alternatively, by the Board's acceptance of a Consent Order or other disposition of the pending investigation. Any Consent Order reinstating Dr. Worthy's license shall include a probationary period.

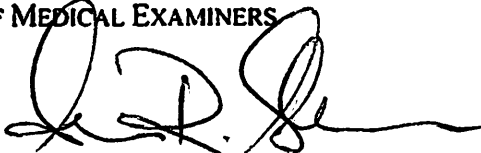
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall be effective as of the date it is approved and accepted by the Board as shown by the signature of the Board's representative below.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation of or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms set forth by this Order by Dr. Worthy shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for such other action against Dr. Worthy's license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana as the Board may deem appropriate as if such violations were enumerated among the causes provided in La. R.S. 37:1285.

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

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 24th day of July, 2023.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: 

TERRIE R. THOMAS, MD
President

Acknowledgment and Consent on Following Page

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF Orleans

I, RAY BONNER WORTHY, M.D., hereby acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to seek the advice and guidance of legal counsel with respect to this Interim Consent Order and that all of its terms and conditions have been fully explained to me and/or that I fully understand them. I further acknowledge that I approve, accept, and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order without duress and of my own free will and accord, this 7th day of July, 2023.

Ray Worthy
RAY BONNER WORTHY, M.D.

WITNESSES:

Annabel Allen
Signature

Annabel Allen
Typed Name

1772 Prytania
Street Address

New Orleans, LA, 70130
City/State/Zip Code

Natalie Cange
Signature

Natalie Cange
Typed Name

1772 Prytania
Street Address

NEW ORLEANS, LA, 70130
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of July, 2023, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

[Signature]
Notary Public (Signature)

Name: _____
Notary/Bar No.: _____
Commission expires: _____

F. Sherman Boughton, Jr.
Notary Public
State of Louisiana
LA Bar Number: 24030
My Commission is Issued for Life