



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

No. 2022-I-521

IN THE MATTER OF:

BRETT CORDES, M.D.

Applicant for Initial Licensure

**CONSENT ORDER FOR
ISSUANCE OF LICENSE
ON PROBATION**

Brett Cordes, M.D., (“Dr. Cordes”) is a physician who is currently licensed to practice medicine in Texas and has applied for a license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana. The above-entitled proceeding was docketed for investigation by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the “Board”) following Dr. Cordes’s “Yes” answers to questions 6, 15, and 17 on the “Oath or Affirmation” section of his Application for Initial Licensure.¹ Dr. Cordes answered “Yes” to the above-referenced questions because the Texas Medical Board previously disciplined his medical license on multiple occasions, but fully reinstated his license to practice medicine on or around June 10, 2022.

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 investigation, the Investigating Officer learned that the Texas Medical Board had previously imposed the following discipline on Dr. Cordes’s medical license:

- On or around March 6, 2020, Dr. Cordes executed an Agreed Order with the Texas Medical Board that restricted Dr. Cordes’s ability to “possess, administer, or prescribe controlled substances” after he surrendered his Drug Enforcement Administration

¹ Questions 6 asked, “Has your professional license, certificate, or registration been the subject of investigation or revoked, suspended, probated, restricted, reprimanded, limited, or subjected to any other disciplinary action by any state licensing board or federal authority?”

Question 15 asked, “Have you surrendered your state or federal controlled substances permit or registration?”

Question 17 asked, “In the 10 years prior to this application have any malpractice claims been settled by you or on your behalf?”

(“DEA”) registration after a patient alleged that Dr. Cordes had diverted the patient’s controlled substances.²

- On or around April 20, 2020, a disciplinary panel of the Texas Medical Board entered an Order of Temporary Suspension (Without Notice of Hearing) after an individual accused Dr. Cordes of “stealing 28 prescription Tylenol No. 3 (Tylenol with Codeine) pills during a March 12, 2020 open house at the [individual’s] property.”³
- On or around December 4, 2020, Dr. Cordes executed an “Agreed Order of Voluntary Suspension” after the Texas Medical Board found Dr. Cordes’s “prescribing practices to be below the standard of care, and the diversion of controlled substances to be more extensive, and involved his medical assistant, who participated in the diversion effort at Respondent’s direction.”⁴ In this order, Dr. Cordes agreed to a suspension of his license until he could provide “objective evidence of at least one year of sustained sobriety.”⁵
- On or around December 10, 2021, Dr. Cordes executed an Agreed Order with the Texas Medical Board requiring him to “enroll in and successfully complete at least four hours of continuing medical education (CME) in the topic of medical record-keeping” after determining that Dr. Cordes’s “documentation was deficient” regarding a surgery performed on a patient.⁶

However, the Investigating Officer also learned that on or around July 3, 2020, Dr. Cordes entered into a ninety-day residential treatment program at a Board-approved facility, which he completed without incident. Dr. Cordes’ treatment providers found that Dr. Cordes could “return to the safe practice of Medicine” as long as he was under a monitoring agreement with the Texas Physician Health Program (“Texas PHP”), which Dr. Cordes executed on or around August 5, 2020. After successfully completing his residential treatment program, Dr. Cordes then successfully completed eight weeks of intensive outpatient treatment followed by twelve weeks of supportive outpatient treatment.

Dr. Cordes remains compliant with his Texas PHP monitoring agreement, has received positive reports from his treatment providers at his follow-up visits, and has executed a monitoring

² See Agreed Order, *In the Matter of The License of Brett McCormack Cordes, M.D.*, Texas Medical Board (March 6, 2020).

³ See Order of Temporary Suspension (Without Notice of Hearing), *In the Matter of The License of Brett McCormack Cordes, M.D.*, Texas Medical Board (April 20, 2020).

⁴ See Agreed Order of Voluntary Suspension, *In the Matter of The License of Brett McCormack Cordes, M.D.*, Texas Medical Board (December 4, 2020).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See Agreed Order, *In the Matter of The License of Brett McCormack Cordes, M.D.*, Texas Medical Board (December 10, 2021).

agreement with the Healthcare Professionals Foundation of Louisiana (“HPFL”) that mirrors his monitoring agreement with the Texas PHP. On or around June 10, 2022, the Texas Medical Board lifted the suspension on Dr. Cordes’s medical license after determining that Dr. Cordes was “sincere and dedicated to his sobriety” and, further, “was candid about his sobriety journey and showed self-reflection about his past and his plans for the future.”⁷ Dr. Cordes also has cooperated with the investigation and accepted responsibility for his past actions.

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Cordes acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information and that proof of such information upon administrative evidentiary hearing would establish sufficient cause for the nonissuance or imposition of such other terms, conditions or restrictions on his license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana as the Board may determine appropriate pursuant to the Louisiana Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(5) and (12).⁸

Recognizing his right to have notice and administrative adjudication of any charges that may be filed in this matter, at which time he would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence on his own behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charges made, and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:951, *et seq.*, Dr. Cordes nonetheless hereby waives his right to notice and formal adjudication and, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:955(D), consents to the entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Cordes also acknowledges that he waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:951 *et seq.*, or which otherwise may be afforded to him by law, to contest his agreement to or the force and effect of this document in any court or other forum relating to the matters referred to herein. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Cordes also 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 and to discuss with the Board the nature and result of the investigation and waives any objection to such disclosures under La. R.S. 49:960. Dr. Cordes expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of information to the Board by the Investigating Officer shall be without prejudice to the Investigating Officer’s authority to pursue formal administrative charges against him or to the Board’s capacity to adjudicate such charges 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

⁷ See Order Granting Modification, *In the Matter of The License of Brett McCormack Cordes, M.D.*, Texas Medical Board (June 10, 2022).

⁸ 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: ... (5) Habitual or recurring abuse of drugs, including alcohol, which affect the central nervous system and which are capable of inducing physiological or psychological dependence....[and] (12) An inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill or safety due to mental illness or deficiency, including but not limited to deterioration through the aging process or the loss of motor skills or excessive use or abuse of drugs, including alcohol.”

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. 49:955(D);

IT IS ORDERED that Brett Cordes, M.D., be issued a license to engage in the practice of medicine in the State of Louisiana, *provided, however*, that such license shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a minimum of three (3) years (the “probationary period”), from the Effective Date of this Order, and that Dr. Cordes’s continuing exercise of the rights and privileges granted to him thereby shall be conditioned upon his acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms, conditions, and restrictions:

- (1) **HPFL Agreement, Reports to Board.** Dr. Cordes shall continue to maintain a monitoring agreement with the Louisiana HPFL for the entirety of the probationary period. Dr. Cordes shall continue in, abide by and strictly adhere to all recommendations for ongoing treatment and monitoring which are contained in such agreement, as well as those recommended by his treating physicians and those prescribed by any other health care provider involved in his care to the extent that they continue to follow him. Dr. Cordes shall, in addition, authorize and cause the HPFL to submit to the Board or its designee, not less frequently than quarterly, written reports and/or verbal reports, should the Board or its designee desire the latter, on his compliance with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Order and his monitoring agreement.
- (2) **Controlled Substances; Limitations.** Except as authorized herein, and for at least the first year of the probationary period, Dr. Cordes shall not prescribe: (i) any substance which may be classified, defined, enumerated or included in 21 C.F.R. §§ 1308.11-.15 or La. R.S. 40:964, as a Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance; or (ii) any substance which may hereafter be designated as one of the foregoing controlled substances by amendment or supplementation of such regulations and statute. The prohibitions contained in this paragraph shall not prohibit Dr. Cordes from ordering any controlled substance for administration to in-patients of a hospital where he may be employed or exercise staff or clinical privileges in accordance with such hospital’s prescribing policies and procedures governing the administration of controlled substances. After the first year of the probationary period, Dr. Cordes may petition the Board for relief from this restriction, which the Board may grant or deny in its sole discretion.
- (3) **Prohibition on Mid-Level Supervision.** For at least the first year of the probationary period, Dr. Cordes shall not serve as a supervising physician or enter into any collaborative practice agreements with any Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner. After the first year of the probationary period, Dr. Cordes may petition the Board for relief from this restriction, which the Board may grant or deny in its sole discretion.
- (4) **Notification to Employers.** Dr. Cordes shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to each employer, hospital, or other institution for whom he provides services as a

- physician in this state, whether such services are provided in person or remotely.
- (5) **Quarterly Reports.** Dr. Cordes shall, within sixty days of the date of the Effective Date of this Order, designate a workplace supervisor acceptable to and approved by the Board or its designee who shall provide quarterly written reports to the Board or its designee. Such quarterly check-in reports shall confirm Cordes's ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety or describe any areas or incidents indicating that Dr. Cordes might require additional support or training as he re-enters practice.
 - (6) **Absence from Practice/Effect on Probation.** Should Dr. Cordes at any time be absent from the State of Louisiana, relocate to and/or take up residency in another state or country, or discontinue practicing as a physician for a period of thirty (30) days or more, he will so advise the Board in writing. In such instance, the probation ordered herein and all terms, conditions and restrictions thereof shall be deemed interrupted and extended and shall not commence again until Dr. Cordes notifies the Board in writing that he has resumed the practice of medicine in Louisiana.
 - (7) **Cooperation with Board's Probation and Compliance Officer.** Dr. Cordes shall immediately notify the Board's Probation and Compliance Officer of any change in his current home and professional addresses and telephone numbers and he shall direct all matters required pursuant to this Consent Order to the attention of the Probation and Compliance Officer, with whom he shall cooperate on all matters and inquiries pertaining to compliance with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Order.
 - (8) **Probation Monitoring Fee.** For each year of the probationary period, Dr. Cordes shall pay the Board a probation monitoring fee of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars. Payment of the initial fee shall be due not later than sixty (60) days from the Effective Date of this Order. All subsequent annual payments shall be due on or before the anniversary date of the initial fee payment.
 - (9) **Effect of Violation/Sanction.** By his subscription hereto, Dr. Cordes acknowledges that his receipt of written notification that the Board has received reliable information indicating his failure to comply with the requirements set forth by this Consent Order in any respect shall, without the need for formal hearing or for providing him with any right to which he may otherwise be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:951, *et seq.*, or which otherwise may be afforded to him by law, constitute his irrevocable consent to the immediate suspension of his license to practice medicine in this state pending a hearing before the Board and the conclusion of the administrative proceeding by issuance of a final decision following administrative adjudication of such charges.
 - (10) **Certification of Compliance with Probationary Terms.** No sooner than sixty (60) days prior to the conclusion of the probationary period imposed herein, Dr. Cordes shall provide the Board with an affidavit certifying that he has complied with each of

the terms of probation imposed by this Order and shall file a written request for termination of probation in accordance with this paragraph. The probationary period and all of its terms and conditions shall be, and shall be deemed to be, extended and continued in full force and effect pending Dr. Cordes's full and complete compliance with the requirements of this provision.

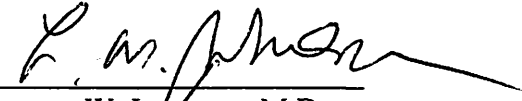
- (11) **Effective Date.** This Consent Order shall be effective upon the later of either (1) the date it is approved and accepted by the Board as shown by the signature of the Board's representative below; or (2) the date the Board issues to Dr. Cordes a license to practice medicine in this state.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation of or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms, conditions, or restrictions set forth by this Order by Dr. Cordes shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for such other action against Dr. Cordes'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 Consent Order shall be and shall be deemed to be a public record.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 24th day of October, 2022.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: 
LESTER W. JOHNSON, M.D.
President

(Acknowledgement and Consent on following page)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT

STATE OF Louisiana
PARISH/COUNTY OF Lafayette

I, BRETT CORDES, M.D., hereby acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to seek the advice and guidance of legal counsel with respect to this 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 4th day of October, 2022.

Brett Cordes, M.D.
BRETT CORDES, M.D.

WITNESSES:

Dawn Rippas
Signature

Misty Punch
Signature

Dawn Rippas
Typed Name

Misty Punch
Typed Name

7080 Clyde Road
Street Address

104 Mintmere Ln.
Street Address

Maurice, LA 70555
City/State/Zip Code

Youngsville, La 70592
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th day of October, 2022, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

Walter J. Rippas
Notary Public (Signature)

Name:

Notary:

Commission expires:

