



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

No. 2023-I-484

IN THE MATTER OF:

CONSENT ORDER

MATTHEW PARKER DIXON, LRT
(*Credential No. LRT.333775*),
Respondent

Matthew Parker Dixon, ("Mr. Dixon") is, and at all times pertinent hereto has been, a respiratory therapist licensed to practice respiratory therapy in the State of Louisiana, pursuant to the Louisiana Respiratory Therapy Practice Act (the "Act"), La. R.S. 37:3351 *et seq.*, as evidenced by Credential No. LRT.333775.

Mr. Dixon has no prior disciplinary history before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board"). Following submission of his application for a respiratory therapy license and the disclosures contained therein, on or about October 3, 2022, Mr. Dixon entered into a one-year monitoring contract with the Allied Professionals Health Program (the "APHP"), in which Mr. Dixon agreed to "maintain complete and total abstinence from the use of any alcohol or mood-altering substances except as may be prescribed for a *bona fide* medical condition by a treating physician."

On or about June 22, 2023, Mr. Dixon tested positive on a urine drug screen for Mitragynine (commonly known as Kratom). At the Board's request, Mr. Dixon completed an addictionology assessment at a Board-approved facility in July 2023, in which Mr. Dixon reported that he had used Kratom only to alleviate his Sleep Work Shift Disorder based on misinformation about its cognitive effects. The assessment indicated that Mr. Dixon is safe to practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients, and his evaluator recommended that he continue to adhere to his APHP Monitoring Contract, abstain from all mood-altering substances, and consult with a sleep specialist within 3 months.

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Mr. Dixon acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information and that such information would provide the Investigating Officer assigned to this matter by the Board with probable cause to institute administrative proceedings against his respiratory therapy licensure for violations of the Louisiana Respiratory Therapy

Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:3358(A)(7),¹ pursuant to Administrative Complaint, and that proof of such information upon administrative evidentiary hearing may establish grounds under the Act for the suspension or revocation of his license to practice respiratory therapy in the state of Louisiana or other such action as the Board might deem appropriate. On the basis of apparently reliable information, however, the Board is persuaded that Mr. Dixon can engage in the practice of respiratory therapy with reasonable skill and safety to patients, provided that he observes and complies with the terms of this order as described below.

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, Mr. Dixon, 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 Mr. Dixon 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 preliminary review or this document in any court. Mr. Dixon, 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 preliminary review and his self-report and he waives any objection to such disclosures under La. R.S. 49:977.2. Mr. Dixon 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. 37:3351 and La. R.S. 37:3355, the interests of public health, safety, and welfare will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter, by consent. The Board has considered the guidelines for minimum and maximum disciplinary dispositions and the aggravating and mitigating circumstances apparent from the particular facts and circumstances of this matter.² Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 37:3358 and La. R.S. 49:975(D);

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Matthew Parker Dixon, LRT, to engage in the practice of respiratory therapy in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Credential No. LRT.333775, be and the same is hereby **OFFICIALLY REPRIMANDED** for the above-described conduct.

¹ The Board may take action against a licensee for violations of La. R.S. 37:3358(A)(7) ("Habitual or recurring abuse of drugs, including alcohol, which affect the central nervous system and which are capable of inducing physiological or psychological dependence.").

² See La. Admin. Code tit. 46, pt. XLV, §§ 9714; 9716.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Mr. Dixon shall, within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of this Order, pay to the Board a fine in the amount of Two Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$200.00).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within six (6) months of the effective date of this Order, Mr. Dixon shall complete the free online course "Laws and Rules for Respiratory Therapy in Louisiana," which may be accessed through the following link, <https://www.lsbme.la.gov/content/board-orientations-online-courses>. Upon completion of the course, Mr. Dixon shall complete the verification process and obtain a certificate of completion that will be submitted to the Board or its designee by the course provider.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if he has not done so already, Mr. Dixon shall enter into a new one-year monitoring agreement with the APHP. Mr. Dixon agrees that the APHP shall report any violation of his agreement to the Board or its designee. The Board may take disciplinary action against Mr. Dixon based on any future violation of his APHP agreement, as if such violation was enumerated among the causes provided in La. R.S. 37:3358.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation of or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms set forth by this Order by Mr. Dixon shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for such other action against Mr. Dixon's license to practice respiratory therapy 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. 37:3358.

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

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 11th day of December, 2023.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: _____


TERRIE R. THOMAS, M.D.
President

Acknowledgment and Consent on Following Page

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

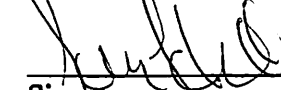
STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF Orleans

I, MATTHEW PARKER DIXON, LRT, 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 11 day of October, 2023.


MATTHEW PARKER DIXON, LRT


WITNESSES:


Signature

Sam Hill
Typed Name

422 S. Broad St
Street Address

New Orleans, LA 70119
City/State/Zip Code


Signature

Doug Clark
Typed Name

422 S. Broad St.
Street Address

New Orleans, LA. 70119
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11 day of October, 2023, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.


Notary Public (Signature)

Name: Susan W. Bergeron
Notary/Bar No.: 85448 J
Commission expires: Life

Susan W. Bergeron
Statewide Notary Public # 85448
State of Louisiana, Parish of Jefferson
My Commission Is For Life