

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

MIDDLESEX, ss

Adjudicatory Case No. 2020-022d
RM-20-1232

)
In the Matter of)

)
Angela Steinhardt, M.D.)
Respondent)
_____)

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

Procedural History

The Board initiated this matter by issuing a Statement of Allegations (“SOA”) against the Respondent on May 7, 2020 and referring the matter to the Division of Administrative Law Appeals (“DALA”). The SOA ordered the Respondent to show cause why the Board should not impose discipline on her Massachusetts physician license on the basis of violations of the Board’s regulations by engaging in conduct that undermines the public confidence in the integrity of the medical profession in that the Respondent was charged with Operating Under the Influence of Liquor (“OUI”), which was resolved by admitting to sufficient facts to warrant a finding of guilt on the OUI charge and received a Continuance Without a Finding (“CWO”). On September 9, 2021 and by mutual agreement among the parties, a Joint Stipulation was filed with DALA, with errors of fact corrected on September 13, 2021. After consideration of the Joint Stipulation, as amended, the DALA Magistrate issued a Recommended Decision on March 24, 2022. In the Recommended Decision, the Magistrate concluded that the violation rose to a level where discipline may be imposed based on the legal basis set forth in the May 7, 2020 SOA and September 9, 2021 Joint Stipulation, as amended on September 13, 2021.

The Recommended Decision is incorporated by reference, which includes the Joint Stipulation filed by the Parties. After full consideration of the Recommended Decision, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference, the Board adopts the Recommended Decision, amending it by adding the following:

Additional Facts

1. The Respondent successfully completed the two-year PHS Monitoring Contract on January 7, 2022. The Respondent was fully compliant with that contract, including all drug and alcohol screens, throughout its duration.
2. On January 24, 2022, the Respondent entered into a new two-year behavioral health monitoring contract which serves as a continuation of the monitoring that began on January 7, 2020, but without random drug screening.

Sanction

Pursuant to 243 CMR 1.03(5)(a)12, the Board has the authority to discipline a physician who has been charged with a crime; and engaged in conduct that “undermines the public confidence in the integrity of the medical profession.” Accordingly, it is proper for the Board to impose sanction. See *Raymond v. Board of Registration in Medicine*, 387 Mass. 708 (1982); *Levy v. Board of Registration in Medicine*, 378 Mass. 519 (1979).

The facts of this case establish that the Respondent was arrested for Operating Under the Influence (“OUI”), admitted to sufficient findings of fact, the matter was Continued Without a Finding (“CWOFF”) pursuant to the Respondent’s compliance with one year probation. The Board has imposed an indefinite suspension and required entrance into a Probation Agreement who, among other things, drove while intoxicated. See *In the Matter of Kathleen Kohler, M.D.*, Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 2014-046 (Consent Order, November 19, 2014) (physician’s license indefinitely suspended for criminal charge of operating under the influence in Massachusetts, and practicing medicine while impaired. Physician’s license suspended, stayed upon entrance into a probation agreement which included PHS monitoring.); *In the Matter of Kristen Howard, M.D.*, Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 2017-010 (Consent Order, March 23, 2017) (physician pleaded guilty to OUI causing serious bodily injury, leaving the scene of personal injury, and admitted to sufficient facts on drug possession charges.); and *In the Matter of Peter Black, M.D.*, Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 2014-018 (Consent Order, April 6, 2014) (physician admitted to sufficient facts of one count of OUI and admitted to non-compliance with a Physician Health Services monitoring contract).

The Board indefinitely suspends the Respondent's license, which is immediately stayed for sixty (60) days to allow the Respondent to file a Probation Agreement. If the Respondent fails to file a Probation Agreement, the stay will be lifted until such time as the Respondent files, and the Board approves, the Respondent's petition to stay suspension and proposed Probation Agreement.

The Respondent shall provide a complete copy of this Final Decision and Order, with all exhibits and attachments within ten (10) days by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand delivery to the following designated entities: any in- or out-of-state hospital, nursing home, clinic, other licensed facility, or municipal, state, or federal facility at which he practices medicine; any in- or out-of-state health maintenance organization with whom he has privileges or any other kind of association; any state agency, in- or out-of-state, with which he has a provider contract; any in- or out-of-state medical employer, whether or not he practices medicine there; the state licensing boards of all states in which he has any kind of license to practice medicine; the Drug Enforcement Administration – Boston Diversion Group; and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Drug Control Program. The Respondent shall also provide this notification to any such designated entities with which he becomes associated for the duration of the indefinite suspension of his inchoate right to renew. The Respondent is further directed to certify to the Board within ten (10) days that he has complied with this directive. The Board expressly reserves the authority to independently notify, at any time, any of the entities designated above, or any other affected entity, of any action it has taken. The Respondent has the right to appeal this Final decision and Order within (30) days, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §§14 and 15, and G.L. c.112, §64.

Date: August 4, 2022



Julian Robinson, M.D.
Board Chair
Board of Registration in Medicine