THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss **Division of Administrative Law Appeals**

14 Summer Street, 4th Floor

**Board of Registration in Medicine**, Malden, MA 02148

Petitioner (781) 397-4700

**www.state.ma.us/dala**

v.

Docket No. RM-17-935

**Debra Little, M.D.**,

Respondent

**Appearance for Petitioner**:

James Paikos, Esq.

Board of Registration in Medicine

200 Harvard Mill Square, Suite 330

Wakefield, MA 01880

**Appearance for Respondent**:

Andrew L. Hyams, Esq.

Kerstein Coren & Lichtenstein, LLP

60 Walnut Street

Wellesley, MA 02481

**Administrative Magistrate**

James P. Rooney

**Summary of Decision**

Psychiatrist who failed to follow the standard of care in the intake of a patient, prescribed benzodiazepines without an assessment of risk, terminated the patient’s care inappropriately, and made a false statement to the Board during its investigation is subject to discipline by the Board.

**RECOMMENDED DECISION**

On October 26, 2017, the Board of Registration in Medicine issued a Statement of Allegations ordering Debra M. Little, M.D., a psychiatrist, to show cause why she should not be disciplined for failing to meet the standard of care in her intake of a particular psychiatric patient, prescribing her benzodiazepines for five months without an assessment of risk, and terminating her care in “an inappropriate manner.” The Board also alleges that the doctor made at least one false statement to it during its investigation.

On June 9, 2021, by mutual agreement among the parties, Complaint Counsel filed a Joint Stipulation. The stipulation is signed by Dr. Little, her attorney, and Complaint Counsel. The Stipulation is attached as Exhibit 1. In the stipulation, the doctor concedes the Board’s allegations.

Other than the Stipulation and the admissions of fact it contains, I have not taken evidence with respect to the facts of this matter. I adopt the facts as stipulated. The conclusions of law set forth in the Stipulation are warranted and I therefore adopt them as well.

Based on the foregoing, I recommend that the Board impose such discipline on Dr. Little as it deems appropriate in light of the facts and conclusions of law as stipulated by the parties. I note that the parties have recommended a reprimand as a sanction.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW APPEALS

Signed by James P. Rooney

James P. Rooney

First Administrative Magistrate

Dated: September 1, 2021