

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND
ALICE O. ADAMS, M.D. * STATE BOARD OF
Respondent * PHYSICIANS
License Number: D52085 * Case Number: 2218-0042B

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF LICENSE
TO PRACTICE MEDICINE

Disciplinary Panel B (“Panel B”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the medical license of **ALICE O. ADAMS, M.D.** (the “Respondent”), **License Number D52085**, to practice in the State of Maryland. Panel B takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t § 10-226(c)(2)(i) (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2017 Supp.), concluding that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Based on information received by, and made known to Panel B, and the investigatory information obtained by, received by and made known to and available to Panel B and the Office of the Attorney General, including the instances described below, Panel B has reason to believe that the following facts are true:¹

1. At all times relevant, the Respondent was a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was initially licensed in Maryland

¹ The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct are intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis of the suspension. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in connection with this matter.

on or about May 30, 1997, and her license is scheduled to be renewed on September 30, 2018.

2. The Respondent was trained as a neurologist, but is not board-certified in any specialty. At all times relevant she was employed part-time at a facility in Temple Hills, Maryland ("Facility A");² and part-time at a Rehabilitation facility in the District of Columbia.

3. On or about September 20, 2017, the Board received a complaint from the wife of a former patient ("Patient A") alleging that during her husband's appointment the Respondent appeared to be impaired by exhibiting slurred speech and repetitive questioning. The complainant further alleged that the Respondent's office was "dirty."

4. After receiving the complaint, the Board initiated an investigation, and on November 1, 2017, Board staff conducted an on-site visit of Facility A.³

5. During the November 1, 2017 on-site visit, Board staff hand-delivered a copy of the complaint to the Respondent and issued to her subpoenas for appointment logs and employee lists.

6. On or about November 3, 2017, and again on December 1, 2017, the Respondent filed with the Board written responses to the complaint denying the allegations as set forth in the complaint.

7. Board staff interviewed the complainant and Patient A and the Respondent, and subpoenaed the Respondent's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program ("PDMP") records

² In order to maintain confidentiality, identifying names will be used in this document, but will be provided to the Respondent on request.

³ Board staff had conducted a prior on-site visit in October 2017; however, the Respondent was not present. During that visit, Board staff took photographs of Facility A.

and pharmacy records which reflected prescriptions issued to the Respondent for controlled dangerous substances (“CDS”) including opioids and benzodiazepines.

8. Following a review of the investigative documents and after interviewing the Respondent regarding the allegations, in furtherance of its investigation, on or about January 24, 2018, the Board ordered that the Respondent be evaluated by the Maryland Professional Rehabilitation Program (“MPRP”).

9. On or about February 8, 2018, the Respondent presented to MPRP for the Board ordered evaluation. As part of its evaluation, the MPRP referred the Respondent to a psychiatrist specializing in addiction (“Dr. F”). On or about February 22, 2018, Dr. F conducted an evaluation of the Respondent.

10. On or about February 26, 2018, Dr. F sent to Board staff a PDMP printout of multiple CDS prescriptions that had been issued to the Respondent by several different providers between January 2014 and November 2017. The prescriptions had been issued to her for Schedule II and III opioids and Schedule IV benzodiazepines.

11. On or about February 26, 2018, Dr. F sent an email to Board staff stating that in his professional opinion, based on his evaluation of the Respondent, the Respondent’s personal and professional judgment is impaired and that “she poses a risk to her patients in the practice of medicine...I feel it is prudent to act immediately for reasons of public safety.”

12. On or about March 5, 2018, Dr. F submitted a written report to Board staff summarizing his evaluation of the Respondent that stated in part:⁴

In my professional opinion, [the Respondent] is in need of immediate addiction treatment as she is in complete denial of her dependency on opiates and benzodiazepines.

...

I see significant evidence that [the Respondent's] personal and professional judgment is impaired and I feel she poses a risk to her patients in the practice of medicine at this time...

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based on the foregoing facts, the Board concludes that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action in this case, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't. § 10-226 (c)(2)(i) (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2017 Supp.).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing, it is:

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2), the Respondent's medical license **D52085** to practice as a physician in the State of Maryland be and is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and be it further

ORDERED that a post-deprivation hearing in accordance with Md. Code Regs. 10.32.02.08B(7)(c), D and E on the Summary Suspension, in which Panel B will determine whether the summary suspension will continue, has been scheduled for **March 28, 2018, at 11:15 a.m.**, at the Maryland State Board of Physicians, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215-0095; and be it further

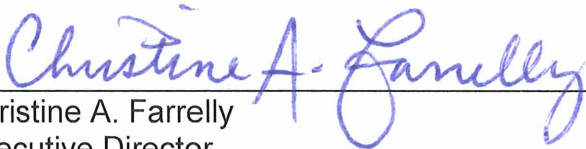
⁴ To maintain confidentiality, specific information regarding Dr. F's evaluation or the assessment of MPRP will not be referenced in this document.

ORDERED that at the conclusion of the **SUMMARY SUSPENSION** hearing held before Panel B, the Respondent, if dissatisfied with the result of the hearing, may request within ten (10) days an evidentiary hearing, such hearing to be held within thirty (30) days of the request, before an Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings, Administrative Law Building, 11101 Gilroy Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031-1301; and be it further

ORDERED that a copy of this Order of Summary Suspension shall be filed with the Board in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 14-407 (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2017 Supp.); and be it further

ORDERED that this is an Order of Panel B, and, as such, is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 & 2017 Supp.).

03/13/2018
Date


Christine A. Farrelly
Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Physicians