

IN THE MATTER OF
ANGELA L. GUCWA, M.D.
Respondent

License Number: D78628

*** BEFORE THE**
*** MARYLAND STATE BOARD**
*** OF PHYSICIANS**
*** Case Number: 7716-0009B**

* * * * *

ORDER AFTER SHOW CAUSE HEARING

In July 2014, in her application for a license to practice medicine filed with the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”), Angela L. Gucwa, M.D. disclosed that, in 2011 in Georgia, she pleaded guilty to driving with an unlawful alcohol concentration. On September 29, 2014, based upon the guilty plea, Dr. Gucwa and the Board entered into an agreement in which Dr. Gucwa agreed to comply with certain terms and conditions. On August 7, 2015, based upon a violation of the agreement, Board Disciplinary Panel B (“Panel B” or the “Panel”) and Dr. Gucwa entered into a Consent Order. Under the Consent Order, Dr. Gucwa’s license was suspended. The parties further agreed in the Consent Order that, upon the lifting of the suspension, Panel B would impose appropriate conditions. On October 29, 2015, Panel B issued an order terminating the suspension and imposed probation for a minimum period of three years with certain probationary terms and conditions.

On April 17, 2017, Panel B issued a Violation of Order Terminating Suspension and Notice to Show Cause. On June 28, 2017, the Show Cause Hearing was held before Panel B. Victoria H. Pepper, Assistant Attorney General, represented the State. M. Natalie McSherry, Esquire, represented Dr. Gucwa. Dr. Gucwa was present. Panel B heard argument from the parties and considered the pertinent documents. The Panel finds that Dr. Gucwa failed to comply with the terms of probation. There is no dispute that Dr. Gucwa violated the terms of her

probation. The records clearly demonstrate the violation, and Dr. Gucwa acknowledges the violation.

The Order Terminating Suspension and Imposing Probation authorizes the Panel to impose a sanction for a violation of probation. Dr. Gucwa argues that the sanction should be lenient because the violation did not implicate patient care. While this particular violation fortunately did not directly affect patient care, the Panel instituted the terms of probation believing them necessary for ensuring the protection of patients. The Panel still feels they are necessary for that purpose, and Dr. Gucwa's violation of the conditions of her license for the second time acutely concerns the Panel.

Based upon Dr. Gucwa's violation of a condition of probation, it is, by Panel B, hereby

ORDERED that Dr. Gucwa is **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the minimum three-year **PROBATION**, commenced on October 29, 2015, is **EXTENDED** for one year. The probation, therefore, continues and shall not be terminated prior to October 29, 2019.¹ The Respondent shall fully comply with the following probationary terms and conditions:

1. The Respondent shall continue her enrollment in MPRP and shall be entered into a Participant Rehabilitation Agreement and Participant Rehabilitation Plan with MPRP during the probationary period. Dr. Gucwa shall comply with all MPRP rules, recommendations, and referrals, including the terms and conditions of all Participant Rehabilitation Agreement(s) and Participant Rehabilitation Plan(s) and any evaluations, toxicology screening, and treatment recommended or ordered by MPRP;

¹ The Order Terminating Suspension and Imposing Probation dated October 29, 2015 is no longer in effect as it is superseded by this Order After Show Cause Hearing.

2. The Respondent shall sign any written release/consent forms, and update them, as required by the Board and MPRP. Specifically, the Respondent shall sign any written release/consent form required by the Board authorizing MPRP to make verbal and written disclosures to the Board, including disclosure of any and all MPRP records and files, including the records and files of MPRP's agents, regarding treatment, toxicology screening, and evaluations regarding the Respondent. The Respondent shall also sign any written release/consent forms required by the MPRP to authorize MPRP to exchange with (*i.e.*, disclosure to and receive from) outside entities (including all of the Respondent's current therapists and treatment providers) verbal and written information regarding her treatment, toxicology screening, evaluations, and therapy; and
3. The Respondent shall comply with all laws governing the practice of medicine under the Maryland Medical Practice Act and all rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if the Board or Panel B determines, after notice and opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board or Board Panel B if there is no genuine dispute as to the material facts or an evidentiary hearing at the Office of Administrative Hearings if there is a genuine dispute as to the material facts, that the Respondent has failed to comply with a term or condition of probation or this order, the Board or Panel B may impose additional sanctions, including a reprimand, further probation and additional probationary terms, the suspension or revocation of Dr. Gucwa's license to practice medicine, and/or a monetary fine; and it is further

ORDERED that, after October 29, 2019, Dr. Gucwa may submit a written petition to the Board requesting termination of probation. After consideration of the petition, the probation may be terminated through and order of the Board or Board Panel. The Board or Board Panel, will

grant the termination if the Respondent has fully and satisfactorily complied with all of the probationary terms and conditions and there are no pending complaints related to the charges; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent is responsible for any costs incurred in fulfilling the terms of this order; and it is further

ORDERED that this is a public document.

July 14, 2017
Date

Christine A. Farrelly
Christine A. Farrelly, Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Physicians