

**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
ADRIAN CHAD BUCKNER, M.D.,)	BEFORE THE TENNESSEE
RESPONDENT)	BOARD OF MEDICAL
)	EXAMINERS
)	
)	CASE NO. 2022022791
)	
JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE)	
TENNESSEE LICENSE NO. 38882)	

AMENDED ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

This cause came to be heard on the 24th day of January 2023, at a public meeting, via WebEx video conferencing, before the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners upon the application of the Division of Health-Related Boards of the Tennessee Department of Health (hereinafter “State”) to summarily suspend the medical license of the Respondent **ADRIAN CHAD BUCKNER**, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-320(c). The State argued, and presented evidence to support, that the Respondent violated various provisions of the Medical Practice Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-101 et seq. and that those violations were such that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively required emergency action. The Respondent requested an additional informal hearing pursuant to T.C.A. § 4-5-320(d)(1)(B). The State was represented by Brittani C. Kendrick, Senior Associate General Counsel. The Respondent, Adrian C. Buckner, was present.

JURISDICTION

The Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners (“Board”) is responsible for the regulation and supervision of the practice of medicine in the State of Tennessee, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-101 et seq. Tennessee Code Annotated § 63-6-214 grants the Board the duty and power to

suspend, revoke, or otherwise discipline the license of a medical doctor upon proof that the individual has violated the provisions of Title 63, Chapter 6, of the Tennessee Code Annotated or any substantive rule promulgated by the Board. Under Tenn. Code Ann § 4-5-320(c), the Board has the authority to take summary action if it finds that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively require emergency action.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent has been at all times pertinent hereto licensed by the Board as a medical doctor, having been granted license number 38882 on May 25, 2004. Respondent's medical license will expire on June 30, 2024.
2. Respondent is a medical doctor specializing in psychiatry and internal medicine. He owns his own practice in Kingsport, Tennessee called Psychiatric Associates of Kingsport.
3. Respondent has a confirmed Bipolar 1 diagnosis.
4. On or about August 19, 2022, Respondent was arrested by Sullivan County, Tennessee Sherriff's Office.
 - a. Respondent was discovered by Sullivan County Sheriff's Office having abandoned his car in the middle of the road then attempted to evade the responding officers.
 - b. Respondent admitted to the responding officers that he was a doctor and had taken Methylphenidate, a schedule II-controlled substance, that he prescribed to his patient, J.E.
 - c. Upon questioning, Respondent did not know what date it was, began screaming and "being very belligerent."

- d. Respondent's person was searched, and the responding officers recovered a pill grinder with white powder inside it, a pill bottle of Methylphenidate prescribed to Respondent's patient, J.E., and a straw with white powder residue inside of it.
 - e. Respondent was charged with driving under the influence, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of a schedule II drug. This case is pending in Sullivan County, Tennessee General Sessions Criminal Court.
- 5. On the same date that Respondent was arrested, August 19, 2022, the Washington County Sheriff's Office reported to Vivian Buckner's home in Johnson City, Tennessee for a welfare check.
 - a. Ms. Buckner is Respondent's mother. She is eighty (80) years old with medical issues which include diabetes and early stages of dementia. She uses a walker and needs assistance with daily living activities. She is completely dependent on Respondent for her care and food, including providing her with her prescribed medication.
 - b. Respondent has medical power of attorney over Ms. Buckner.
 - c. Washington County Sheriff's Office was advised that Respondent had been gone from the residence for approximately three (3) days and an inability to be reached. Ms. Buckner had not had food or her prescribed medications for three (3) days. Ms. Buckner appeared to be relegated to the basement without access to food or her medications as she is unable to safely go upstairs. Ms. Buckner

had three (3) firearms that were loaded in her residence which included an AR style pistol, shotgun, and another pistol.

6. On or about August 22, 2022, Respondent was arrested by Washington County Sheriff's Office and charged with neglect of an elderly or vulnerable adult pursuant to T.C.A. § 39-15-507(a), (c). This case is still pending in Washington County, Tennessee General Sessions Court.
7. On or about August 25, 2022, Washington County Sheriff's Office responded to a welfare check at Respondent's residence. Respondent was standing in the middle of the street screaming irrationally and speaking incoherently so he was handcuffed by responding officers.
8. Respondent's primary care physician ("PCP") and longtime friend of approximately twenty (20) years, Dr. Jaime Oakley, spoke with the Washington County Sheriff's Office regarding Respondent's August 25, 2022, welfare check and asked Respondent to be brought to JCMC opposed to the jail given his recent psychosis and issues, noted above.
9. On August 25, 2022, Respondent was involuntarily committed at JCMC. Respondent expressed that stress due to his job and becoming the recent caregiver for his mother likely brought about his manic episode.
10. On or about August 30, 2022, Respondent was discharged from JCMC. At the time of discharge, Respondent was medically clear and stable. There were no signs or symptoms of psychosis present. He understood his treatment plan which included medication adherence and PCP and outpatient psychiatric follow up.
11. A review of the Tennessee Controlled Substance Database ("CSMD") reveals that on various dates in October, November, and December 2022, Respondent wrote controlled

substance prescriptions to various patients, including J. E., the patient he admitted to diverting Methylphenidate from during his August 19, 2022, arrest.

12. On or about October 14, 2022, November 11, 2022, and November 12, 2022, Respondent wrote prescriptions for Vyvanse and Methylphenidate for patient J. E.
13. On or about September 22, 2022, Respondent contacted the Tennessee Medical Foundation Physician's Health Program ("TMF-PHP").
14. At the recommendation of TMF-PHP, Respondent was scheduled for an intensive evaluation at Talbott Recovery Campus in Atlanta on December 5, 2022, but Respondent cancelled the evaluation.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The grounds listed above are sufficient to establish that Respondent has violated the following statutes or rules which are part of the Medical Practice Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-101 *et seq.*, for which disciplinary action by the Board is authorized:

15. The Respondent's acts and conduct as alleged in paragraphs three (3) through twelve (12), *supra*, constitute a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-214(b):
 - (1) Unprofessional, dishonorable or unethical conduct.
16. The Respondent's acts and conduct as alleged in paragraph four (4), *supra*, constitute a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-214(b):
 - (5) Habitual intoxication or personal misuse of any drugs or the use of intoxicating liquors, narcotics, controlled substances, controlled substance analogues or other drugs or stimulants in such manner as to adversely affect the person's ability to practice medicine.
17. The Respondent's acts and conduct as alleged in paragraphs three (3) through ten (10), *supra*, constitute a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-214(b):

(18) engaging in the practice of medicine when mentally or physically unable to do so.

APPROPRIATENESS OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

18. In cases where the public health, safety, and welfare imperatively require emergency action, the Board is empowered, by Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-320(c), to summarily suspend a medical license pending the formal proceedings for revocation or other action. The summary action statute requires a showing that protection of “public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.” Respondent’s mental state is a clear and present danger to the health, safety, and welfare of patients in Tennessee. Based on the information, and statements provided to the Board by the State, Respondent has been shown to be in a psychotic state. The status of Respondent’s mental health constitutes a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare. Respondent’s medical license should be immediately suspended until further hearing before the Board. Respondent’s mental state while maintaining an active medical license poses an imminent danger to the citizens of Tennessee. The Board believes immediate action is necessary to prevent harm to any patients.

IT IS THEREOFRE, ORDERED that:

19. Respondent’s medical license is **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**, the public welfare, safety, or welfare imperatively requiring it.
20. Upon receipt of this Order, the Respondent shall cease and desist from practicing as a physician in the state of Tennessee.
21. The **SUMMARY SUSPENSION** shall be effective immediately upon entry by this Board and remain in effect pending proceedings for the formal discipline of Respondent’s license.

SO ORDERED by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners this 24th day of January,
2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Her', written in a cursive style.

Chairperson
Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

PREPARED FOR ENTRY:

Brittani C. Kendrick
Brittani C. Kendrick (BPR # 029251)
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01/18/2023
DATE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of this document has been served upon Respondent, Adrian Chad Buckner, M.D. at 110 Copper Court, Johnson City, Tennessee 37601, by delivering the same in the United States Mail, Certified Number 7020 2450 0000 1109 2221, return receipt requested, and United States First Class Postage Pre-Paid Mail, with sufficient postage thereon to reach its destination and via email at adrianbucknermd@gmail.com.

This 30th day of January, 2023.

Brittani C. Kendrick _____
Brittani C. Kendrick