



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Dianne L. Reynolds-Cane, M.D.  
Director

## Department of Health Professions

Perimeter Center  
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300  
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

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November 30, 2012

Sabah Mehdi Hadi, M.D.  
1453 Powells Tavern Place  
Herndon, Virginia 20170

### UPS OVERNIGHT

RE: License No.: 0101-059359

Dear Dr. Hadi:

This letter is official notification that an informal conference of the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") will be held on **Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 3:45 p.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Henrico, Virginia.** The conference will be conducted pursuant to Sections 54.1-2400(10), 2.2-4019, and 2.2-4021 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code").

A Special Conference Committee ("Committee") will inquire into allegations that you may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of medicine and surgery in Virginia. Specifically:

1. You may have violated Sections 54.1-2915.A(3), (12), (13) and (18) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code") and 18 VAC 85-20-29(2) of the Board of Medicine General Regulations in your care and treatment of Patients A, B and C in that you have engaged in a pattern of unprofessional and disruptive conduct in health care settings by repeatedly exhibiting improper, disrespectful and insensitive behavior toward your psychiatric patients that interfered with, or could reasonably be expected to adversely impact, the care of these patients. Specifically:

a. Patient A was/is a minor child suffering from selective mutism. In or about late 2009, during Patient A's medication treatment session with you at Ashburn Psychological Associates ("APS"), you attempted to convince his mother, in his presence, to discontinue weekly therapy sessions with your colleague, a psychologist who owned and was the director of the APS practice, and with whom you had had a contractual dispute and other disagreements, and to simply allow peer pressure to persuade him to talk. This session increased Patient A's anxiety and exacerbated his condition, while

undermining his longstanding relationship with his therapist, with whom he was progressing in his treatment.

b. In or about 2009, during a treatment session with Patient B, you discussed with him a disagreement you were having with the APS psychiatric practice about the allocation and payment of your treatment fees. This made Patient B uneasy and he was concerned that his session time was not being used to address his therapeutic needs.

c. In or about 2010, you argued with Patient C about her treatment and demanded that she undergo additional treatment sessions with you. Patient C stated that you “screamed” at her, and that she felt insulted and disrespected. You then argued with Patient C’s boyfriend about her treatment.

2. You may have violated Sections 54.1-2915.A(3), (12), (13) and (18) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”) and 18 VAC 85-20-29(2) and (3) of the Board of Medicine General Regulations, in that, you have engaged in a pattern of unprofessional and disruptive conduct in health care settings by exhibiting rude, insensitive and selfish behavior that interfered with, or could reasonably be expected to adversely impact, the care of psychiatric patients and which exploited the practitioner/patient relationship for personal gain. Specifically, you contacted the parent of at least one patient, Patient H, a minor, just prior to your departure from APS in order to solicit him as a patient and to persuade him to terminate his relationship with APS. Further, after you were terminated from your employment with APS on or about November 25, 2009, you called, texted or otherwise contacted APS patients B, D, G and I and in the case of minor patients A, E, F and H, their parent(s)/guardian(s), in order to solicit them as patients and to persuade them to terminate their relationships with APS.

3. You may have violated Sections 54.1-2915.A (3), (13) and (16) of the Code in that, in or about 2009, while employed by APS, you stored controlled substances in an unlocked cabinet on the APS premises.

4.. You may have violated Sections 54.1-2915.A(1), and (16) of the Code in that, while employed as an independent contractor for APS, you instructed patients to make checks payable directly to you or jointly to APS and you, and you altered some patient checks to render them payable to you. Further, without the knowledge or consent of APS, you collected these checks as well as cash payments from patients and fraudulently and deceitfully kept said payments or deposited them into your personal and/or business bank accounts.

5. You may have violated Sections 54.1-2915.A(1), (3), (12), (13), (16) and (18) of the Code and 18 VAC 85-20-30(E) of the Board of Medicine General Regulations, in that, after you were terminated from employment with APS, you published false, misleading and/or

deceptive advertising regarding your psychiatric services on various Internet sites and Web pages such as Facebook, Premier Psychiatry Center Web pages and other such pages. Specifically, in this electronic media, as recently as April, 2012, you stated or intimated that you were still affiliated with APS, providing next to the APS practice name the name, address and telephone number for your new practice, Premier Psychiatry Center, and/or your own name. Specifically, on your LinkedIn page, as recently as April, 2012, you stated that you still held an active position at APS.

6. You may have violated Sections 54.1-2915.A(1), (3), (12), (13) and (16) of the Code, in that you posed online as a disgruntled and dissatisfied APS patient, posting negative comments about your alleged patient care experience at that practice. Further, you posed online as a patient of your own practice, Premier Psychiatry Center, and entered positive comments about your alleged patient care experience at that practice.

Please see Attachment I for the names of the Patients referenced above.

After consideration of all information, the Committee may:

1. Exonerate you;
2. Place you on probation with such terms it deems appropriate;
3. Reprimand you; and
4. Impose a monetary penalty pursuant to Section 54.1-2401 of the Code.

Further, the Committee may refer this matter for a formal administrative proceeding when it has failed to dispose of a case by consent pursuant to Section 2.2-4019 of the Code.

You have the right to information that will be relied upon by the Committee in making a decision. Therefore, I enclose a copy of the documents that will be distributed to the Committee for its consideration when discussing the allegations with you and when deliberating upon your case. These documents are enclosed only with the original notice sent by UPS overnight mail. These materials have been provided this date to your counsel, Forrest E. White, Esquire.

To facilitate this proceeding, you must submit eight (8) copies of any documents you wish for the Committee to consider to Reneé S. Dixon, Discipline Case Manager, Virginia Board of Medicine, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia, 23233, by **December 18, 2012**. Your documents may not be submitted by facsimile or e-mail. Should you or Adjudication Specialist Melanie Pagano wish to submit any documents for the Committee's consideration after **December 18, 2012**, such documents shall be considered only upon a ruling by the Chair of the Committee that good cause has been shown for late submission.

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A request to continue this proceeding must state **in detail** the reason for the request and must establish good cause. Such request must be made, in writing, to me at the address listed on this letter and must be received by **December 12, 2012**. Only one such motion will be considered. Absent exigent circumstances, such as personal or family illness, a request for a continuance after **December 12, 2012**, will not be considered.

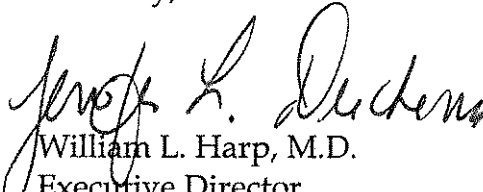
Relevant sections of the Administrative Process Act, which govern proceedings of this nature, as well as laws relating to the practice of medicine and other healing arts in Virginia cited in this notice can be found on the Internet at <http://leg1.state.va.us>. To access this information, please click on the *Code of Virginia* for statutes and *Virginia Administrative Code* for regulations.

In its deliberations, the Committee may utilize the Sanction Reference Points System, as contained in the Sanction Reference Manual. The manual, which is a guidance document of the Board, may be accessed at <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/medicine>. You may request a paper copy from the Board office by calling (804) 367-4513.

Please advise the Board, in writing, of your intention to be present. Should you fail to appear at the informal conference, the Board may proceed to a formal administrative hearing in order to impose sanctions.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Melanie Pagano, Adjudication Specialist, at 804- 367-4669.

Sincerely,

*Woh*  
  
William L. Harp, M.D.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Medicine

Enclosures:

Attachment I  
Informal Conference Package (5 volumes)  
Map

cc: Melanie Pagano, Adjudication Specialist, APD  
Lorraine McGehee, Deputy Director, APD  
Forrest E. White, Esquire [w/enclosure- UPS].  
Pamela Kincheloe, Senior Investigator (143912)