## BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

\* \* \* \* \*

In the Matter of Charges and Complaint

Against:

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BEVERLY MOEMOE YEE, M.D.,

Respondent.

Case No. 24-28213-1

**FILED** 

OCT - 9 2024

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
By:

### **COMPLAINT**

The Investigative Committee<sup>1</sup> (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), by and through Ian J. Cumings, Senior Deputy General Counsel and attorney for the IC, having a reasonable basis to believe that Beverly Moemoe Yee, M.D. (Respondent) violated the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 630 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 630 (collectively, the Medical Practice Act), hereby issues its Complaint, stating the IC's charges and allegations as follows:

- 1. Respondent was at all times relative to this Complaint a medical doctor holding an active license to practice medicine in the State of Nevada (License No. 10658). Respondent was originally licensed by the Board on September 30, 2003.
  - 2. Patient  $A^2$  was a forty-five (45) year-old male at the time of the events at issue.
- 3. Patient A established medical care with Respondent on March 26, 2018, due to the retirement of his previous physician.
- 4. Patient A was noted to be a habitual alcohol user in Respondents record on March 26, 2018. Respondent diagnosed Patient A with panic attacks, anxiety, insomnia, and

<sup>2</sup> Patient A's true identity is not disclosed herein to protect his privacy, but is disclosed in the Patient Designation served upon Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, at the time this formal Complaint was authorized for filing, was composed of Board members Nick M. Spirtos, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., Aury Nagy, M.D., and Ms. Maggie Arias-Petrel.

noted that Patient A refused a referral to a psychiatrist for his anxiety. Respondent's records were handwritten, and largely illegible.

- 5. During the March 26, 2018, visit, Respondent prescribed Patient A benzodiazepines (Valium 10mg), despite its use being contraindicated with alcohol. Prior to prescribing controlled substances to Patient A, Respondent failed to check Patient A's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) report or order drug tests. Additionally, Respondent did not adequately obtain informed written consent from Patient A for the prescription of a controlled substance.
- 6. On June 26, 2018, Patient A presented to Respondent for a follow-up appointment. Respondent noted Patient A's continued alcohol abuse but refilled Patient A's prescription for benzodiazepines for another three (3) months. Respondent failed to check Patient A's PMP report or order any drug testing. Moreover, Respondent failed to document or discuss switching Patient A from benzodiazepines to another anxiety medication, not contraindicated with alcohol use.
- 7. From September 2018, until November 2021, Respondent saw Patient A on no less than nine (9) occasions. During each appointment, Respondent routinely failed to screen Patient A for safety, and continued to prescribe Patient A benzodiazepines, despite his alcohol abuse being noted on seven (7) of these nine (9) visits. Respondent documented Patient A's alcohol use as "chronic." Respondent further failed to check Patient A's PMP or order any drug testing to determine if Patient A was abusing his medication, and did not address the underlying anxiety order, or appropriately facilitate a referral to a psychologist for psychiatric treatment. Throughout Respondent's treatment of Patient A, Respondent failed to obtain appropriate informed written consent for the prescription of controlled substances.

### **COUNT I**

### NRS 630.301(4) - Malpractice

- 8. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 9. NRS 630.301(4) provides that malpractice of a physician is grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a licensee.

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- 11. As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent failed to use the reasonable care, skill or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances when rendering medical services to Patient A by inappropriately prescribing benzodiazepines to a patient with chronic alcohol use. Furthermore, Respondent routinely failed to screen Patient A for safety by running PMP reports to check if Patient A was being prescribed controlled substances by other healthcare providers.
- By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 12. provided in NRS 630.352.

### **COUNT II**

### NRS 630.3062(1)(a) - Failure to Maintain Proper Medical Records

- All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by 13. reference as though fully set forth herein.
- NRS 630.3062(1)(a) provides that the "failure to maintain timely, legible, accurate 14. and complete medical records relating to the diagnosis, treatment and care of a patient" constitute grounds for initiating discipline against a licensee.
- Respondent failed to maintain proper medical records relating to the diagnosis, 15. treatment and care of Patient A, by failing to correctly document her actions when she treated Patient A, whose medical records were not timely, legible, accurate, and complete as evidenced by Respondent's largely handwritten and illegible records which failed to adequately address Patient A's alcohol use, and proper informed consent.
- By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 16. provided in NRS 630.352.

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### **COUNT III**

### NRS 630.306(1)(b)(2) - Violation of Standards of Practice Established by Regulation -Failure to Consult

- All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by 17. reference as though fully set forth herein.
- Violation of a standard of practice adopted by the Board is grounds for disciplinary 18. action pursuant to NRS 630.306(1)(b)(2).
- NAC 630.210 requires a physician to "seek consultation with another provider of 19. health care in doubtful or difficult cases whenever it appears that consultation may enhance the quality of medical services."
- Respondent failed to timely seek consultation with regard to Patient A's medical 20. condition from March 2018 through November 2021 and Respondent should have consulted with an appropriate care provider to address the doubtfulness of the diagnosis of Patient A's medical condition and such a timely consultation would have confirmed or denied such a diagnosis and may have enhanced the quality of medical care provided to the Patient with regard to Patient A's anxiety disorder and chronic alcohol usage. Respondent failed to provide a proper referral nor consult with a psychiatrist or psychologist in reference to Patient A's anxiety disorder and chronic alcohol use.
- By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 21. provided in NRS 630.352.

### COUNT IV

### NRS 630.306(1)(b)(2) - Violation of Standards of Practice - Violation of Model Policy

- All of the allegations in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference 22. as though fully set forth herein.
- Violation of a standard of practice adopted by the Board is grounds for disciplinary 23. action pursuant to NRS 630.306(1)(b)(2).
  - The Board adopted by reference the Model Policy in NAC 630.187. 24.

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- 25. Pursuant to NAC 630.230(1)(k), a licensee shall not engage in the practice of writing prescriptions for controlled substances in a manner that deviates from the standards set forth in the Model Policy.
- As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent wrote 26. prescriptions to Patient A for benzodiazepines, a Schedule IV controlled substance, to treat in a manner that deviated from the Model Policy by failing to continually pull Patient A's PMP report and require Patient A to submit to drug tests before prescribing benzodiazepines.
- By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

### COUNT V

### NRS 630.306(1)(p) - Unsafe or Unprofessional Conduct

- All of the allegations in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated as if fully set 28. forth herein.
- Engaging in any act that is unsafe or unprofessional conduct in accordance with 29. regulations adopted by the Board is grounds for disciplinary action against a licensee pursuant to NRS 630.306(1)(p).
- As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent wrote 30. prescriptions to Patient A for benzodiazepines with the knowledge Patient A used alcohol to excess which is not consistent with the professional standards for the prescription of controlled substances nor the Dietary Guidelines.
- By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 31. provided in NRS 630.352.

### WHEREFORE, the Investigative Committee prays:

- That the Board give Respondent notice of the charges herein against her and give 1. her notice that she may file an answer to the Complaint herein as set forth in NRS 630.339(2) within twenty (20) days of service of the Complaint;
- That the Board set a time and place for a formal hearing after holding an Early 2. Case Conference pursuant to NRS 630.339(3);

- 3. That the Board determine what sanctions to impose if it determines there has been a violation or violations of the Medical Practice Act committed by Respondent;
- 4. That the Board award fees and costs for the investigation and prosecution of this case as outlined in NRS 622.400;
- 5. That the Board make, issue and serve on Respondent its findings of fact, conclusions of law and order, in writing, that includes the sanctions imposed; and
- 6. That the Board take such other and further action as may be just and proper in these premises.

DATED this 4th day of October, 2024.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

IAN J. CUMINGS

Senior Deputy General Counsel

9600 Gateway Drive

Reno, NV 89521

Tel: (775) 688-2559

Email: <u>icumings@medboard.nv.gov</u>
Attorney for the Investigative Committee

# OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

## Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

### VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEVADA : SS. COUNTY OF CLARK

Nick M. Spirtos, M.D., F.A.C.O.G, having been duly sworn, hereby deposes and states under penalty of perjury that he is the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners that authorized the Complaint against the Respondent herein; that he has read the foregoing Complaint; and that based upon information discovered in the course of the investigation into a complaint against Respondent, he believes that the allegations and charges in the foregoing Complaint against Respondent are true, accurate and correct.

DATED this day of October, 2024.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

Chairman of the Investigative Committee