BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

* * * * *

In the Matter of Charges and Complaint

Against:

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WARREN S. BASILAN, RRT,

Respondent.

Case No. 23-39155-1 FILED

JUN 26 2023

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF

COMPLAINT

The Investigative Committee¹ (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), by and through Donald K. White, Senior Deputy General Counsel and attorney for the IC, having a reasonable basis to believe that Warren S. Basilan, RRT (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 respiratory therapist holding an active license to practice respiratory therapy in the State of Nevada (License No. RC1999). Respondent was originally licensed by the Board on August 10, 2011.
- 2. Pursuant to NRS 630.309 and NAC 630.540 (23), Respondent is subject to the same disciplinary measures as a practitioner of medicine.
 - 3. Patient A² was a sixty-nine (69) year-old male at the time of the events at issue.
- On September 4, 2020, Patient A was transferred to AMG Specialty Hospital for 4. treatment of pneumonia and respiratory failure, after spending several days at North Vista Hospital.

¹ 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 Bret W. Frey, M.D., Chowdhury H. Ahsan, M.D., Ph.D., FACC, and Col. Eric D. Wade, USAF (Ret.).

² 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.

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- 5. Patient A required a ventilator for respiratory support, as he had a history of chronic respiratory failure, congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pulmonary hypertension, sleep apnea, morbid obesity, and metabolic encephalopathy.
- Patient A was ventilated through a tracheostomy tube placed in his tracheostomy site.
- 7. On September 21, 2020, sometime during the early morning hours, Respondent had placed Patient A's ventilator settings on Pressure Support Ventilation (PSV) 10cmH20 over Peak End Expiratory Pressure (PEEP) 5cmH20, or PSV 10/5.
- On September 21, 2020, a dayshift respiratory therapist (RT) found Patient A in 8. respiratory distress at approximately 0640 hours with a bleeding tracheotomy site and blood in the ventilator circuit, after receiving a report from Respondent, who was on the night shift. Upon information and belief, the dayshift RT had received that report approximately between 0600 and 0620 hours.
 - 9. The dayshift RT noted that Patient A's ventilator settings were PSV 10/5.
- 10. Respondent's last charting showed Patient A to be on Assist Control (AC) ventilation, and he did not chart that he changed Patient A's ventilator setting back to PSV 10/5.
- Patient A was required to be on AC because he was not tolerating PSV well. 11. Therefore Respondent placed Patient A on an unsafe ventilator setting.
- Respondent further did not monitor Patient A when he went into a different room 12. to work on his patient charts and placed Patient A on PSV in an effort to silence any alarms coming from the ventilator.
- At approximately 0735 hours, the dayshift RT called an emergency medical 13. transport for Patient A to transfer him to a hospital, where Patient A later expired.

COUNT I

NRS 630.301(4) - Malpractice

All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by 14. reference as though fully set forth herein.

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Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners 9600 Gateway Drive Reno, Nevada 89521 (775) 688-2559	
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15.	NRS 630.301(4) provides that malpractice of a [respiratory therapist] is grounds for
initiating disci	plinary action against a licensee.

- 16. NAC 630.040 defines malpractice as "the failure of a [respiratory therapist], in treating a patient, to use the reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances."
- 17. 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 respiratory services to Patient A. More specifically, Respondent placed Patient A on an unsafe ventilator setting that was not appropriate for Patient A and then further did not adequately monitor Patient A.
- By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 18. 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 19. reference as though fully set forth herein.
- NRS 630,3062(1)(a) provides that the "failure to maintain timely, legible, accurate 20. 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 accurate and complete medical records relating to 21. the diagnosis, treatment and care of Patient A, by failing to document that he changed Patient A's ventilator setting from AC to PSV 10/5.
- By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 22. provided in NRS 630.352.

COUNT III

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

All of the allegations in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated as if fully set 23. forth herein.

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- 24. Engaging in any act that is unsafe or unprofessional conduct in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board is grounds for disciplinary action against a licensee pursuant to NRS 630.306(1)(p).
- 25. As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent placed Patient A on an unsafe ventilator setting without documenting it in the records.
 - 26. Respondent's conduct was unsafe and unprofessional.
- 27. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

COUNT IV

NRS 630.301(7) - Violation of Patient Trust and Exploitation of Physician and Patient Relationship for Financial or Personal Gain

- 28. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 29. NRS 630.301(7) provides that "engaging in conduct that violates the trust of a patient and exploits the relationship between the physician and the patient for financial or other personal gain" is grounds for initiating discipline against a licensee.
- As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent 30. violated the trust of a patient and exploited the relationship between the Respondent and Patient A by placing Patient A on an unsafe ventilator setting so that he did not have to hear any alarms coming from the ventilator.
- 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 him and give 1. him notice that he 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);

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- 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 Zell day of June, 2023.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

DONAYD K. WHITE

Senior Deputy General Counsel

9600 Gateway Drive

Reno, NV 89521

Tel: (775) 688-2559

Email: dwhite@medboard.nv.gov

Attorney for the Investigative Committee

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEVADA)
	: ss.
COUNTY OF WASHOE)

Bret W. Frey, M.D., 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 June, 2023.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

W. FREY, M.D.

Chairman of the Investigative Committee

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners New Office of Medical Examiners Refor Nevada 89521 (775), 688-2559

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

* * * *

In the Matter of Charges and Complaint Against:

WARREN S. BASILAN, RRT,

Respondent.

Case No. 23-39155-1

SEP 15 2023

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS BV:

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The Investigative Committee (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), by and through Donald K. White, Senior Deputy General Counsel for the Board and attorney for the IC, and Warren S. Basilan, RRT (Respondent), a licensed respiratory therapist in Nevada, assisted by his attorney, Jeffrey J. Whitehead, Esq., of the law firm of Whitehead & Burnett, hereby enter into this Settlement Agreement (Agreement) based on the following:

A. BACKGROUND

- 1. Respondent is a respiratory therapist currently licensed in active status by the Board pursuant to Chapter 630 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Chapter 630 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) (collectively, the Medical Practice Act) to practice respiratory therapy in Nevada. His license was originally issued on August 10, 2011 (License No. RC1999).
- 2. On June 26, 2023 in Case No. 23-39155-1, the IC filed a formal Complaint (Complaint) charging Respondent with violating the Medical Practice Act. Specifically, the Complaint alleges one (1) violation of NRS 630.301(4), Malpractice (Count I); and one (1) violation of NRS 630.3062(1)(a) Failure to Maintain Proper Medical Records (Count II). By

All agreements and admissions made by Respondent are solely for final disposition of this matter and any subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil litigation involving the Board and Respondent. Therefore, Respondent's agreements and admissions are not intended or made for any other use, such as in the context of another state or federal government regulatory agency proceeding, state or federal civil or criminal proceeding, any state or federal court proceeding, or any credentialing or privileges matter.

- understands this Complaint, and has had the opportunity to consult with competent counsel concerning the nature and significance of this Complaint.

 4. Respondent is hereby advised of his rights regarding this administrative matter, and
- 4. Respondent is hereby advised of his rights regarding this administrative matter, and of his opportunity to defend against the allegations in the Complaint. Specifically, Respondent has certain rights in this administrative matter as set out by the United States Constitution, the Nevada Constitution, the Medical Practice Act, the Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML), which is contained in NRS Chapter 241, and the Nevada Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which is contained in NRS Chapter 233B and 622A. These rights include the right to a formal hearing on the allegations in the Complaint, the right to representation by counsel, at his own expense, in the preparation and presentation of his defense, the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses and evidence against him, the right to written findings of fact, conclusions of law and order reflecting the final decision of the Board, and the right to judicial review of the Board's order, if the decision is adverse to him.
- 5. Respondent understands that, under the Board's charge to protect the public by regulating the practice of medicine, the Board may take disciplinary action against Respondent's license, including license probation, license suspension, license revocation and imposition of administrative fines, as well as any other reasonable requirement or limitation, if the Board concludes that Respondent violated one or more provisions of the Medical Practice Act.
- 6. Respondent understands and agrees that this Agreement, by and between Respondent and the IC, is not with the Board, and that the IC will present this Agreement to the Board for consideration in open session at a duly noticed and scheduled meeting. Respondent understands that the IC shall advocate for the Board's approval of this Agreement, but that the Board has the right to decide in its own discretion whether or not to approve this Agreement. Respondent further understands and agrees that if the Board approves this Agreement, then the terms and conditions enumerated below shall be binding and enforceable upon him and the Board.

B. **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

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NOW, THEREFORE, in order to resolve the matters addressed herein, i.e., the matters with regard to the Complaint, Respondent and the IC hereby agree to the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Jurisdiction. Respondent is, and at all times relevant to the Complaint has been, a respiratory therapist licensed to practice respiratory therapy in Nevada subject to the jurisdiction of the Board as set forth in the Medical Practice Act.
- 2. Representation by Counsel/Knowing, Willing and Intelligent Agreement. Respondent acknowledges he is represented by counsel, and wishes to resolve the matters addressed herein with said counsel. Respondent agrees that if representation by counsel in this matter materially changes prior to entering into this Agreement and for the duration of this Agreement, that counsel for the IC will be timely notified of the material change. Respondent agrees that he knowingly, willingly and intelligently enters into this Agreement after deciding to have a full consultation with and upon the advice of legal counsel.
- 3. Waiver of Rights. In connection with this Agreement, and the associated terms and conditions, Respondent knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives all rights in connection with this administrative matter. Respondent hereby knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives all rights arising under the United States Constitution, the Nevada Constitution, the Medical Practice Act, the OML, the APA, and any other legal rights that may be available to him or that may apply to him in connection with the administrative proceedings resulting from the Complaint filed in this matter, including defense of the Complaint, adjudication of the allegations set forth in the Complaint, and imposition of any disciplinary actions or sanctions ordered by the Board. Respondent agrees to settle and resolve the allegations of the Complaint as set out by this Agreement, without a hearing or any further proceedings and without the right to judicial review.
- 4. Acknowledgement of Reasonable Basis to Proceed. As of the time of entering into this Settlement Agreement, the allegations of the Complaint remain unproven. Respondent acknowledges that the IC believes it has a reasonable basis to allege that Respondent engaged in conduct that is grounds for discipline pursuant to the Medical Practice Act. The IC acknowledges

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Respondent is not admitting that the IC's claims/counts as alleged in the Complaint have merit and Respondent is agreeing to resolve this matter to avoid the costs of hearing and potential subsequent litigation. Respondent asserts if this matter were to proceed to hearing, he has evidence, witnesses, expert witness(es) and defenses to the counts/claims alleged in the Complaint, but for the purposes of resolving the matter and for no other purpose, Respondent waives the presentation of evidence, witnesses, expert witnesses, and defenses in order to effectuate this Agreement.

- 5. Consent to Entry of Order. In order to resolve this Complaint pending against Respondent, Respondent hereby agrees that the Board may issue an order finding that Respondent engaged in conduct that is grounds for discipline pursuant to the Medical Practice Act. Accordingly, the following terms and conditions are hereby agreed upon:
- Respondent admits to Count I, one (1) violation of NRS 630.301(4), Malpractice, and one (1) violation of NRS 630.3062(1)(a) Failure to Maintain Proper Medical Records.
- b. Respondent will pay the total costs and expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of the above-referenced matter in the amount of two thousand eight hundred eighty-five dollars and nine cents (\$2,885.09), in six (6) equal payments beginning on November 15, 2023, continuing on December 15, 2023, January 15, 2024, February 15, 2024, March 15, 2024, and paid in full on or before April 15, 2024. This payment plan is contingent upon the Board's acceptance, adoption and approval of this Agreement.
- Respondent shall pay a fine in the amount of one thousand dollars c. (\$1,000.00) in six (6) equal payments beginning on November 15, 2023, continuing on December 15, 2023, January 15, 2024, February 15, 2024, March 15, 2024, and paid in full on or before April 15, 2024. This payment plan is contingent upon the Board's acceptance, adoption and approval of this Agreement.
- d. The Respondent shall perform ten (10) hours of Continued Medical Education (CME) related to proper record keeping, in addition to the required CMEs for licensure.

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These CME hours must be completed within one hundred days (180) days of the Board's acceptance, adoption and approval of this Agreement.

- The Respondent shall submit to and pass all five (5) sections of the Ethics and Boundaries Assessment Services (EBAS) examination within one hundred eighty (180) days of Board approval of this agreement which shall be paid for at the expense of the Respondent.
- This Agreement shall be reported to the appropriate entities and parties as required by law, including, but not limited to, the National Practitioner Data Bank.
 - Respondent shall receive a Public Letter of Reprimand.
- 6. Release from Liability. In execution of this Agreement, Respondent understands and agrees that the State of Nevada, the Board, and each of its members, staff, counsel, investigators, experts, peer reviewers, committees, panels, hearing officers, consultants and agents are immune from civil liability for any decision or action taken in good faith in response to information acquired by the Board. NRS 630.364(2)(a). Respondent agrees to release the State of Nevada, the Board, and each of its members, staff, counsel, investigators, experts, peer reviewers, committees, panels, hearing officers, consultants and agents from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, known and unknown, in law or equity, that Respondent ever had, now has, may have or claim to have, against any or all of the persons, government agencies or entities named in this paragraph arising out of, or by reason of, this investigation, this Agreement or the administration of the case referenced herein.
- 7. Procedure for Adoption of Agreement. The IC and counsel for the IC shall recommend approval and adoption of the terms and conditions of this Agreement by the Board in resolution of this Complaint. In the course of seeking Board acceptance, approval and adoption of this Agreement, counsel for the IC may communicate directly with the Board staff and the adjudicating members of the Board.

Respondent acknowledges that such contacts and communications may be made or conducted ex-parté, without notice or opportunity to be heard on his part until the public Board meeting where this Agreement is discussed, and that such contacts and communications may include, but may not be limited to, matters concerning this Agreement, the Complaint and any and all information of every nature whatsoever related to this matter. The IC and its counsel agree that Respondent and/or Counsel for the Respondent may appear at the Board meeting where this Agreement is discussed and, if requested, respond to any questions that may be addressed to the IC or the IC's counsel.

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- 8. Effect of Acceptance of Agreement by Board. In the event the Board accepts, approves and adopts this Agreement, the Board shall issue a final order, making this Agreement an order of the Board, and, pending full compliance with the terms herein, the case shall be closed and all remaining claims arising out of the Complaint shall be dismissed with prejudice.
- Effect of Rejection of Agreement by Board. In the event the Board does not accept, approve and adopt this Agreement, this Agreement shall be null, void and of no force and effect except as to the following agreement regarding adjudications: (1) Respondent agrees that, notwithstanding rejection of this Agreement by the Board, nothing contained in this Agreement and nothing that occurs pursuant to efforts of the IC to seek the Board's acceptance of this Agreement shall disqualify any member of the adjudicating panel of the Board from considering this Complaint and from participating in disciplinary proceedings against Respondent, including adjudication of this case; and (2) Respondent further agrees that he shall not seek to disqualify any such member absent evidence of bad faith.
- 10. Binding Effect. If approved by the Board, Respondent understands that this Agreement is a binding and enforceable contract upon Respondent and the Board.
- 11. Forum Selection Clause. The parties agree that in the event either party is required to seek enforcement of this Agreement in district court, the party's consent to such jurisdiction and agree that exclusive jurisdiction shall be in the Second Judicial District Court, State of Nevada, Washoe County.
- Attorneys' Fees and Costs. The parties agree that in the event an action is 12. commenced in district court to enforce any provision of this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

Respondent

12. Attorneys' Fees and Costs. The parties agree that in the event an action is
commenced in district court to enforce any provision of this Agreement, the prevailing party shall
be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.
13. Failure to Comply with Terms. Should Respondent fail to comply with any term
or condition of this Agreement once the Agreement has been accepted, approved and adopted by
the Board, the IC shall be authorized to immediately suspend Respondent's license to practice
respiratory therapy in Nevada pending an Order to Show Cause Hearing, which will be duly
noticed. Failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement, including failure to pay any fines,
costs, expenses or fees owed to the Board, is a failure to comply with an order of the Board, which
may result in additional disciplinary action being taken against Respondent. NRS 630.3065(2)(a).
Further, Respondent's failure to remit payment to the Board for monies agreed to be paid as a
condition of this Agreement may subject Respondent to civil collection efforts.
DATED this Aday of September, 2023. DATED this day of, 2023.
INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WHITEHEAD BURNETT
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
By:
By: 6980 O'Bannon Drive
DONALDK. WHITE Las Vegas, NV 89117
Senior Deputy General Counsel Tel: (702) 267-6500

9600 Gateway Drive Reno, NV 89521 Tel: (775) 688-2559 Email: dwhite@medboard.nv.gov Attorney for the Investigative Committee DATED this day of WARREN S. BASILAN, RRT, Nevada License No. RC1999

Attorney for Respondent

Email:

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners 9600 Gateway Drive Reno, Nevada 895521

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, the foregoing Settlement Agreement (Case No. 23-39155-1) was approved and accepted by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners on the 15th day of September, 2023.

DATED this 15th day of September, 2023.

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL **EXAMINERS**

By:

AURY NAGY, M.D. **Board President**