



ALABAMA Board of Medical Examiners Medical Licensure Commission

Newsletter and Report

www.albme.org

January 2016

Alabama Board of Medical Examiners

Boyde J. Harrison, MD
Chairman
Haleyville

H. Joseph Falgout, MD
Vice Chairman
Tuscaloosa

Eli L. Brown, MD
Birmingham

Michael T. Flanagan, MD
Dothan

Ronald D. Franks, MD
Mobile

William E. Goetter, MD
Fairhope

David P. Herrick, MD
Montgomery

Mark H. LeQuire, MD
Montgomery

Gary F. Leung, MD
Auburn

John S. Meigs Jr., MD
Centreville

Dick Owens, MD
Haleyville

Bradley S. Rice, MD
Huntsville

George C. Smith Jr., MD
Lineville

Timothy A. Stewart, MD
Huntsville

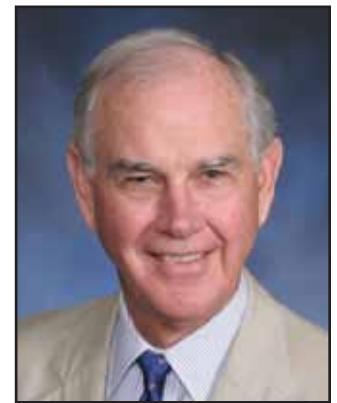
**F. Darlene
Traffanstedt, MD**
Birmingham

Larry Dixon
Executive Director

Patricia Shaner
General Counsel

A Message from the Executive Director **Outside expert witnesses needed for case file reviews**

Based on prior court rulings, rules of evidence and other legal requirements, the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners needs expert witnesses in order to pursue cases before the Medical Licensure Commission. In dealing with a case involving quality of care, prescribing, boundaries or myriad other issues, the Board may involve outside experts. Although there are 15 practicing physicians on the Board, the agency seeks outside physicians with similar training to that of the physician under investigation to review the records and provide a report. The expert witness may be called by the Board to provide testimony in an administrative hearing if formal charges are filed.



Larry Dixon

The Board has found it difficult to locate volunteers from the physician community willing to assist the Board with expert reviews. As the Executive Director of the Board, knowing the issues the Board faces in regulating the practice of medicine in order to ensure the safety for the citizen patients of Alabama, I am asking for volunteers to make their names available for contact in the event an expert in their area is needed.

The Board does not come hat in hand asking for assistance without offering remuneration. A reasonable fee will be paid by the hour for all expert reviews conducted for the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners.

Please direct offers of assistance to me at:

Alabama Board of Medical Examiners

PO Box 946

Montgomery, AL 36101

Or call (334) 242-4116

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

We welcome your questions, comments and suggestions for the BME/MLC Newsletter and Report. These may be addressed to Larry Dixon in care of Mary Leigh Meredith, Executive Assistant, at mlmeredith@albme.org or (334) 833-0161.

The distressed physician: Not ‘bad doctor’

by Jim Harrow, MD, PhD

Medical Director, Alabama Physician Health Program



Jim Harrow, MD, PhD

As the twilight of 2015 approaches, it seems fitting to reflect on the past year. Since accepting the position of Medical Director of the Alabama Physician Health Program in April, I have had the privilege of visiting with medical leadership and medical staffs from Huntsville to Mobile. A common theme of interest is how the current system of providing medical

care to patients has impacted physician health. It is evident to many of us that our profession is under both duress and distress.

Since the inception of physician health programs across the country in the 1970s, and in 1991 in Alabama in particular, scrutiny has been placed on those of our colleagues suffering from alcohol and substance use disorders as well as those suffering from psychiatric disease. However, during the course of my conversations with physicians, it is increasingly clear that doctors are under a significant amount of stress unrelated to mental health or substance use.

This brings us to the often avoided topic of the so called disruptive physician. The term “disruptive” has a pejorative meaning and, therefore, it became evident to the Federation of State Physician Health Programs that the term implied “bad doctor.” It was decided that the term “distressed” was both more descriptive and appropriate.

Illness is the existence of disease while impairment is the inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety.

What are the circumstances that lead to the distressed physician? We find ourselves in very turbulent and challenging times regarding the practice of medicine. Gone are the “good old days” and instead we have increasingly more management of our

profession from outside entities such as government, the insurance industry, the legal profession and the health care and pharmaceutical industrial complex. As a result, physicians are under constant pressure to maximize

efficiencies and minimize cost, which are often in conflict with the needs of patients. Invariably, physicians become affected and their personal health can be put at risk for illness or impairment.

Illness is the existence of disease while impairment is the inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety.

Statistically, physicians have a 20-30 percent risk during their professional lifetime of substance and alcohol use disorders, mental illness, cognitive decline, stress disorder/burnout, physical illness and disability. We are often the last to know of these problems, partly because, in the words of a colleague, “The typical physician is an obsessive compulsive neurotic with a dominant super ego who is consciousness driven and depression prone. They suffer MDEITY SYNDROME and we see omnipotence on one hand and omnipotence on the other. Add to that baseline addiction, early recovery and narcissistic personality, and there is plenty of rope with which one may hang themselves.”

Thoughts to put things in perspective: Sir William Osler, MD, in 1903 wrote, “For better or worse, there are few occupations of a more satisfying character than the practice of medicine. The discontent and grumblings which one hears have their source in the man more often than in his environment.”

I personally have found that the following thoughts put things in perspective for me: “And acceptance is the answer to all my problems. When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing or situation – some fact of my life – unacceptable to me, and I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at that moment... . Unless I accept life completely on life’s terms, I cannot be happy. I need to concentrate not so much on what needs to be changed in the world as on what needs to be changed in me and in my attitudes.”

On behalf of the staff of APHP, I wish each of you and your families a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year!

APHP provides confidential consultation and support to physicians, physician assistants, residents and medical students facing concerns related to alcoholism, substance abuse, behavioral or mental health issues and physical illness. Contact APHP staff at (334) 954-2596, (800) 239-6272 or by fax at (334) 954-5293.

“For better or worse, there are few occupations of a more satisfying character than the practice of medicine.”

John Meigs, MD, FAAFP, elected president-elect of the AAFP



John Meigs, MD, FAAFP

John Meigs, MD, FAAFP, a family physician in Centreville, AL, was elected president-elect of the American Academy of Family Physicians during the organization's annual meeting in September 2015. As president-elect, Dr. Meigs advocates on behalf of 120,900 family physicians and medical students, as well as patients nationwide, to inspire positive change in the U.S. healthcare system.

Dr. Meigs was in private practice in Centreville from 1982 to 2013. In 2013 he merged with Bibb County Medical Associates, a clinic at Bibb Medical Center, where he serves as chief of staff. In addition, Dr. Meigs is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Family and Community at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and a clinical professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, Birmingham. In 2003, he was awarded the UA School of Medicine Argus Award for Best Attending Physician in Family Medicine.

A member of the American AFP since 1979, Dr. Meigs has served on numerous commissions and committees, including the Scientific Assembly Resolutions Committee, the Committee of Rural Health and the AAFP Commission on Health of the Public. Prior to his terms as speaker and vice speaker of the Congress of Delegates, he had been Alabama's delegate or alternate delegate to the Congress for almost 20 years.

Dr. Meigs is an active member of the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians and has served on its Board of Directors, including terms as president and chair. He also has been on the Alabama AFP's Executive Committee and chaired both the Public Relations and Education Committees. From 2003 to 2008 he was vice president of the Alabama AFP Foundation, the charitable arm of the organization.

A former speaker of the House of Delegates and College of Counselors for the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, Dr. Meigs currently serves as a member of its Board of Censors. In addition, he is a member of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners, chair of the State Committee on Public Health and a member of the Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board and the Alabama Board of Medical Scholarships.

Dr. Meigs earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa; his medical degree from the University of South Alabama, Mobile; and completed his family medicine residency at the UAB Selma Family Practice Residency Program in Selma, AL.

Congratulations, Dr. Meigs!



Anne Streetman Shiver retires after thirty-six years

Thirty-six years of service to the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners! That is the longest anyone has ever worked with the Alabama Board.

Anne came to work in a clerical position in November 1979, and on Sept. 30, 2015, Anne said her good-byes. She and her husband



Anne Streetman Shiver

Robby built a retirement home on Lake Martin where they now reside.

Anne was instrumental in the development – and success – of the Alabama Oral Examination, which was designed specifically for international medical school graduates seeking licensure in Alabama. For more than 10 years, the oral exam was a mode of initial licensure. Anne was responsible for all testing during that time, including the FLEX, SPEX and the initial stages of the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE). She also received and processed patient complaints to include the collection, documentation and distribution of subpoenaed medical records. As office manager the last 10 years, Anne was responsible for the hiring and supervision of all office staff, except for the Investigative Department.

On behalf of literally scores of Board members with whom she worked, and the hundreds of physicians she assisted in her position, the Board and staff wish Anne a wonderful, much-deserved retirement and extend heartfelt thanks for 36 years of dedicated service.

Notice regarding Contrave®



Contrave® is not a controlled substance; therefore, the prescribing of Contrave® is not regulated by the Board of Medical Examiners in its rules which govern the use of controlled substances for weight reduction.

UPDATE: Board Rules Chapter 540-X-15, Telehealth

At its Aug. 19, 2015, meeting, the Board voted to suspend enforcement of and repeal Board Rules, Chapter 540-X-15 concerning the provision of telehealth services by physicians in Alabama. The Rules were repealed on an emergency basis effective Aug. 25, 2015. The Board will pursue the development and enactment of statutes that govern telehealth.

2016 CME Courses

Prescribing of Controlled Drugs and ER/LA Opioid REMS

March 5-6, 2016, Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa
Room rate is \$137 plus taxes.
Book online at <http://tinyurl.com/RMHS-prescribing>
or call (877) 545-0311.
Room block expires Feb. 4, 2016.

Ensuring Quality in the Collaborative Practice and ER/LA Opioid REMS

April 15, 2016, Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa

Prescribing of Controlled Drugs and ER/LA Opioid REMS

July 1-3, 2016, SanDestin Golf & Beach Resort

Medical Ethics, Prescribing of Controlled Drugs and ER/LA Opioid REMS

November 18-20, 2016
Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel

CME requirement of physicians and physician assistants:

Twenty-five (25) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ or equivalent annually (calendar year) are required. Credits must be earned and obtained Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 of each year, and cannot be carried over to the next year.

Licensees are responsible for reading and being familiar with Board rules concerning CME at

www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us/docs/mexam/540-X-14.pdf.

DO YOU KNOW ALABAMA MEDICAL HISTORY?

1. In what year was the first Alabama Medical Practice Act enacted?

- A. 1911
- B. 1903
- C. 1823
- D. 1817

2. Who is known as the “Father of Alabama Public Health”?

- A. Leonidas Hill, MD
- B. Ira Myers, MD
- C. Jerome Cochran, MD
- D. Robert “Bob” Parker, MD

3. Which Alabama physician released the first US Surgeon General’s Report on Smoking and Health, paving the

way for the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act of 1965, and Public Health Cigarette Act of 1969?

- A. Leon Hamrick, MD
- B. Luther Terry, MD
- C. David Satcher, MD
- D. Regina Benjamin, MD

4. Who was the first surgeon to successfully suture the human heart?

- A. James M. Mason, MD
- B. Robert S. Hill, MD
- C. Leonidas Hill, MD
- D. William J Holt, MD

See answers on page 7.

10 Big healthcare predictions for 2016: Big mergers, struggling startups and more

by Bob Kocher, Bryan Roberts in *Fortune Insider**

1. **The FTC will block a major hospital merger** based on unequivocal data that consolidation leads to price increases more than quality gains.
2. **“Wearables” become “Ther-ables,”** i.e., substitutes for costlier medical therapies that will offer less invasive but highly effective treatments for diseases.
3. **End-of-life care grabs headlines, and hospice usage doubles among ACOs and capitated physicians.**
4. **A major hospital system will divest itself from its employed doctors** after losing too much money and avoiding the move into risk-based reimbursement.
5. **The insurance innovation craze of 2015 will be a bust in 2016.**
6. **Precision medicine cools,** a la the Human Genome Project in 1999, and surges a decade later.

7. **Pop Health goes Pop** because their current provider customers are unable to derive enough value from their pop health analytical tools.

8. **In-person on-demand flops.** Instead, video-telemedicine will be the way people access care rapidly and at a fraction of the cost.

9. **PCSK9 cholesterol drugs make Solvaldi look cheap.** The positive mortality data will make doctors want to lower cholesterol to the minuscule levels that only PCSK9 can deliver.

10. **Employers start to treat healthcare costs as seriously as travel expenses.**

To read the complete article, go to Fortune.com/2015/12/03/10-healthcare-predictions-for-2016/.

**Bob Kocher and Bryan Roberts are partners with venture capital firm Venrock, where they focus on healthcare and healthcare-related investment opportunities.*



Medical professionals: Heal thyself and help your patients!

by Keisha R. Callins, MD, MPH – member, Georgia Medical Board

When was the last time YOU went to the doctor? Are you up-to-date on your screening exams and immunizations? Do you exercise at least 150 minutes per week? When was the last time you took a vacation?

The American Medical Association states recent studies show physicians who practice healthy behaviors are more likely to encourage healthy behaviors in their patients. The same preventive measures you counsel your patients about: get active, control cholesterol, eat better, manage blood pressure, lose weight, reduce blood sugar and stop smoking... Guess what?! These apply to you too!

Report of Public Actions of the Medical Licensure Commission and Board of Medical Examiners

Mission: The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and the Medical Licensure Commission are charged with protecting the health and safety of the citizens of the state of Alabama.

MLC – August 2015

◆ On Aug. 31, the Commission entered an Order summarily suspending the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Ervin Wells, MD**, lic. no. MD.28241, Montgomery, AL. This action is effective Sept. 2, 2015.

MLC – September 2015

◆ On Sept. 10, the Commission entered an Order denying the request of **Clark D. Baker, III, MD**, lic. no. MD.21072, Birmingham, AL, to terminate the suspension of his license to practice medicine in Alabama.

◆ On Sept. 10, the Commission entered an Order denying the request of **Amjad I. Butt, MD**, lic. no. MD.29003, Selma, AL, to modify the Commission's previous orders in this matter.

◆ On Sept. 10, the Commission entered an Order denying the Motion to Remove Restriction filed by **Morris Wayne Cochran, MD**, lic. no. MD.14439, Vestavia, AL.

◆ On Sept. 10, the Commission entered an Order allowing installment payments of the administrative fine and costs assessed against **Russell Wayne Stevens, MD**, lic. no. MD.26655, Fairhope, AL.

BME– September 2015

◆ On Sept. 30, the Board issued an Order removing all restrictions from the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **Lorn S. Miller, MD**, lic. no. MD.21488, Jasper, AL.

MLC – October 2015

◆ On Oct. 5, the Commission entered an Order denying the Request to Reinstate License of **Louie Franklin Hood, DO**, lic. no. DO.249, Gadsden, AL.

◆ On Oct. 5, the Commission entered an Order denying the Motion for Removal of Discipline and/or Transfer to Non Disciplinary Status of **William Ricardo Montiel, MD**, lic. no. MD.18168, Prattville, AL.

◆ On Oct. 5, the Commission entered an Order clarifying certain portions of the Commission's July 31, 2015, Order concerning **Russell Wayne Stevens, MD**, lic. no. MD.26655, Daphne, AL.

◆ On Oct. 5, the Commission entered an Order denying the request of **Thomas R. Syverson, MD**, lic. no. MD.29808, Pensacola, FL, to terminate the suspension of his license to practice medicine in Alabama.

BME – October 2015

◆ On Oct. 1, the Board received the Voluntary Surrender of Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **John P. Couch, MD**, lic. no. MD.20444, Mobile, AL.

◆ On Oct. 21, the Board accepted the Voluntary Surrender of the certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Ervin Wells, MD**, lic. no. MD.28241, Montgomery, AL.

◆ On Oct. 23, the Board issued an Order reinstating to full, unrestricted status the certificate of qualification to practice medicine in Alabama of **Timothy M. Iliff, MD**, lic. no. MD.10759, Atmore, AL.

MLC – November 2015

◆ Effective Nov. 3, the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Mary Dell Railey, MD**, lic. no. MD.25741, Birmingham, AL, is summarily suspended until such time as the Administrative Complaint of the Board shall be heard and a decision rendered thereon.

◆ On Nov. 6, the Commission issued an Order reprimanding the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Lawrence J. Carpenter, MD**, lic. no. MD.21817, Mobile, AL, and assessing an administrative fine.

◆ On Nov. 6, the Commission issued an Order denying the request of **Jerry Bruce Hankins, MD**, lic. no. MD.17795, Birmingham, AL, to engage in the practice of chronic pain management.

◆ On Nov. 6, the Commission issued an Order reinstating to full, unrestricted status the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Thomas B. Lank, MD**, lic. no. MD.13282, Severna Park, MD.

◆ On Nov. 19, the Commission entered a Consent Order placing on probation the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Boyd P. Benefield, MD**, lic. no. MD.12150, Gulfport, MS.

Continued on page 7.

Public Actions, cont.

BME – November 2015

◆ On Nov. 12, the Board issued an Order removing the restrictions previously placed on the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **Jeffrey D. Voreis, MD**, lic. no. MD.11280, Georgiana, AL.

◆ On Nov. 25, the Board issued an Order denying the request of **Rodolfo Veluz, MD**, lic. no. MD.9246, Irondale, AL, for reinstatement of his Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate.

MLC – December 2015

◆ On Dec. 3, the Commission entered an Order denying the application for reinstatement of license of **John P. Hagler, MD**, lic. no. MD.6566, Montgomery, AL.

◆ On Dec. 3, the Commission entered an Order reinstating the license to

practice medicine in Alabama of **Thomas R. Syverson, MD**, lic. no. MD.29808, Foley, AL; however, he shall not actively engage in the practice of medicine until further order of the Commission.

Actions for CME (reprimand, fine, additional CME required):

- **Gary M. Bullock, DO**, lic. no. DO.729, Hoover, AL
- **Laurence Jay Cibley, MD**, lic. no. MD.22222, Mobile, AL
- **Howard L. Fowler, MD**, lic. no. MD.13227, Tuscaloosa, AL
- **Paul S. Howard, MD**, lic. no. MD.9373, Birmingham, AL
- **Lewis W. Pressgrove, MD**, lic. no. MD.6952, Alabaster, AL
- **Thomas G. Shafer, MD**, lic. no. MD.13585, Mountain Brook, AL
- **Suzanne Tormoen, MD**, lic. no. MD.20114, Fairhope, AL

Actions on ACSC for not being registered for PDMP (administrative fine):

- **Bendt P. Petersen, III, MD**, lic. no. MD.16728, Mobile, AL
- **Christiana M. Lietzke, MD**, lic. no. MD.32826, Jefferson City, TN

Actions on ACSC for prescribing controlled substances with expired ACSC (administrative fine):

- **John D. Dorchak, MD**, lic. no. MD.17863, Midland, GA

Answers to Alabama Medical History Quiz on page 4:

1. 1823
2. Jerome Cochran, MD
3. Luther Terry, MD
4. Leonidas Hill, MD

ALWAYS ON CALL

Medical Association
of the State of Alabama's
2016 Annual Meeting
and Business Session
April 15-16, 2016

2016 Annual Meeting and
Business Session
April 15-16, 2016

Renaissance Montgomery
Hotel & Spa
at the Convention Center
Montgomery, Alabama

Room rate \$139 per night
Call (877) 545-0311
Room block code MED

Deadline to make hotel reservations
March 14, 2016

Resolution deadline
Jan. 17, 2016

[http://imis.masalink.org/
AnnualSession](http://imis.masalink.org/AnnualSession)



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Montgomery, AL
Permit No. 417

Look inside for important news from the Board of Medical Examiners that pertains to your license to practice medicine in Alabama.

Inside this issue:

- Expert Witnesses Needed – page 1
- The Distressed Physician – page 2
- John Meigs, MD – AAFP President-elect – page 3
- Anne Shiver Retires – page 3
- Notice Regarding Contrace® – page 4
- Telehealth Rule Update – page 4
- 2016 CME Courses – page 4
- Alabama Medical History Quiz – page 4
- Healthcare Predictions for 2016 – page 5
- Advice for Medical Professionals – page 5
- Public Actions – page 6
- Medical Association Annual Session – page 7

Editorial Staff

Larry Dixon Judy DeBray
Deana Bozeman Mary Leigh Meredith

www.albme.org

2016 Board Meetings

The Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Robert Parker Building, 848 Washington Avenue (unless otherwise indicated below). The public portion of each meeting is scheduled at 10:00.

January 20	May 18	September 21
February 17	June 15	October 19
March 16	July 20	November 16
April 14	August 17	December 14

2016 State Holidays

The Board office will be closed in observance of the following holidays.

- Monday January 18
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Monday, May 30
Memorial Day
- Monday, July 4
Independence Day
- Monday, September 5
Labor Day
- Thursday-Friday, November 24-25
Thanksgiving
- Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26
Christmas

All current licensees receive the Board of Medical Examiners *Newsletter and Report* at their address of record at no charge. Non-licensee subscriptions to the newsletter are by e-mail only. If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please send a request to albmenews@yahoo.com.

 Follow the Board on Twitter
@AlaMedBd

Receive alerts for new public actions, agendas, newsletters and rules.