

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, SS.

Board of Registration in Medicine

Adjudicatory Case No. 2021-010

In the Matter of
THOMAS J. McLAUGHLIN, M.D.

STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS

The Board of Registration in Medicine (Board) has determined that good cause exists to believe the following acts occurred and constitute a violation for which a licensee may be sanctioned by the Board. The Board therefore alleges that THOMAS J. McLAUGHLIN, M.D. (Respondent) has practiced medicine in violation of law, regulations, or good and accepted medical practice as set forth herein. The investigative docket number associated with this order to show cause is Docket No. 19-030.

Biographical Information

1. The Respondent was born on January 15, 1944. He graduated from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in 1980. He is certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties in Neurology and Psychiatry. He has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts under certificate number 53828 since November 1984. He has privileges at Lawrence General Hospital. Until July 2020, the Respondent owned the Center for Psychiatric Medicine (CPM), located in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Factual Allegations

2. The Respondent purchased CPM in 2010.
3. CPM services include outpatient psychiatric and addiction treatment, including

treatment to MassHealth members.

4. CPM treatment includes prescriptions for Suboxone, Subutex, and buprenorphine-naloxone.

5. In August 2018, the Respondent, CPM, and CPM's practice manager settled a case with the Massachusetts Attorney General's office. The Massachusetts Attorney General's office alleged that the Respondent violated various Massachusetts laws and regulations by accepting cash payments from MassHealth patients for medical treatment, rather than having CPM accept payment only from MassHealth.

6. The Respondent further acknowledged to Board staff that CPM accepted cash payments from MassHealth patients for medical treatment.

7. The Massachusetts Superior Court ruled that the Respondent and CPM violated G.L. c. 93A and engaged in unfair and deceptive practices for accepting cash payments from MassHealth patients.

Legal Basis for Proposed Relief

A. Pursuant to *Levy v. Board of Registration in Medicine*, 378 Mass. 519 (1979); *Raymond v. Board of Registration in Medicine*, 387 Mass. 708 (1982), the Board may discipline a physician upon proof satisfactory to a majority of the Board, that said has engaged in conduct that undermines the public confidence in the integrity of the medical profession.

The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §§ 5, 61 and 62. This adjudicatory proceeding will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 30A and 801 CMR 1.01.

Nature of Relief Sought

The Board is authorized and empowered to order appropriate disciplinary action, which may include revocation or suspension of the Respondent's license to practice medicine. The Board may also order, in addition to or instead of revocation or suspension, one or more of the following: admonishment, censure, reprimand, fine, the performance of uncompensated public service, a course of education or training or other restrictions upon the Respondent's practice of medicine.

Order

Wherefore, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the Respondent show cause why the Board should not discipline the Respondent for the conduct described herein.

By the Board of Registration in Medicine,



George Abraham, M.D.
Board Chair

Date: March 11, 2021