BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re:	)	
	)	
Andrew Stephen Cruz, M.D.,	)	CONSENT ORDER
	)	
Applicant.	)	

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") on the application of Andrew Stephen Cruz, M.D. ("Dr. Cruz") for reinstatement of a license to practice medicine in the state of North Carolina. Dr. Cruz makes the following admissions, and the Board makes the following findings and conclusions:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted to it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Dr. Cruz has applied for reinstatement of a license to practice medicine in North Carolina.

Dr. Cruz was initially licensed on October 21, 2022, but has not practiced medicine in North Carolina since October 2023. Dr. Cruz did not actively practice in North Carolina during any times relevant hereto. Dr. Cruz holds an active medical license in

Virginia and has been practicing telemedicine psychiatry.

In October 2020, Dr. Cruz completed a 28-day residential treatment program due to concerns related to his consumption of alcohol.

On November 5, 2020, Dr. Cruz entered into a three-year monitoring contract with the Massachusetts Physician Health Services ("MAPHS") and agreed to, among other things, abstain from ingesting alcohol.

In August 2022, Dr. Cruz was assessed by the North Carolina Professionals Health Program ("NCPHP"). Subsequently, on September 6, 2022, Dr. Cruz signed an out-of-state monitoring contract with NCPHP to run concurrently with the MAPHS monitoring contract.

On March 9, 2023, the Arizona Medical Board ("Arizona Board") and Dr. Cruz entered into a Stipulated Rehabilitation Agreement ("SRA") which required Dr. Cruz to abstain from alcohol consumption and maintain compliance monitoring. In the event of a chemical dependency relapse or the use of alcohol in violation of the SRA, Dr. Cruz agreed to enter into an Interim Order for Practice Restriction until successful completion of appropriate treatment.

In June 2023, Dr. Cruz admitted to MAPHS that he consumed alcohol over the course of two days.

On July 25, 2023, the Arizona Board was notified that Dr.

Cruz had consumed alcohol in violation of his monitoring requirements per the SRA. On August 16, 2023, Dr. Cruz entered into an Interim Consent Agreement for Practice Restriction with the Arizona Board, prohibiting him from practicing in Arizona until given permission to resume practice. Dr. Cruz's Arizona license expired on July 13, 2024.

Dr. Cruz entered into a new three-year monitoring contract with MAPHS effective July 7, 2023, based on him violating his monitoring contract. On November 8, 2023, Dr. Cruz signed an out-of-state monitoring contract addendum with NCPHP to run concurrently with his new MAPHS monitoring contract.

On September 18, 2023, the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Virginia Board") executed an Order of Mandatory Suspension suspending Dr. Cruz's Virginia medical license based on the Arizona Board's action. In October 2024, Dr. Cruz's license was reinstated with terms and conditions by the Virginia Board.

On October 16, 2023, Dr. Cruz entered into an Interim Non-Practice Agreement with this Board based on the Arizona and Virginia Board actions. On April 4, 2024, while under investigation, Dr. Cruz inactivated his North Carolina medical license.

On October 24, 2023, the Maryland Board of Physicians ("Maryland Board") suspended Dr. Cruz's license to practice

medicine by Consent Agreement based on the Arizona Board's action. On February 1, 2024, the Maryland Board lifted the suspension on Dr. Cruz's license to practice medicine.

On December 8, 2023, the Texas Medical Board entered a Waiver Order that prohibited Dr. Cruz from diagnosing, treating, or prescribing for patients in the State of Texas based on the Arizona Board's action. Dr. Cruz's Texas medical license was cancelled by request on March 1, 2024.

By a Notice of Summary Action to Suspend License entered on December 20, 2023, the District of Columbia Board of Medicine ("DC Board") summarily suspended Dr. Cruz's license to practice medicine based on the Arizona Board's action. The DC Board terminated the Notice on October 25, 2024.

On December 20, 2024, the Michigan Board of Medicine ("Michigan Board") restricted Dr. Cruz's license to practice medicine and assessed a fine of $500.00. The basis of the Michigan Board's action was failure to disclose the disciplinary actions taken by the Arizona Board, Virginia Board, and this Board within thirty days from the dates of those actions.

Dr. Cruz has remained in compliance with his MAPHS and NCPHP contracts since 2023. NCPHP supports Dr. Cruz's return to medical practice.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dr. Cruz's alcohol use disorder, when left untreated, renders Dr. Cruz unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(5), which is grounds under that section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition, or limit Dr. Cruz's license to practice medicine or to deny any application he may make in the future.

Dr. Cruz's conduct, as described above, constitutes Dr. Cruz's license to practice medicine being restricted or acted against by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(13), which is grounds under that section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition, or limit Dr. Cruz's license to practice medicine or to deny any application he may make in the future.

PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

Dr. Cruz acknowledges and agrees that the Board has jurisdiction over him and over the subject matter of this case.

Dr. Cruz knowingly waives his right to any hearing and to any judicial review or appeal in this case.

Dr. Cruz acknowledges that he has read and understands this Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily.

Dr. Cruz desires to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings and agrees not to contest the matters set forth herein in this case and any potential future proceeding involving the Board.

The Board has determined that it is in the public interest to resolve this case as set forth below.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, with Dr. Cruz's consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. The Board shall reinstate Dr. Cruz's license to practice medicine.

2. Dr. Cruz's license is hereby reinstated on and subject to the following terms and conditions:

   a. Dr. Cruz shall maintain his current contract with NCPHP and abide by its terms, including the timely payment of any fees required by NCPHP.

   b. Unless lawfully prescribed for him by someone other than himself, Dr. Cruz shall refrain from the use or possession of alcohol and all other mind- or mood-altering substances and all controlled substances including but not limited to, sedatives, stimulants, and pain medication.

   c. Upon request by the Board, Dr. Cruz shall supply urine, blood, hair, or any other bodily fluid or

tissue sample the Board might reasonably require for the purposes of analysis to determine if he has consumed any of the substances mentioned above.

d. Upon an ex parte determination of probable cause by the Board that Dr. Cruz has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions contained in Paragraph 2(a) – 2(c) of this Consent Order, that determination, without further showing, shall constitute grounds for the Board to summarily suspend Dr. Cruz's North Carolina medical license pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-3(c) and 21 NCAC 32N .0114. Dr. Cruz hereby waives his right to a hearing on the order of summary suspension.

3. Dr. Cruz shall obey all laws. Likewise, he shall obey all rules and regulations involving the practice of medicine.

4. Dr. Cruz shall meet with the Board or members of the Board for an investigative interview at such times as requested by the Board.

5. Upon request, Dr. Cruz shall provide the Board with any information the Board deems necessary to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.

6. If Dr. Cruz fails to comply with any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, that failure shall constitute

unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6) and shall be grounds, after any required notice and hearing, for the Board to annul, suspend, or revoke his license to practice medicine and to deny any application he might make in the future or then have pending for a license to practice medicine.

7. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by both Dr. Cruz and the Board, and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered otherwise by the Board.

8. Should Dr. Cruz request relief from this Consent Order, the Board is under no obligation to grant the request and will consider all relevant facts, including Dr. Cruz's disciplinary history with the Board. Any request for relief shall be submitted to the Board's Monitoring Coordinator at North Carolina Medical Board, P.O. Box 20007, Raleigh, NC 27619-0007 or boardmonitoring@ncmedboard.org.

9. Dr. Cruz hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served on him.

10. Upon execution by Dr. Cruz and the Board, this Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof. Additionally, it will be reported to persons, entities, agencies, and clearinghouses as required and permitted by law

including, but not limited to, the Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Practitioner Data Bank.

By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board this the 15th day of June, 2026.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By: Anuradha Rao-Patel MD
Anuradha Rao-Patel, M.D.
President

Consented to this the 15 day of June, 2026.

Andrew Stephen Cruz, M.D.

State of Massachusetts

County of Suffolk

I, Sofia Laveaux-Crawford, do hereby certify that Andrew Stephen Cruz, M.D., personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal this the 15 day of June, 2026.

Notary Public

(Official Seal)

My Commission Expires: 12/29/2028

Sofia Laveaux-Crawford
Notary Public
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
My Commission Expires
December 29, 2028