Before the New Hampshire Board of Medicine Concord, New Hampshire

In the Matter of:

Docket #: 20-MED-0002

Dennis Ho, D.O. License No.: 18867

(Adjudicatory/Disciplinary Proceeding)

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

Before the New Hampshire Board of Medicine ("Board") is an adjudicatory/disciplinary proceeding in the matter of Dennis Ho, D.O. ("Respondent" or "Dr. Ho").

Background Information

The Board first granted a license to practice medicine in the State of New Hampshire to Dr. Ho on May 2, 2018. Dr. Ho holds license number 18867.

On November 8, 2019, the Board received a Physician Data Center ("PDC") report notifying that the Texas Medical Board took the following action against Dr. Ho: Surrender of License Prior to or in Lieu of Inquiry, Investigation, or Other Action.

On or about October 18, 2019, Dr. Ho entered into an Agreed Order of Voluntary Surrender, voluntarily and permanently surrendering his Texas Medical License. The Agreed Order states that it is based on a finding that Dr. Ho "has an open investigation with the [Texas] Board based on allegations that he is impaired."

Dr. Ho did not notify the New Hampshire Board of Medicine of this disciplinary action or his severance of a connection to practice medicine in Texas, and he has not responded to requests for a response from the Board's investigator.

Given the above information, the Board found reasonable basis for commencing an adjudicatory/disciplinary proceeding against Respondent. On February 7, 2020, the Board issued a Notice of Hearing and Order to Show Cause ("Notice") commencing a proceeding pursuant to

RSA 329:17-c, N.H. Admin. R. Med 410.01 and Med 206, for June 3, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of the Show Cause hearing was for Respondent to show cause why similar disciplinary sanctions to those taken by the Texas Board should not be imposed in New Hampshire. *See* RSA 329:17-c; Med 410.01. The Notice went out to Dr. Ho by certified mail and regular mail to the address he supplied to the Board in his latest renewal application. The certified mail was signed for, by someone other than Dr. Ho, on February 24, 2020.

The Notice indicated that Respondent may be represented by counsel at the hearing. The Notice further indicated that failure to appear may result in the hearing being held *in absentia* with disciplinary sanctions imposed without further notice or opportunity to be heard.

On May 8, 2020, the Board issued an Amended Notice of Hearing and Order to Show Cause ("Amended Notice"), changing only the location of the hearing. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Board scheduled the hearing to take place electronically via real-time, two-way video conferencing through the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification ("OPLC") ZOOM account. The Amended Notice went out to Dr. Ho by certified mail and regular mail to the same address, given to the Board in his latest renewal application. The certified mail was signed for, signature unknown, on May 15, 2020. The Amended Notice was also sent to Dr. Ho by email, to the email address supplied to the Board in his latest renewal application.

The hearing went forward as scheduled on June 3, 2020, commencing at 1:17 p.m. Board members present included:

Daniel Potenza M.D., President
David Conway, M.D., Vice President
Emily Baker, M.D.
John H. Wheeler, D.O.
Michael Barr, M.D.
Jonathan Ballard, M.D., MPH
Gilbert Fanciullo, M.D.
Susan Finerty, P.A.
Nina Gardner, Public Member
Donald LeBrun, Public Member
Linda Tatarczuch, Public Member

Gilbert Fanciullo, Board Member, served as presiding officer. Respondent did not appear.

Discussion and Rulings

Here, where Respondent had almost four (4) months to prepare and attend or timely ask for a continuance, the Board determined it was appropriate to proceed with the hearing. The Board opened the hearing at 1:17 p.m. on June 3, 2020. The presiding officer listed the Board members present at the hearing. There were no exhibits filed by Respondent. The presiding officer summarized the information received in the PDC report and indicated that Dr. Ho did not notify the New Hampshire Board of Medicine of this disciplinary action, or his severance of a connection to practice medicine in Texas, and he has not responded to requests for a response from the board's investigators. The presiding officer then opened up the hearing for any comments or discussion by the Board. Dr. Potenza indicated that the Board has a finding from the Texas Medical Board and Dr. Ho's license was suspended in Texas, therefore, it seems appropriate that this Board should also take action on his license. The presiding officer closed the hearing at 1:27 p.m.

RSA 329:17-c reads that "upon receipt of an administratively final order from the licensing authority of another jurisdiction which imposes disciplinary sanctions against a licensee of the board...the board may issue any disciplinary sanction...including sanctions or actions which are more stringent then those imposed by the foreign jurisdiction." N.H. Admin. R. Med 410,01(b) reads "The board shall impose any disciplinary sanction authorized by RSA 329:17, VI or RSA 329:17-c in a disciplinary proceeding brought under this rule, but shall provide notice to the licensee if it intends to consider sanctions which exceed those imposed by other jurisdictions."

Pursuant to the above, the Board voted, pursuant to the issues reported by the Texas Medical Board, to revoke the license of Dennis Ho, D.O.

Accordingly, the license of Dennis Ho, D.O. is REVOKED.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Dated: 6/15/2020

Penny Taylor, Administrator Authorized Representative of the

New Hampshire Board of Medicine