

**Before the
New Hampshire Board of Medicine
Concord, New Hampshire 03301**

In the Matter of:

Loretta Obi, M.D.

License No.: 18493

(Adjudicatory/Disciplinary Proceeding)

Docket No.: 18-04

ORDER REVOKING LICENSE

Now before the New Hampshire Board of Medicine (“Board”) is an adjudicatory/disciplinary proceeding of Loretta A. Obi, M.D. (“Dr. Obi” or “Respondent”). The Board received information from the National Practitioner Databank report (“NPDB”) that the Respondent posed an immediate threat to health or safety. Specifically, the NPDB report indicated that Dr. Obi was making inappropriate and unprofessional comments to patients and she failed to maintain adequate or accurate records with regards to prescribing, dispensing, or administering medication. As such, her clinical privileges at Exeter Hospital were suspended on January 3, 2018. Upon learning the information, the Board sent correspondence to Dr. Obi requesting she submit written responses notifying the Board why she did not inform it of the suspension and to explain the conduct described in the NPDB report.

RSA 329:18 grants the Board the authority to investigate “possible misconduct by licensees” either formally or informally. Further, the “board may at any time require a licensee . . . to provide a detailed, good faith written response to allegations of possible professional misconduct or grounds for non-disciplinary remedial action being investigated by the board.” RSA 329:18, VII. Licensees are to respond to the Board’s request within the time indicated in the request, a period of at least 15 days. *Id.* However, after repeated attempts to get full written responses as to the conduct described in the NPDB report from the Respondent, with no substantive reply, the Board issued a Notice of Hearing for Dr. Obi on July 12, 2018. In response, Dr. Obi indicated, in an oddly written letter dated July 25, 2018, that she has “chosen to dismiss [the Board’s] services as a representative” and indicated that the Board “ha[s] no consent to write statutes over [her].”

A hearing was held before the Board as scheduled on August 1, 2018. Assistant Attorney General John F. Brown of the Administrative Prosecutions Unit (“APU”), appeared as hearing

counsel. The Respondent failed to appear. The Respondent did not ask for a continuance nor did she directly indicate that she would not participate in the hearing.

Pursuant to the Notice of Hearing, since Respondent failed to appear at the hearing, the hearing was held *in absentia*. At the hearing, Hearing Counsel presented the testimony of, Investigator Dori Lefebvre and Dr. Nick Perencevich, both investigators for the Board. Each testified consistent with the information pertained within the notice of hearing.

They testified the Respondent did not cooperate in providing a detailed or good faith written response to the allegations contained within the NPDB report. Dr. Perencevich testified that the Respondent did indicate her lack of knowledge with regards to notice requirements under Med 403.03 in her first correspondence back to the Board. However, she did not address the Board's request for information regarding the conduct contained within the NPDB report. Dr. Perencevich and Investigator Lefebvre testified to their continuous effort to reach out to the Respondent for information regarding the conduct, which was unavailing. In her letter of June 8, 2018, Investigator Lefebvre notified Respondent that her "[f]ailure to cooperate with the New Hampshire Board of Medicine in writing can lead to discipline issues and loss of your license. Telephone calls and telephone call messages do not suffice as a response." The Respondent still did not supply the requisite information.

Additionally, hearing counsel introduced 10 exhibits as evidence in the hearing. Those documents include:

1. Respondent's License information from New Hampshire's Licensing website
2. NPDB report dated February 21, 2018
3. Letter from Dr. Perencevich to Respondent dated March 30, 2018
4. Letter and attachment from Respondent to Board dated April 3, 2018
5. Letter from Dr. Perencevich to Respondent dated April 27, 2018
6. Letter from Investigator Lefebvre to Respondent dated May 25, 2018
7. Letter from Investigator Lefebvre to Respondent dated June 8, 2018
8. Certified mail confirmation of delivery dated June 13, 2018
9. Letter and attachment from Respondent dated June 13, 2018
10. Letter and attachment from Respondent dated July 25, 2018

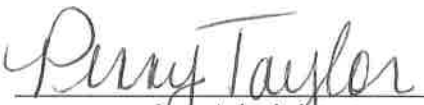
In light of the testimony and evidence provided at the hearing, the Board finds that the Respondent's continued failure to cooperate with the Board, so that a complete investigation

could be undertaken related to the conduct leading to her Exeter Hospital suspension, creates a risk to the public health, safety, and welfare. The seriousness of the suspension, the Respondent's lack of cooperation, and the potential harm given Respondent's belief that the Board's directives do not apply to her substantiates disciplinary action including revocation. *See* Med 408.03(c); RSA 329:17, VI.

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED that the Board revokes Loretta Obi's License No.: 18493 due to her repeated failure to cooperate with the Board of Medicine's requests for communication pursuant to RSA 329:18. She is prohibited from practicing medicine, writing prescriptions, and treating or seeing patients in the State of New Hampshire.

Date: 10/4/2018

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD



Penny Taylor, Administrator
Authorized Representative of the
New Hampshire Board of Medicine