

BEFORE THE
OREGON MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of)
)
DIANE HENNACY POWELL, MD) ORDER OF EMERGENCY
LICENSE No. MD25438) SUSPENSION
)

1.

The Oregon Medical Board (Board) is the state agency responsible for licensing, regulating, and disciplining certain healthcare providers, including physicians, in the state of Oregon. Diane Hennacy Powell, MD, (Licensee) is a licensed physician in the state of Oregon.

2.

The Board received credible information regarding Licensee that resulted in the Board initiating an investigation and reviewing her care of multiple patients. The results of the Board's investigation to date have raised concerns to the extent that the Board believes it necessary that Licensee immediately cease practicing medicine until the investigation is completed. The Board asked Licensee to agree to withdraw from the practice of medicine until the Board completes its investigation, but she has declined.

3.

The Board has determined that Licensee's continued practice of medicine would pose an immediate danger to the public and to her patients, based upon the following information.

3.1 The Board conducted a review of Licensee's practice, which found evidence that Licensee has relied extensively upon telephone consultations in her management of a number of complex psychiatric patients without seeing these patients face-to-face for extensive periods of time, which posed a significant risk of harm to these patients. Licensee signed an Interim Stipulated Order on August 17, 2010, in which she agreed not to accept new patients, to cease conducting telephone sessions with any current or former patient, and to transfer those patients

1 that live remotely from Licensee’s practice location to another care provider. This pattern of
2 substandard practice reflected poor clinical judgment and possible impairment, and led the Board
3 to ask Licensee to undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

4 3.2 The Board’s review of Licensee’s practice and chart notes to date reveals
5 evidence of a pattern of practice that includes poor management of therapeutic boundaries,
6 incomplete chart notes that reflect a lack of attention to reasonable medical detail, a disorganized
7 approach to treatment, a failure to respond to significant patient symptoms, and concerns over
8 her management of patient medications, to include patient requests for medication changes and
9 refills.

10 3.3 Licensee recently underwent a psychiatric evaluation at the Board’s request. In
11 order to protect the public, it is imperative that Licensee cease practicing medicine until the
12 Board completes its investigation, to include having Licensee undergo further evaluation to
13 address whether or not she has a psychiatric or neurological condition that could affect her
14 ability to safely practice medicine.

15 4.

16 Licensee is entitled to a hearing as provided by the Administrative Procedures Act
17 (chapter 183), Oregon Revised Statutes. Licensee may be represented by legal counsel at a
18 hearing. If Licensee desires a hearing, the Board must receive Licensee’s written request for
19 hearing within ninety (90) days from the date the mailing of this Notice to Licensee, pursuant to
20 ORS 183.430(2). Upon receipt of a request for a hearing, the Board will notify Licensee of the
21 time and place of the hearing and will hold a hearing as soon as practical.

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5.

The Board orders that pursuant to ORS 677.205(3), the license of Diane Hennacy Powell, MD, be suspended on an emergency basis and that Licensee immediately cease the practice of medicine until otherwise ordered by the Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 8th day of October, 2010.

OREGON MEDICAL BOARD
State of Oregon

Signature Redacted

LISA A. CORNELIUS, DPM
BOARD CHAIR