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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

PIERRE E. SLIGHTAM, M.D.,

Respondent

ORDER MODIFYING THE FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

On November 25, 1987, the Medical Examining Board issued its Final Decision and Order in the above-captioned matter. By the terms of the board's order, respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery in Wisconsin was indefinitely suspended, with the suspension stayed conditioned upon respondent's compliance with certain terms and conditions. Respondent was to apply for and commence a one-year AMA approved family practice residency program approved by Dr. Thomas Meyer, M.D., Director of the Continuing Medical Education Program of the University of Wisconsin, Madison; and was prohibited from engaging in the practice of obstetrics and prenatal care.

By submissions dated December 14 and 24, 1987, respondent presented evidence satisfactory to the board that the conditions imposed by the foregoing Order could not with due diligence be complied with. The board therefore modified its Order to extend the date upon which respondent was required to commence the family practice residency program from February 1, 1988 to July 1, 1988.

On February 5, 1988, respondent filed his Petition for Review of the board's Final Decision and Order in the Circuit Court for Brown County. Respondent petitioned for and received a stay of the board's Order pending appeal, and that stay remained in effect for the duration of the appeal process, which concluded with the denial of respondent's petition for review by the Wisconsin Supreme Court on July 6, 1990.

Based on the foregoing, the board issued its Order Modifying the Final Decision and Order on August 15, 1990. By the terms of the board's Order, the February 24, 1988, Order was modified to extend the deadline for commencement of the family practice residency program until March 1, 1991.

By letter dated February 11, 1991, Mr. Wallenfang petitioned the board for a further extension of the deadline to July 15, 1991, based upon Dr. Slightam's having been called

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to active duty in the Persian Gulf. That request was granted by the board by its Order Granting Extension dated April 1, 1991.

Following an exchange of correspondence between various parties relating to Dr. Slightam's continued failure to undergo the evaluation by Dr. Meyer and to commence participation in a residency program approved by Dr. Meyer, as required by the board's Order, the board again placed the matter on the agenda for its October 24, 1991, meeting. Dr. Slightam appeared at that time in person and by Attorney Wallenfang. The Division of Enforcement was represented by Attorney Gilbert C. Lubcke. Oral arguments were received from both parties relating to appropriate further action to be taken in the matter. The board considered the matter on October 24.

Based upon the total record in this case, the board modifies its Order of November 27, 1987, to read as follows:

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the license of Pierre E. Slightam, M.D. to practice medicine and surgery in Wisconsin is suspended indefinitely.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the suspension of Dr. Slightam's license shall be stayed pending satisfactory compliance with the following terms and conditions:

- (1) On or before February 1, 1992, Dr. Slightam shall apply for and commence a one year family practice residency program. Dr. Slightam shall submit to an evaluation by Thomas Meyer, M.D., Director of the Continuing Medical Education Department of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, to establish the appropriateness and satisfactory design of the program.
- (2) Prior to undertaking the residency program, Dr. Slightam shall be responsible for submission by Dr. Meyer of a report establishing that in the opinion of Dr. Meyer, the program is of satisfactory design.
- (3) Upon completion of the residency program, Dr. Slightam shall be responsible for submission by Dr. Meyer of a report establishing that in the opinion of Dr. Meyer, Dr. Slightam has satisfactorily completed the required program.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon satisfactory completion of the foregoing requirements, the period of suspension of Dr. Slightam's license shall terminate.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Slightam shall not engage in the practice of obstetrics and prenatal care.

DISCUSSION

The deadline established by this Order for Dr. Slightam's participation in the family practice residency program is exactly four years from the original deadline date established by the board's November 25, 1987, Final Decision and Order. Even considering that something more than two years of that four year delay was occasioned by a court-ordered stay pending Dr. Slightam's appeal of the board's decision, it is very apparent that the board has demonstrated unusual patience and understanding of Dr. Slightam's many claimed difficulties in attempting to comply with the board's Order.

In the most recent round of correspondence, Dr. Slightam has provided to the board a letter from Mary Alice Parsons, of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, responding to Dr. Slightam's inquiry and indicating that the American Medical Association does not approve residency programs, and that those programs accredited by the Accreditation Council are of three years duration.

Even a cursory reading of the board's Order in this case leads to the obvious conclusion that the required family practice residency program called for is not the standard post-graduate residency program leading to specialty certification. Rather, it is a residency program of one year duration, the appropriateness and satisfactory design of which is to be established by Dr. Meyer following an evaluation of Dr. Slightam by Dr. Meyer. To the extent, however, that Dr. Slightam may have been somehow misled by the reference in the Order to AMA approval, that reference has been deleted from the Order.

The Order has also been modified to extend the deadline for Dr. Slightam's participation in the program for three months until February 1, 1992. That extension provides time for Dr. Meyer's evaluation and for establishment of an appropriate program -- assuming that Dr. Slightam promptly submits to that evaluation.

The board grants this further extension with more than a little reluctance, and Dr. Slightam should be aware that no further extensions will be granted unless specifically and personally requested by Dr. Meyer for reasons relating to the inability of the Continuing Medical Education Department, through no fault of Dr. Slightam, to complete the evaluation prior to the deadline.

Dated this 1 day of November, 1991.

STATE OF WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

by Michael P. Mehr
Michael P. Mehr, M.D., Secretary