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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY :
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
 :
 :
 WILLIAM B. HOBBS, M.D., : LS0807291MED
RESPONDENT :

Complainant’s Petition for Examination of Respondent of July 1, 2009 was noticed to Respondent to be presented at 8:15a.m. on July 15, 2009. As soon as the matter could be heard after that time, attorney John R. Zwieg appeared for the Complainant, Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement and attorney Patricia J. Epstein of Bell, Gierhart & Moore, S.C. appeared on behalf of Respondent, who did not appear personally.

The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board, having considered the sworn Petition for Examination of Respondent and having heard the arguments of counsel, hereby makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. William B. Hobbs, M.D., Respondent, date of birth August 16, 1924, is licensed and currently registered by the Medical Examining Board to practice medicine and surgery in the State of Wisconsin, pursuant to license number 10149, which was first granted January 16, 1948.
2. Respondent’s last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 5510 Medical Circle, Madison, WI 53719, which is the location of his medical practice.
3. This disciplinary proceeding was commenced on July 29, 2008 with the filing and service of a disciplinary complaint and a notice of hearing. Respondent has answered the complaint denying the allegations. Discovery has taken place, but the hearing has not yet been held.
4. During the discovery stage of this matter, Complainant asked Respondent to be evaluated by a psychiatrist to determine if Respondent has any condition which interferes with his ability to practice medicine. Respondent agreed to the evaluation and the parties agreed that a clinical evaluation would be performed by Kenneth Robbins, M.D., a Madison area physician who is board certified in psychiatry and internal medicine and is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Robbins’ current clinical practice focuses primarily on geriatrics.
5. The clinical evaluation took place on June 1, 2009. On June 15, 2009, during a telephone conference call, Dr. Robbins reported the results of his evaluation to counsel for Complainant and counsel for Respondent.
6. Dr. Robbins expressed his opinion that based on his clinical interview of Respondent, there is sufficient suspicion of cognitive difficulties to warrant a full evaluation by a neuropsychologist.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3).
2. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has authority, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3)(b), to require Respondent to undergo one of more mental competency examinations if the Board believes that the results of any such examinations may be useful to the Board in conducting its hearing.
3. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board concludes that the results of a neuropsychology evaluation to determine Respondent’s mental competency will be useful to the Board in conducting its hearing.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Respondent shall undergo a neuropsychological evaluation by a neuropsychologist designated by the Division of Enforcement to determine if the Respondent has any cognitive deficits that may impair his competence to practice medicine.
2. Respondent shall provide written authorization to the neuropsychologist, prior to the evaluation taking place, which allows the neuropsychologist to release the results of the evaluation to the Board and to the Division of Enforcement for use in disciplinary proceedings.
3. Respondent shall fully cooperate with the evaluation and the process so that the evaluation can be completed as quickly as possible and so that the report of the evaluation can be received by the Division of enforcement no longer than 30 days from the date of the Order
4. If the evaluation report has not been received by the Division of Enforcement within 30 days of the date of the Order, the parties shall appear before the Board at its August 18, 2009 meeting to explain why it was not received.

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board

By: Gene Musser, MD
A Member of the Board

7/20/09