

**INDIANA PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE
INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER SOUTH
402 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
Room W064
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204**

MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2024

Bret Cornn, P.A., Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and a quorum was declared in accordance with IC § 25-27.5-3-5, pursuant to public notice posted at the principal office for the Committee, online at the committee's website and on the state calendar at least forty-eight (48) hours before the time of the meeting.

Members Present: Bret Cornn, P.A., Chairman
 Timothy Hawkins, J.D., Consumer Member, Vice Chair
 Kathy Buchanan, P.A., Member

Member Absent: Megan Leach, P.A., Member

Staff Present: Jody Edens, Committee Director
 Professional Licensing Agency
 James Green, Assistant Committee Director
 Professional Licensing Agency
 Heidi Adair, Deputy Attorney General
 Attorney General's Office

The Committee voted to adopt the agenda as amended.

Hawkins/Buchanan, 3/0/0
Motion carries

The following committee members voted aye:
Bret Cornn, Tim Hawkins, Kathy Buchanan
The following committee members objected: none
The following committee members abstained: none

The Committee voted to APPROVE the March 14, 2024, minutes as written.

Hawkins/Buchanan, 3/0/0
Motion carries

The following committee members voted aye:
Bret Cornn, Tim Hawkins, Kathy Buchanane
The following committee members objected: none
The following committee members abstained: none

PROBATIONARY PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Jennifer Boone, License No. 10001515A, Cause No. 2019 PAC 0001:

Ms. Boone did not appear regarding her probationary order issued by the Committee and was not represented by counsel.

She submitted a letter indicating that nothing has changed for her, and she is doing well.

She has been informed that she will no longer have to appear for probation appearances but will need to submit a letter/email on how she is doing.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

The following personal appearance was continued:

Kara Gerka, P.A., License #10003824A – Renewal – Positive Response

Kimberly Swigert, P.A., License #10000685A- Renewal – Positive Response

Ms. Swigert appeared virtually with camera before the Committee and was not represented by counsel regarding a positive response on her renewal application.

She explained that in February 2023 she was terminated from the Low T Center as it was bought out and the new owners were “getting rid” of the “old timers”. She was placed on a work improvement plan for thirty (30) days to turn her attitude around as she was management, and they felt she was setting a bad example.

She started a new position on February 28, 2023, and hasn’t had any issues with her current position.

After discussion, the Committee APPROVED her renewal application.

Buchanan/Hawkins, 3/0/0
Motion carries

The following committee members voted aye:
Bret Cornn, Tim Hawkins, Kathy Buchanan
The following committee members objected: none

The following committee members abstained: none

Jairo Rodriguez, P.A., Initial Application – Positive Response

Mr. Rodriguez appeared virtually with camera before the Committee and was not represented by counsel regarding a positive response on his initial application.

He explained that from 2008 to 2013 he worked in the same practice, he was one (1) of two (2) physician assistants that covered for the pain management providers.

A patient overdosed on pain medication that he had prescribed. Patient took three-fourth's (3/4) of a bottle of pain medication with a half (1/2) bottle of Vodka and Xanax prescribed by her family physician.

It was determined that his standard of care was good and in 2014/2015 the case was dropped.

In 2019, Nevada reopened the case, they gave him two options; he could go to trial with costs possible up in the \$100,000 or accept a public reprimand and pay a fine. He took the reprimand/fine option.

In 2022 he applied for a Texas license and based upon the Nevada action, they approved his license, but he must send them quarterly reports to his compliance officer.

He is currently practicing in NY full time and wants to do telehealth in Indiana.

He is also fully licensed in the following states: NV, NY, CA, FL, TX, PA, OH, WI, MI and IL.

He also completed the Vanderbilt course for proper prescribing of controlled substances. He stated he hasn't prescribed any controlled substances since 2020.

After discussion, the Committee APPROVED his initial application.

Hawkins/Buchanan, 3/0/0
Motion carries

The following committee members voted aye:
Bret Cornn, Tim Hawkins, Kathy Buchanan
The following committee members objected: none
The following committee members abstained: none

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

The following administrative hearing was continued:

Darryll Black, P.A., License No. 10002023A, Cause No. 2020 PAC 0001

Cheyenne Powers, P.A., License No. 10002585A, Cause No. 2020 PAC 0003

Respondent appeared virtually with video and was not represented by counsel regarding a Petition to Withdraw Probation scheduled before the Committee. The State of Indiana was represented by Ryan Eldridge, Deputy Attorney General and the court reporter sworn in for this matter was Margie Addington, with Accurate Reporting Services.

She was employed with Industrial Health Services from 2021 to 2024. She is currently not employed.

She is late on her reports to the Committee. She is missing several employer reports and late on others. She had no explanation for this.

After discussion, and taking official, judicial notice of the pleadings, evidence and orders in this matter, the Committee moved to DENY Ms. Powers' request to withdraw probation as she needs to have dedication on submitting her reports.

Hawkins/Bucanan, 3/0/0
Motion carries

The following committee members voted aye:
Bret Cornn, Tim Hawkins, Kathy Buchanan, Megan Leach
The following committee members objected: none
The following committee members abstained: none

DISCUSSION

Rules:

Audrea Racine discussed rules with the Committee. Since they made some changes on the draft, it must be sent back to SBA/OMB for re-approval.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Bret Cornn, P.A., Chairman