LICENSE NO. H-4183

IN THE MATTER OF

THE LICENSE OF

MATTHEW NEIL BRAMS, M.D.

BEFORE THE

TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD

AGREED ORDER ON FORMAL FILING

On the 14 day of October, 2016, came on to be heard before the Texas Medical Board (Board), duly in session, the matter of the license of Matthew Neil Brams, M.D. (Respondent).

On December 14, 2015, Respondent appeared in person with counsel, Brain Tew, at an Informal Show Compliance Proceeding and Settlement Conference in response to a letter of invitation from the staff of the Board. The Board’s representatives were Michael Arambula, M.D., Pharm.D., a member of the Board, and Sharon J. Barnes, a District Review Committee member (Panel). Ann Skowronski represented Board Staff.

The matter did not settle and Board Staff filed a Complaint at the State Office of Administrative Hearings under SOAH Docket No. 503-16-2409.MD. Respondent was represented by Brian Tew and Franklin Hopkins. Ann Skowronski represented Board Staff. The parties engaged in negotiations and reached this settlement.

BOARD CHARGES

Board Staff alleged that Respondent failed to create an adequate, legible medical record for a patient.

BOARD HISTORY

Respondent has not previously received a disciplinary order from the Board.

Upon the recommendation of the Board’s representatives and with the consent of Respondent, the Board makes the following Findings and Conclusions of Law and enters this Agreed Order.
FINDINGS

The Board finds the following:

1. **General Findings:**
   a. Respondent received all notice required by law. All jurisdictional requirements have been satisfied. Respondent waives any defect in notice and any further right to notice or hearing under the Medical Practice Act, Title 3, Subtitle B, Texas Occupations Code (the Act) or the Rules of the Board.
   b. Respondent currently holds Texas Medical License No. H-4183. Respondent was originally issued this license to practice medicine in Texas on December 6, 1988. Respondent is not licensed to practice in any other state.
   c. Respondent is primarily engaged in the practice of child and adolescent psychiatry. Respondent is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.
   d. Respondent is 53 years of age.

2. **Specific Panel Findings:** Respondent’s medical records are illegible and fail to contain all required elements of a psychiatric examination.

3. **Mitigating Factors:**
   In determining the appropriate sanctions in this matter, the Panel considered the following mitigating factors:
   a. Respondent has no previous disciplinary history.
   b. Respondent suffered from neuropathy at the time, which affected the legibility of his handwriting. Respondent’s neuropathy has since resolved.
   c. Respondent has now instituted an electronic medical record system to ensure the legibility of his records.
   d. Since the ISC, Respondent voluntarily participated in a medical recordkeeping course at the University of California, San Diego Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program (PACE).
   e. There were no known adverse outcomes or standard of care violations for the patient involved in the case.
f. Respondent has cooperated in the investigation of the allegations related to this Agreed Order. Respondent neither admits nor denies the information given above. To avoid further investigation, hearings, and the expense and inconvenience of litigation, Respondent agrees to the entry of this Agreed Order and to comply with its terms and conditions.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the above Findings, the Board concludes that:

1. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter and Respondent pursuant to the Act.

2. Section 164.001 of the Act authorizes the Board to impose a range of disciplinary actions against a person for violation of the Act or a Board rule.

3. Section 164.002(a) of the Act authorizes the Board to resolve and make a disposition of this matter through an Agreed Order.

4. Section 164.002(d) of the Act provides that this Agreed Order is a settlement agreement under the Texas Rules of Evidence for purposes of civil litigation.

5. Section 164.051(a)(3) of the Act authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against Respondent based on Respondent’s violation of a Board rule, specifically Board Rule 165.1, which requires the maintenance of adequate medical records.

ORDER

Based on the above Findings and Conclusions of Law, the Board ORDERS that Respondent shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Within one year following the date of the entry of this Agreed Order, Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete at least twelve hours of continuing medical education (CME) approved for Category I credits by the American Medical Association divided as follows: eight hours in medical recordkeeping, to include the areas of geriatrics and psychiatry, and four hours in the topic of risk management, approved in writing in advance by the Executive Director or their designee. To obtain approval for the course, Respondent shall submit in writing to the Compliance Division information on the course, to include at least a reasonably detailed description of the course content and faculty, as well as the course location and dates of
instruction. Respondent shall submit documentation of attendance and successful completion of this requirement to the Compliance Division on or before the expiration of the time limit set forth for completion of the course. The CME requirements set forth in this paragraph shall be in addition to all other CME required for licensure maintenance. At all times while Respondent is under the terms of this Order, Respondent shall give a copy of this Order to all hospitals, nursing homes, treatment facilities, and other health care entities where Respondent has privileges, has pending an application for privileges, applies for privileges, or otherwise practices. Within 30 days of being first contacted by the Compliance Division of the Board following entry of this Order, Respondent shall provide to the Compliance Division of the Board documentation, including proof of delivery, that the Order was delivered to all such facilities.

2. At all times while Respondent is under the terms of this Order, Respondent shall give a copy of this Order to all hospitals, nursing homes, treatment facilities, and other health care entities where Respondent has privileges, has pending an application for privileges, applies for privileges, or otherwise practices. Within 30 days of being first contacted by the Compliance Division of the Board following entry of this Order, Respondent shall provide to the Compliance Division of the Board documentation, including proof that the Order was delivered to all such facilities.

3. Respondent shall comply with all the provisions of the Act and other statutes regulating the Respondent’s practice.

4. Respondent shall fully cooperate with the Board and the Board staff, including Board attorneys, investigators, compliance officers, consultants, and other employees or agents of the Board in any way involved in investigation, review, or monitoring associated with Respondent's compliance with this Order. Failure to fully cooperate shall constitute a violation of this order and a basis for disciplinary action against Respondent pursuant to the Act.

5. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing of any change of Respondent’s office or mailing address within 10 days of the address change. This information shall be submitted to the Registration Department and the Compliance Department of the Board. Failure to provide such information in a timely manner shall constitute a basis for disciplinary action by the Board against Respondent pursuant to the Act. Respondent agrees that 10 days notice of a Probationer Show Compliance Proceeding to address any allegation of non-compliance of this Agreed Order is adequate and reasonable notice prior to the initiation of formal disciplinary
action. Respondent waives the 30-day notice requirement provided by §164.003(b)(2) of the Medical Practice Act and agrees to 10 days notice, as provided in 22 Texas Administrative Code §187.44(4).

6. Any violation of the terms, conditions, or requirements of this Order by Respondent shall constitute unprofessional conduct likely to deceive or defraud the public, or to injure the public, and shall constitute a basis for disciplinary action by the Board against Respondent pursuant to the Act.

7. Respondent shall be permitted to supervise and delegate prescriptive authority to physician assistants and advanced practice nurses and to supervise surgical assistants.

8. This Order shall automatically terminate upon Respondent’s submission of sufficient evidence to the Compliance Division of the Board that Respondent successfully completed the requirements ordered in Ordering Paragraph No. 1 and 2.

RESPONDENT WAIVES ANY FURTHER HEARINGS OR APPEALS TO THE BOARD OR TO ANY COURT IN REGARD TO ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREED ORDER. RESPONDENT AGREES THAT THIS IS A FINAL ORDER.

THIS ORDER IS A PUBLIC RECORD.

(SIGNATURE PAGES FOLLOW)
I, MATTHEW NEIL BRAMS, M.D., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING AGREED ORDER. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY. I UNDERSTAND THIS AGREED ORDER CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND, VERBAL, WRITTEN OR OTHERWISE.

DATED: September 2, 2016.

Matthew Neil Brams, M.D.
Respondent

STATE OF Texas
COUNTY OF Harris

SWORN TO AND ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public, on this 2nd day of September, 2016.

Signature of Notary Public

(Notary Seal)
SIGNED AND ENTERED by the presiding officer of the Texas Medical Board on this 14 day of October, 2016.

Michael Arambula, M.D., Pharm.D., President
Texas Medical Board