BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re: )
Anthony Otis Russell, M.D., ) NON-DISCIPLINARY
) CONSENT ORDER
Applicant. )

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") on the application of Anthony Otis Russell, M.D. ("Dr. Russell") for reinstatement of his license to practice medicine in the state of North Carolina. Dr. Russell makes the following admissions and the Board makes the following findings and conclusions:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted to it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board first issued Dr. Russell a license on June 6, 1992, license number 35491.

Dr. Russell has a history of substance use disorder. This problem led to the surrender of his license on July 5, 2006, and its indefinite suspension via a Consent Order dated January 18, 2007.
Following treatment, the Board reinstated his license via a Consent Order dated December 11, 2007, on conditions including that he abstain from substance use and comply with his contract with the North Carolina Physicians Health Program (NCPHP). Dr. Russell subsequently relapsed, and the Board revoked his license by Order of Discipline date May 14, 2012.

In July 2012, Dr. Russell relocated to Gainesville, Florida where he successfully completed treatment for substance abuse.

Between July 2014 and August 2016, Dr. Russell completed a clinical fellowship in addiction medicine at the University of Florida, College of Medicine in Gainesville, Florida.

Dr. Russell obtained a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in Florida in April 2016.

Dr. Russell is currently an Assistant Professor of addiction medicine at the University of Florida, College of Medicine.

Dr. Russell has applied for reinstatement of his license to practice medicine in North Carolina.

Dr. Russell met with members of the Board on March 15, 2018 to discuss his license application.

Dr. Russell has taken steps and has agreed to take further steps to ensure the Board and the people of North Carolina that he can safely practice medicine.
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dr. Russell acknowledges that, when abusing alcohol, drugs, or other chemicals, he is unable to safely practice medicine within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(5) and grounds exist under this section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition or limit Dr. Russell’s license to practice medicine or to deny any application he might make in the future.

PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

Dr. Russell acknowledges and agrees that the Board has jurisdiction over him and over the subject matter of this case.

Dr. Russell knowingly waives his right to any hearing and to any judicial review or appeal in this case.

Dr. Russell, with the advice of legal counsel, acknowledges that he has read and understands this Non-Disciplinary Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily.

Dr. Russell desires to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings.

The Board has determined that it is in the public interest to resolve this case as set forth below.
ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, with Dr. Russell’s consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. The Board shall reinstate Dr. Russell’s license to practice medicine.

2. Dr. Russell shall sign a contract with NCPHP and abide by its terms, including the timely payment of any fees required by NCPHP.

3. Unless lawfully prescribed for him by someone other than himself, Dr. Russell shall refrain from the use or possession of alcohol and all other mind- or mood-altering substances and all controlled substances including but not limited to, sedatives, stimulants, and pain medication. Failure to comply with this provision may result in the Board summarily suspending Dr. Russell’s license to practice medicine and Dr. Russell waives his right to a prompt hearing on the summary suspension as provided by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-3.

4. Upon request by the Board, Dr. Russell shall supply urine, blood, hair, or any other bodily fluid or tissue sample the Board might reasonably require for the purposes of analysis to determine if he has consumed any of the substances mentioned above. Failure to comply with this provision may result in the Board summarily suspending Dr. Russell’s license to practice medicine and Dr. Russell waives his right to a prompt hearing on the summary
suspension as provided by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-3.

5. Dr. Russell shall notify the Board at least 10 days in advance of his intent to practice medicine in North Carolina. Such notification must include the name, location and type of practice he intends to join or establish.

6. Dr. Russell shall obey all laws. Likewise, he shall obey all rules and regulations involving the practice of medicine.

7. Dr. Russell shall meet with the Board or members of the Board for an investigative interview at such times as requested by the Board.

8. Upon request, Dr. Russell shall provide the Board with any information the Board deems necessary to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this Non-Disciplinary Consent Order.

9. If Dr. Russell fails to comply with any of the terms and conditions of this Non-Disciplinary Consent Order, that failure shall constitute unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6) and shall be grounds, after any required notice and hearing, for the Board to annul, suspend or revoke his license to practice medicine and to deny any application he might make in the future or then have pending for a license.

10. This Non-Disciplinary Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by both Dr. Russell and the Board and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered
otherwise by the Board.

11. Dr. Russell hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Non-Disciplinary Consent Order be served on him.

12. Upon execution by Dr. Russell and the Board, this Non-Disciplinary Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof. Additionally, it will be reported to persons, entities, agencies and clearinghouses as required and permitted by law including, but not limited to, the Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Practitioner Data Bank.

By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board this the 25th day of April, 2018.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By: ____________________________

Timothy E. Lietz, M.D.
President
Consented to this the 20 day of April, 2018.

[Signature]

Anthony Otis Russell, M.D.

State of Florida
County of Alachua

I, Joanne Stephens, do hereby certify that Anthony Otis Russell, M.D. personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness - my hand and official seal this the 20 day of April, 2018.

[Signature]

Joanne Stephens
Notary Public

(Official Seal)

My Commission Expires: 04/02/2022