BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re:

Patty Joyce Balch, M.D.,
Respondent.

) NON-DISCIPLINARY
) CONSENT ORDER

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") on information regarding Patty Joyce Balch, M.D., ("Dr. Balch"). Dr. Balch admits and the Board finds and concludes that:

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 it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT

On or about December 2, 1986, the Board issued a license to Dr. Balch to practice medicine, license number 30775.

During the time relevant herein, Dr. Balch practiced medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Dr. Balch has a history of alcohol abuse.

In April 2008, Dr. Balch entered into a Consent Order with the Board in which she agreed to undergo inpatient treatment for...
substance abuse. Dr. Balch also agreed to maintain and abide by her NCPHP monitoring contract.

Dr. Balch successfully completed her NCPHP monitoring contract in May 2012.

On October 5, 2013, Dr. Balch was charged with Driving While Impaired ("DWI") in Cherokee County, North Carolina.

Following her arrest, Dr. Balch self-reported the above charges to the North Carolina Physicians Health Program ("NCPHP") and to the Board.

On October 11, 2013, Dr. Balch signed a Medical Non-Practice Agreement with NCPHP. This agreement required Dr. Balch to receive the approval of NCPHP and the Board prior to re-entering the practice of medicine.

On October 14, 2013, Dr. Balch entered a 90-day inpatient substance abuse treatment program.

On March 10, 2014, Dr. Balch signed a five-year monitoring contract with NCPHP.

Dr. Balch admits that, when using alcohol, she is unable to safely practice as a physician by reason of use of alcohol within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(5).

**PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS**

Dr. Balch acknowledges and agrees that the Board has jurisdiction over her and over the subject matter of this case.
Dr. Balch knowingly waives her right to any hearing and to any judicial review or appeal in this case.

Dr. Balch acknowledges that she has read and understands this Non-Disciplinary Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily.

Dr. Balch 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. Balch’s consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Dr. Balch shall maintain her monitoring contract with NCPHP and abide by all of its terms and conditions. Dr. Balch shall also follow all recommendations made by NCPHP.

2. Unless lawfully prescribed for her by someone other than herself Dr. Balch 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.

3. Dr. Balch shall notify the Board in writing within ten (10) days of her use of such medication or alcohol. This notice shall include, but shall not be limited to, identification of
the prescribing physician and of the pharmacy filling the prescription.

4. Upon request by the Board, Dr. Balch 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 she has consumed any of the substances mentioned above.

5. If Dr. Balch violates any provision of her NCPHP monitoring contract, uses alcohol or any other mind or mood-altering substance in violation of paragraph 2 above, or fails to comply with the requirements of paragraphs 3 or 4 above, that upon such violation, the Board without further showing or notice will have grounds to suspend Dr. Balch’s North Carolina medical license pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-3(b).

6. Dr. Balch shall obey all laws. Likewise, she shall obey all rules or regulations involving the practice of medicine.

7. Dr. Balch shall notify the Board in writing of any change in her residence or practice addresses within ten (10) days of the change.

8. Dr. Balch shall meet with the Board or members of the Board for an investigative interview at such times as requested by the Board.
9. If Dr. Balch fails to comply with any of the terms 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, revoke, condition, or limit Dr. Balch’s license to practice medicine or to deny any application she 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. Balch and the Board and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered otherwise by the Board.

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

12. Upon execution by Dr. Balch 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 by and permitted by law including the Federation of State Medical Boards. However, this Non-
Disciplinary Consent Order will not be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board this the 8th day of July, 2014.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By: Paul S. Camnitz, M.D.
President
Consented to this the 1 day of July, 2014.

Patty Joyce Balch, M.D.

State of NC
County of Forsyth

I, J. Hall Roberts, a Notary Public for the above named County and State, do hereby certify that Patty Joyce Balch, 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 1st day of July, 2014.

J. Hall Roberts
Notary Public

(SEAL)

My Commission Expires: 01/02/2017