BEFORE THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

IN THE MATTER OF:

JACQUELINE LEVENTHAL, D.O.,
License No. 1020,

Respondent.

Case No. AD1404001

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION
OF LICENSE TO PRACTICE
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

The Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, by and through its investigating board member Samir Pancholi, D.O. and its Executive Director Barbara Longo, hereby immediately suspends the license to practice osteopathic medicine of Jacqueline Leventhal, License No. 1020 pursuant to NRS 233B.127 and 633.581. This order is made and based upon the following facts and law:

I.

Jacqueline Leventhal, D. O. is licensed by the Board to practice osteopathic medicine in Nevada (License No. 1020).

II.

On April 1, 2014, the Board received a letter from Miguel Gonzalez, M.D., managing physician at Platinum Hospitalists, a service that provides physicians to emergency rooms in the Las Vegas metropolitan area. Dr. Leventhal had been employed by Platinum Hospitalists to work in the emergency room at Summerlin Hospital’s emergency room. The letter provided a detailed account of erratic behavior and patient abandonment by Dr. Leventhal in March 2014 for which Dr. Leventhal was terminated by Platinum Hospitalists. The Board’s staff treated Dr. Gonzalez’ letter as a complaint and opened an investigation regarding Dr. Leventhal.

III.

The Board’s investigation confirmed the allegations made by Dr. Gonzalez regarding Dr. Leventhal’s erratic behavior and patient abandonment commencing March 11, 2014 when she was scheduled for a 24-hour shift and then became unreachable by all available means, thus forcing another physician to cover her shift and leaving some of Dr. Leventhal’s patients unseen for as long as 24 hours. The Board’s investigation also found that Dr. Leventhal’s behavior from March 11, 2014...
through the eventual termination of her relationship with Platinum Hospitalists on March 17, 2014 was erratic and indicative of potential mental health and potential substance abuse concerns.

IV.

The Board’s investigation found additional indicia that Dr. Leventhal might have mental health and substance abuse issues. For example, Dr. Leventhal’s personal prescription history from April 2013 through April 2014 showed that she received prescriptions for various benzodiazepines from multiple providers that she filled at many different pharmacies, all behavior indicative of “doctor shopping” whereby a person addicted to controlled substances sees and obtains prescriptions from various medical providers without informing them that the person is obtaining the same controlled substances from other preceding medical providers.

V.

Additionally, the Board’s investigation revealed that Dr. Leventhal had been subject of an involuntary hospitalization, known as a “Legal 2000,” at Spring Valley Hospital Medical Center on March 12-13, 2014. The basis for the involuntary hospitalization was that Dr. Leventhal’s husband had found her at their home unconscious surrounded by several empty prescription vials. After diagnosing Dr. Leventhal with depression and alcohol intoxication and after determining that she presented no risk of harm to herself or others, Dr. Leventhal was discharged on March 13, 2014.

VI.

Additionally, the Board’s investigation determined that Dr. Leventhal had been arrested on July 25, 2013 as a result of a single-car accident in which she was the driver. Subsequently, on October 10, 2013, Dr. Leventhal was charged with one count of Child Endangerment because her six-year-old son was in the car with her when she had the accident, one count of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, and one count of Leaving the Scene of an Accident. Pursuant to a plea agreement, on February 3, 2014, Dr. Leventhal was convicted on Driving Under the Influence and the other two counts were dismissed. Dr. Leventhal received the standard sentencing for a first-time Driving Under the Influence conviction.

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VII.

A check of the Board's records found that Dr. Leventhal did not report her July 25, 2013 arrest to the Board, did not report her February 3, 2014 conviction to the Board, and did not report either on her 2014 renewal application.

VIII.

As a result of the above related investigation and information, the IBM and Executive Director for the Nevada Board of Osteopathic Medicine were concerned with Dr. Leventhal's fitness to serve patients in Nevada, so on April 16, 2014 the IBM signed an order requiring Dr. Leventhal to participate in a psychiatric examination pursuant to NRS 633.561. The order was served on April 18, 2014. The order required Dr. Leventhal to undergo a psychiatric examination to be conducted by Dr. Melissa Piasceki on April 24, 2014, which date was subsequently changed to May 9, 2014. The order also required Dr. Leventhal to pay $3,300.00 as and for Dr. Piasceki's fee.

IX.

On May 9, 2014, Dr. Leventhal was examined by Dr. Piasceki. On May 31, 2014, Dr. Piasceki issued her report regarding Dr. Leventhal. Dr. Piasceki made four findings and one recommendation as follows:

1. Dr. Leventhal's history is consistent with a recurrent alcohol use disorder. She was diagnosed with alcohol dependence and benzodiazepine abuse in 2003 and appears to have had relapsed with ongoing problematic substance use 2013 and 2014. Although she denies problem drinking, the documented DUI and Legal 2000 while intoxicated indicate that her alcohol use was not controlled. Her noncompliance with Soberlink suggests active drinking behavior in March, April and May.

Dr. Leventhal did not disclose her previous diagnosis and treatment at Betty Ford during my assessment. She appeared to minimize her alcohol use, lapses in monitoring and the recent problems meeting patient care duties that are described in a complaint.

2. Dr. Leventhal's Prescription Monitoring Report is suggestive of benzodiazepine misuse or abuse in 2013 and 2014. She was running out of prescriptions early, going to multiple providers, obtaining controlled substances from a colleague (Dr. Pulido) and not notifying her regular providers on these efforts to obtain benzodiazepines and opioids. Her benzodiazepine use may represent an attempt to manage alcohol use.

3. Dr. Leventhal's use of alcohol and benzodiazepines impacted her ability to practice medicine following her relapse in March. The complaints to the NSBOM indicating problems with her ability to provide safe and effective patient care, a DUI and a Legal 2000 admission for suicidal statements while intoxicated are convergent evidence of significant impairment.
4. Dr. Leventhal's history is notable for depression and anxiety as well as significant relationship stress. These problems are likely linked to her substance use problems and may also impact on her ability to practice.

5. I recommend that Dr. Leventhal be required by the NSBOM to complete a residential assessment and treatment program, such as the Center for Professional Renewal, prior to resuming any duties related to patient care. She is in need of a comprehensive assessment of her substance use and mental health treatment needs. After completion of a residential assessment and treatment program, I recommend that Dr. Leventhal be required to follow up long term (length of time to be determined by the residential program and NSBOM) with aftercare treatment.

X.

Based upon Dr. Leventhal’s extensive history of significant issues related to alcohol abuse, benzodiazepine abuse, depression, and manifestations of those conditions resulting in involuntary hospitalization and patient abandonment, and Dr. Piasecki’s findings and recommendation that Dr. Leventhal “be required by the NSBOM to complete a residential assessment and treatment program, such as the Center for Professional Renewal, prior to resuming any duties related to patient care,” it is the reasonable belief of the IBM and the Executive Director of the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine that the health, safety, or welfare of the public and patients who might be served by Dr. Leventhal is at risk of imminent or continued harm unless Dr. Leventhal’s license to practice osteopathic medicine in Nevada is immediately suspended.

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** pursuant to NRS 233B.127 and 633.581 that Dr. Leventhal’s license to practice osteopathic medicine (License No. 1020) is hereby immediately and summarily suspended. The Board’s staff shall prepare and file the necessary documents shortly to assure that Dr. Leventhal will receive a full and fair administrative hearing on or before 45 days from the date of this order. Until the hearing in this matter, Dr. Leventhal’s license to practice osteopathic medicine is hereby suspended.

Signed this 10th day of June, 2014.

By

[Signature]
Samir Pancholi, D.O.
Investigating Board Member

By

[Signature]
Barbara Longo
Executive Director