

APPROVED
VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE
FORMAL HEARING MINUTES OCTOBER 6-8, 2022

*Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201
Henrico, VA*

CALL TO ORDER: A panel of the Board was called to order at 11:13 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Ransone, M.D., Chair
Erin Hammer, L.M.
David Archer, M.D.
Manjit Dhillon, M.D.
Marge Ellis, M.D.
Jane Hickey, J.D.
Joel Silverman, M.D.
Ryan Williams, M.D.

BOARD COUNSEL: Jim Rutkowski, AAG
M. Brent Saunders, Sr. AAG

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer L. Deschenes, Deputy Executive Director, Discipline
Jennie F. Wood, Case Manager, Discipline

COURT REPORTER: Kim Taylor, Farnsworth & Taylor Reporting, LLC

PARTIES ON BEHALF OF COMMONWEALTH: Erin Weaver, AAG
Anne Joseph, Adjudication Specialist

MATTER SCHEDULED: **Sarita L. Bennett, D.O., L.M.**
License Nos.: 0102-202731 & 0129-000096
Case Nos.: 204493; 200947; 183506

DISCUSSION: Dr. Bennett appeared before the Board in person in accordance with the Board's Notice of Formal Hearing dated October 14, 2021. Dr. Bennett was represented by Lisa D. Pratt, Esquire.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS: Several preliminary matters were brought forward by the Respondent and Commonwealth and the Chair issued rulings after hearing from both sides.

COMMONWEALTH WITNESSES: Pamela Twombly, Deputy Director, Enforcement Division (DHP)
Kimberly Lynch, Sr. Investigator (DHP)
Natasha Dwamena, M.D., M.P.H. (expert on behalf of the Board)
Karen Fairchild, M.D.
Siva Thiagarajah, M.D. (by phone)
Candyce Dorsey, P.N.P.

Patient E
Patient E's husband

RESPONDENT WITNESSES: Sarita L. Bennett, D.O., L.M.
Liz Moore, L.M.
Patient D (by phone)

RECESS: The Board recessed at 9 p.m. for the evening and the Chair announced that the hearing regarding Dr. Bennett would reconvene on Friday, October 7, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

RECONVENE: The Board reconvened at 8:43 a.m., on Friday, October 7, 2022.

COURT REPORTER: Kim Taylor, Farnsworth & Taylor Reporting, LLC

RECESS: The Board recessed at 9:08 p.m. for the evening and the Chair announced that the hearing regarding Dr. Bennett would reconvene on Saturday, October 8, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

RECONVENE: The Board reconvened at 8:37 a.m., on Saturday, October 8, 2022.

COURT REPORTER: Kim Taylor, Farnsworth & Taylor Reporting, LLC

During the three day hearing, the Board received evidence and sworn testimony from the witnesses called by the parties and from Dr. Bennett regarding the allegations in the Notice.

CLOSED SESSION: Upon a motion by Dr. Williams, and duly seconded by Ms. Hickey, the Board voted to convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711.A (27) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Dr. Bennett. Additionally, he moved that Mr. Rutkowski, Mr. Saunders, Ms. Deschenes and Ms. Wood attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Board in its deliberations.

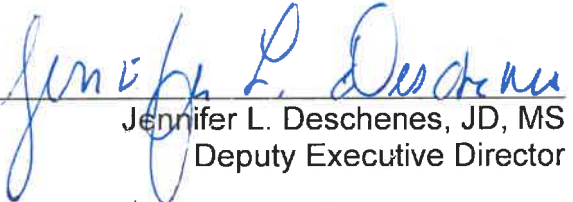
RECONVENE: Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code, the Board re-convened in open session and announced its decision.

DECISION: Upon a motion by Dr. Williams, and duly seconded by Dr. Ellis, the Board made certain findings of fact and conclusions of law and voted to revoke both the D.O. and L.M. licenses of Sarita Bennett.

VOTE: The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

The decision shall be effective upon the entry by the Board of a written Order stating the findings, conclusions, and decisions of this formal hearing panel.


Jennifer L. Deschenes, JD, MS
Deputy Executive Director

10/17/2022
Date