# STATE OF VERMONT BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

In re: William F. Long, MD

Docket No. MPC 160-1019

### TEMPORARY VOLUNTARY LIMITATION OF PRACTICE AGREEMENT

NOW COME William F. Long, MD, and the State of Vermont, by and through Vermont Attorney General Thomas J. Donovan, Jr., and the undersigned Assistant Attorney General, Megan Campbell, and agree and stipulate as follows:

1. William F. Long, MD, ("Respondent") of St. Johnsbury, Vermont holds Vermont medical license number 042.0009733 first issued by the Vermont Board of Medical Practice on August 10, 1998. Respondent is a physician who describes his current medical practice as devoted to providing therapeutic mental health services to patients.

2. Jurisdiction in this matter rests with the Vermont Board of Medical Practice ("the Board"), pursuant to 26 V.S.A. §§ 1353-1354, 1370-74, 3 V.S.A. §§ 809-814, and other authority.

3. As a result of the Board's ongoing investigation into Docket No. MPC 160-1019, the parties have agreed that Respondent will voluntarily and temporarily <u>cease and desist</u> from the prescribing of opioids as of a date certain as described below.

4. Respondent agrees that he shall voluntarily enter into this Temporary Voluntary Limitation of Practice Agreement ("Agreement") with the Board. By April 8, 2021 Respondent

shall send a letter to all patients who require new providers to prescribe their opioid medication informing these patients of the need to transition their treatment to other providers by May 1, 2021. Respondent shall voluntarily cease writing prescriptions for opioids after April 8, 2021 and shall not write prescriptions for opioids that can be filled after April 8, 2021. Respondent shall also make any and all efforts to support patients in finding sources for care that he will be unable to provide pursuant to this agreement.

5. As the sole exception to paragraph four, Respondent may prescribe opioids for a single patient, hereinafter ("Patient 1"), until July 1, 2021.<sup>1</sup> Respondent shall cease prescribing all opioids to Patient 1 after July 1, 2021 and he shall not write any opioid prescriptions for Patient 1 that can be filled after July 1, 2021. Respondent is not to increase the prescribed morphine milligram equivalent ("MME") dosage for Patient 1 between the date that this Agreement is signed and July 1, 2021. This exception is created to allow continuity of care for Patient 1 as Respondent is anticipated to have greater barriers to identifying another prescriber and transferring this patient's medical care.

6. By entering into this Agreement, Respondent does not admit to violating any Rules of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice, Vermont statutes, federal statutes, any policies, and/or guidelines and retains the right to contest any allegations in the event the Board takes further action related to this matter.

7. In the event the Respondent prescribes benzodiazepines to any patient who also takes opioids as prescribed from any prescriber, Respondent agrees that he shall still be responsible for complying with Rule 7.0 ("Co-Prescription of Naloxone") of the Vermont Rule Governing the Prescribing of Opioids for Pain.

<sup>1</sup> Patient 1's identity is set forth in a confidential sealed filing appended to this Agreement as Appendix A.

8. The parties acknowledge that this Agreement is not a final resolution of the case, but that it will be enforced until the Board takes further action related to this matter. Respondent acknowledges that no promises have been made to him regarding the final disposition of this matter or other action of the Board.

9. Respondent agrees that the instant Agreement with the Board sets forth in writing the terms for such voluntary temporary limitation of practice.

10. Respondent agrees, pending further proceedings, action or order of the Board, to cooperate fully and in good faith with all further investigation of this matter by the Committee.

11. Respondent acknowledges that he has been offered the opportunity to obtain and receive legal advice and counsel regarding this matter. Thus, Respondent voluntarily and knowingly agrees to the terms and conditions herein.

12. Respondent agrees that the Board, in its sole discretion, may consider and approve a petition from Respondent at a later date for modification or relief from the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Respondent understands that if he desires to seek modification or relief, he must first present a written petition to the Committee requesting such modification or relief. Respondent agrees and understands that the Committee will make a recommendation to the Board as to whether Respondent's petition for modification or relief should be granted. Respondent understands and agrees that, in order for a petition for relief or modification to be granted, the Board must approve his request for relief or modification and issue an order to that effect.

13. Respondent agrees that he has read and carefully considered all terms and conditions herein and agrees that these may be adopted as an enforceable order of the Board, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §§ 129(a)(3), 809(d) and 26 V.S.A. §1353, and agrees to accept and be

bound by these until such time as he may be expressly relieved of these or they are modified, in writing, by an order of the Board.

14. The parties acknowledge that this Agreement shall be a public document, shall be made part of Respondent's licensing file, and may be reported to other licensing authorities. Respondent's license status will be changed to "Conditioned" upon approval of this Agreement by the Board.

15. This Agreement is subject to review and acceptance by the Board and shall not become fully and finally effective until presented to and approved by the Board. If the Board rejects any part of this Agreement, the entire Agreement shall be void. The parties agree and request that the Board enter a binding order adopting the terms and conditions set forth herein.

16. Respondent agrees that the Board shall retain jurisdiction in this matter and may enforce as necessary the terms set forth herein, pursuant to 26 V.S.A. §1354(25) or other statutory provisions.

#### SIGNATURES

DATED at Chelsea Vermont, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

2021.

### STATE OF VERMONT

THOMAS J. DONOVAN ATTORNEY GENERAL

> E-SIGNED by Megan Campbell on 2021-04-01 17:00:38 EDT

By:

Megan Campbell Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 109 State Street Montpelier, VT 05609

DATED at

Vermont, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

## E-SIGNED by William Long MD on 2021-04-02 07:57:53 EDT

William F. Long, MD Respondent

## AS TO WILLIAM F. LONG, MD

### APPROVED AND ORDERED VERMONT BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

Signed on Behalf of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice

161 U By: Richard Bernstein, MD

Chair Vermont Board of Medical Practice

Vote documented in the Vermont Board of Medical Practice meeting minutes, dated April 7, 2021.

Dated: