



ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

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FINAL MINUTES FOR SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Held on Monday, October 20, 2025

1740 W. Adams St., Board Room 4100 • Phoenix, Arizona

Board Members

Gary R. Figge, M.D., Chair

Bruce A. Bethancourt, M.D., F.A.C.P., Vice-Chair

Laura Dorrell, M.S.N., R.N., Secretary

Katie S. Artz, M.D., M.S.

Jodi A. Bain, M.A., J.D., LL.M.

David C. Beyer, M.D., F.A.C.R., F.A.S.T.R.O.

R. Screven Farmer, M.D.

James M. Gillard, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.E.P., F.A.A.E.M.

Lois E. Krahn, M.D.

Jessyca Leach

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Figge called the meeting to order at: 4:35 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present: Dr. Figge, Ms. Dorrell, Dr. Artz, Ms. Bain, Dr. Beyer, Dr. Gillard, Dr. Krahn, and Ms. Leach.

The following Board members were absent: Dr. Bethancourt and Dr. Farmer.

ALSO PRESENT

The following Board staff participated in the meeting: Raquel Rivera, Executive Director; Claude Deschamps, M.D., Chief Medical Consultant; Nicole Samaradellis, Investigations Manager; and Heather Foster, Public Records Coordinator. Carrie Smith, Assistant Attorney General ("AAG") also participated in the meeting.

C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Individuals who addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting appear beneath the case.

LEGAL MATTERS

D. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SUMMARY ACTION

1. MD-23-1157A, JOSEF SIPOS M.D., LIC. #61852
Dr. Sipos and Counsel Jessica Miller were virtually present.

Board staff summarized that this case was initiated after receiving a complaint from KJ alleging that Dr. Sipos gave her his cell phone number for the purpose of communicating about her medical issues and then engaged in inappropriate communications and retaliatory behavior. During the investigation, Dr. Sipos denied the allegations and reported being homosexual, with a well-established gay identity. Dr. Sipos also denied a history of complaints regarding his conduct with female staff. Dr. Sipos admitted to performing home visits and providing his cell to patients and reported he would document his care in the medical records. Board staff did not identify his correspondence with KJ in her medical records. Board staff obtained

employment records from two prior employers which document multiple boundary complaints from female staff as well as an Order of Protection issued in 2023 against Dr. Sipos on behalf of a female MA who had alleged retaliatory behavior. Board staff obtained police records which identified a June, 2025 domestic violence assault charge filed by a female victim reporting that she was in a relationship with Dr. Sipos. Of note, this charge is a reportable misdemeanor that was not reported to the Board but discovered during this investigation. On October 3, 2025, Dr. Sipos was issued an Interim Order for Psychosexual Evaluation and offered an Interim Consent Agreement (ICA) for Practice Restriction. On October 8, 2025, Dr. Sipos' attorney declined the ICA citing the lack of imminent danger and his intention to comply with the Interim Order. Dr. Sipos noted that he currently works in an all-male correctional setting and would arrange a 3-month leave of absence and requested the Board decline summary action. On October 16, 2025, Dr. Sipos' attorney provided a voluntary psychiatric evaluation performed on October 15, 2025. Board staff reviewed the letter, which appeared to only reference the charges in June 2025. It remains unclear whether the evaluator had all the information currently being reviewed by the Board to render an opinion. Dr. Sipos' attorney reported that he is currently scheduled for a psychosexual evaluation.

Ms. Miller stated the questions about Dr. Sipos' judgment and professional interactions will be answered through the ongoing investigation and evaluation process. Ms. Miller noted that Dr. Sipos has completed a psychiatric evaluation to help the Board make a determination and has been compliant throughout the investigation process. Ms. Miller requested that the Board not summarily suspend Dr. Sipos' license while the investigation continues.

Dr. Sipos stated that he acknowledges he has made mistakes. He has crossed professional boundaries. Dr. Sipos further stated he understood the conduct was inappropriate, even if he did not have sexual intent. Dr. Sipos further acknowledged that professionals have made strict guidelines to keep safe boundaries at work. Dr. Sipos acknowledged his actions were harmful and apologized for them. Dr. Sipos stated that he understands words are not enough, but can offer transparency, documentation and continuation of cooperation with the investigation process.

Dr. Beyer inquired about the timeline of the investigation process.

Board staff explained that this case has been working consistently over the years by coordinating records requests, interviews, and new information coming to light.

Ms. Rivera stated the investigation continued based on new information coming to light during the investigative process.

Dr. Krahn asked if she could see the information that the psychiatrist used to evaluate Dr. Sipos to come up with the conclusion in the evaluation letter.

Ms. Rivera stated the evaluation letter was only provided to the Board and that no supplemental documentation was supplied with the evaluation letter.

Dr. Krahn opined the cover letter alone provided contradictory information.

Dr. Beyer opined that summary suspension is not needed at this time and that the investigation should continue.

**MOTION: Dr. Beyer motion to continue the investigation and not summarily suspended the license.
SECOND: Dr. Artz.**

Ms. Leach is against the motion. Dr. Artz agrees with the motion and does not see a warrant to suspend the license.

Board staff commented that there is a concern regarding a pattern of behavior with women and noted that Dr. Sipos' employment records indicate he requested leave for a health condition. Board staff expressed concern regarding the physician's honesty and truthfulness.

Dr. Krahn spoke against the motion given the pattern of lack of candor and the leave of absence from work is due to health condition. Dr. Gillard spoke against the motion as he would have liked to see the physician sign the practice restriction during the investigation process.

**VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Artz, and Dr. Beyer,
The following Board members voted against the motion: Dr. Figge, Ms. Dorrell, Ms. Bain, Dr. Gillard,
Dr. Krahn, and Ms. Leach.
The following Board members were absent: Dr. Bethancourt and Dr. Farmer.
VOTE: 2-yay, 6-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.
MOTION FAILED**

MOTION: Dr. Gillard motion to offer Dr. Sipos an Interim Consent Agreement for Practice Restriction. If not signed by 5:00 p.m. tomorrow, summarily suspend Dr. Sipos from practicing medicine in the State of Arizona pending the outcome of a Formal Hearing based on a finding that the public health, safety and welfare imperatively require emergency action.

SECOND: Dr. Krahn

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Figge, Ms. Dorrell, Ms. Bain, Dr. Beyer, Dr. Gillard, Dr. Krahn, and Ms. Leach.

The following Board member voted against the motion: Dr. Artz

The following Board members were absent: Dr. Bethancourt and Dr. Farmer.

VOTE: 7-yay, 1-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

E. LICENSE APPLICATIONS

i. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE OR DENY LICENSE APPLICATION FOR REACTIVATION, OR TAKE OTHER ACTION

1. MD-25-1076A, WILLIAM G. CANCE, M.D., LIC. #53191

Dr. Cance addressed the Board during the Public Statements portion of the meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Krahn moved to grant approve the application for reactivation of license.

SECOND: Dr. Gillard.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Figge, Ms. Dorrell, Dr. Artz, Ms. Bain, Dr. Beyer, Dr. Gillard, Dr. Krahn, and Ms. Leach.

The following Board members were absent: Dr. Bethancourt and Dr. Farmer.

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

F. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Gillard moved for adjournment.

SECOND: Leach.

VOTE: The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Figge, Ms. Dorrell, Dr. Artz, Ms. Bain, Dr. Beyer, Dr. Gillard, Dr. Krahn, and Ms. Leach.

The following Board members were absent: Dr. Bethancourt and Dr. Farmer.

VOTE: 8-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 2-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at: 5:12 pm



Raquel Rivera

Raquel Rivera, Executive Director