# BEFORE THE OFFICE OF STATE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS STATE OF GEORGIA

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD,

Petitioner,

Docket No.: 2304506

2304506-OSAH-GCMB-PHY-56-Barnes

Agency Reference No.: 2304506

AZALEA BLALOCK,

v.

Respondent.

### INITIAL DECISION



#### I. Introduction

Petitioner, the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board") brought this action seeking the issuance of a Cease and Desist order against the Respondent Azalea Blalock for violating laws governing the practice of medicine in the State of Georgia. The Board also requested the imposition of costs it incurred through the investigation and administrative action. The evidentiary hearing took place before the undersigned administrative law judge. The Board was represented by Sandra Bailey, Esq., Assistant Attorney General. Respondent failed to appear at the hearing and is in default. Nevertheless, the Court held the hearing in Respondent's absence and developed the evidentiary record contained herein. After careful consideration of the evidence and arguments presented, and for the reasons stated below, the Board's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

#### II. Findings of Fact

- 1. Respondent is not licensed as a physician in the State of Georgia, nor has Respondent ever been so licensed in the State of Georgia.
- 2. The Board received information that Respondent held herself out as a physician and a "healer." The information originated from a Licensed Nurse Practitioner who had been assigned to assist with IV treatments at Respondent's "office." After observing Respondent's

interactions with a patient, the nurse practitioner became concerned that Respondent was not behaving like a physician. After doing independent research, the nurse practitioner informed the Board of her suspicion.

- 3. The Board initiated an investigation and found that on or about July 25, 2021, Respondent referred to herself as "Doctor Blalock," and attempted to "treat" at least one patient who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.
- 4. Among other actions, Respondent forbade the aforementioned patient to take his prescribed medications because they would reduce the efficacy of Respondent's "herbal treatments." Additionally, Respondent gave the patient an "herbal drink" and instructed him to drink it so that he could "throw-up" all his cancer. She was observed checking the patient's blood sugar levels with a personal device, rather than a medical grade device. The nurse practitioner noted that the Respondent showed no concern when the patient's blood glucose levels were at an alarming level that typically would require hospitalization. The patient and his wife had paid thousands of dollars to Respondent for medical treatment.
- 5. The Court finds that notice was duly served on the Respondent. In fact, on the morning of the hearing, an individual approached the reception desk at the Court and left a packet of documents from the Respondent. The document packet purported to be a "written testimony" of sorts. However, the Court has not considered any of these documents in its decision, as the Respondent failed to appear at the hearing. The in-person delivery of the document packet at the reception desk does indicate that the Respondent received notice of the hearing.

## III. Conclusions of Law

1. The Board seeks the entry of a Cease and Desist Order pursuant to the statutory

provisions related to professional licensing boards, O.C.G.A. § 43-1-1, *et seq.*; the statutory provisions related to physicians under O.C.G.A. § 43-34-1, *et seq.* 

- 2. O.C.G.A. § 43-1-20.1(a) provides in relevant part: "[A]fter notice and hearing, a professional licensing board may issue a cease and desist order prohibiting any person from violating the provisions of this title by engaging in the practice of a business or profession without a license."
- 3. O.C.G.A. § 43-34-5 provides that the board shall have with respect to all matters within the jurisdiction of the board as provided under this chapter the powers, duties, and functions of professional licensing boards as provided in Chapter 1 of this title.

# 4. O.C.G.A. § 43-34-22(a) provides:

If any person shall hold himself or herself out to the public as being engaged in the diagnosis or treatment of disease or injuries of human beings, or shall suggest, recommend, or prescribe any form of treatment for the palliation, relief, or cure of any physical or mental ailment of any person, with the intention of receiving therefor, either directly or indirectly, any fee, gift, or compensation whatsoever, or shall maintain an office for the reception, examination, or treatment of diseased or injured human beings, or shall attach the title "M.D.," "Oph.," "D.," "Dop.," "Surgeon," "Doctor," "D.O.," "Doctor of Osteopathy," "Osteopathic Physician," or "Physician," either alone or in connection with other words, or any other word or abbreviation to his or her name indicative that he or she is engaged in the treatment of diseased, defective, or injured human beings, and shall not in any of these cases then possess a valid license to practice medicine under the laws of this state, he or she shall be deemed to be practicing medicine without complying with this article and shall be deemed in violation of this article.

# 5. O.C.G.A. § 43-34-5(c) provides:

The board shall have the following powers and duties: [...]

- (15) To initiate investigations for the purposes of discovering violation of this chapter;
- (17) To conduct hearings, reviews, and other proceedings according to Chapter 13 of Title 50; (19) To issue cease and desist orders to stop the unlicensed practice of medicine or other profession licensed, certified, or permitted under this chapter and impose penalties for such violations;

# IV. Decision

In accordance with the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board's request that this Court issue a Cease and Desist Order against the Respondent is **GRANTED.** 

**SO ORDERED**, this <u>26<sup>th</sup></u> day of October, 2022.

Shakara M. Barnes

Administrative Law Judge