BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of:

Valerie Renee Williams

Case No.: 800-2020-067883

Respondent.

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulation for a Probationary License is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on <u>December 8, 2021</u>.

IT IS SO ORDERED: December 1, 2021.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Richard E. Thorp, M.D., Chair

Panel B

1	ROB BONTA		
2	Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General LATRICE R. HEMPHILL		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 285973		
5	California Department of Justice 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702		
6	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6198		
7	Facsimile: (916) 731-2117 Attorneys for Complainant		
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9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALHEODNIA		
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
11	STATE OF CA	ALIFORNIA	
12			
13	In the Matter of the Statement of Issues Against:	Case No. 800-2020-067883	
14	VALERIE RENEE WILLIAMS	OAH No. 2020110141	
15	6035 S. Croft Avenue	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND PROBATIONARY ORDER	
16	Los Angeles, CA 90056,	PRODATIONARY ORDER	
17	Applicant.		
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19	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGR	EED by and between the parties to the above-	
20	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:		
21	<u>PARTIES</u>		
22	1. William Prasifka (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of		
23	California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in thi		
24	matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Latrice R. Hemphill, Deput		
25	Attorney General.		
26	2. Applicant Valerie Renee Williams (A	pplicant) is represented in this proceeding by	
27	attorney Fredrick M. Ray, Esq., whose address is: 5000 Birch Street, Suite 7000,		
28	Newport Beach, CA 92660-2127.		
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3. On or about December 18, 2019, Applicant filed an application dated December 17, 2019, with the Medical Board of California to obtain a Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

JURISDICTION

- 4. Statement of Issues No. 800-2020-067883 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Applicant. The Statement of Issues and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Applicant on October 22, 2020.
- 5. A copy of Statement of Issues No. 800-2020-067883 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Applicant has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Statement of Issues No. 800-2020-067883. Applicant has also carefully read, fully discussed with her counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Probationary Order.
- 7. Applicant is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Statement of Issues; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 8. Applicant voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 9. Applicant understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Statement of Issues No. 800-2020-067883, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for denying her application for a Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.
- 10. For the purpose of resolving the Statement of issues without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Applicant agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Statement of issues, and that Applicant hereby gives

up her right to contest those charges. Applicant agrees that if she ever petitions for early termination or modification of probation, or if the Board ever petitions for revocation of probation, all of the charges and allegations contained in Statement of Issues No. 800-2020-067883 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Applicant for purposes of that proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Applicant in the State of California.

11. Applicant agrees that her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to denial and she agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Probationary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

- 12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California. Applicant understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Applicant or her counsel. By signing the stipulation, Applicant understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Probationary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 13. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Probationary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or opportunity to be heard by the Applicant, issue and enter the following Probationary Order:

PROBATIONARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Applicant Valerie Renee Williams' application for a full and unrestricted Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is denied. However, Applicant shall be

issued a probationary license for three (3) years on the condition that Applicant be accepted into an ACGME-approved postgraduate residency training or fellowship program. Applicant's first year of practice shall be successfully performed in an ACGME-approved residency or fellowship program. Any period of probation not in a residency or fellowship program shall be under the supervision of a monitor as further described below.

1. <u>WRITTEN EXAMINATION</u>. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Applicant shall take and pass the Special Purpose Examination (SPEX) or an equivalent examination as determined by the Board or its designee.

Failure to pass the required written examination within 180 calendar days after the effective date of this Decision is a violation of probation. Applicant shall pay the costs of all examinations.

Applicant shall not practice medicine until Applicant has passed the required examination and has been so notified by the Board or its designee in writing. This prohibition shall not bar Applicant from participating in a clinical competence assessment program approved by the Board or its designee.

2. <u>SOLO PRACTICE PROHIBITION</u>. Applicant is prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. Prohibited solo practice includes, but is not limited to, a practice where: 1) Applicant merely shares office space with another physician but is not affiliated for purposes of providing patient care, or 2) Applicant is the sole physician practitioner at that location.

If Applicant fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in an appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Applicant shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Applicant shall not resume practice until an appropriate practice setting is established.

If, during the course of the probation, the Applicant's practice setting changes and the Applicant is no longer practicing in a setting in compliance with this Decision, the Applicant shall notify the Board or its designee within five (5) calendar days of the practice setting change. If Applicant fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in an

appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the practice setting change, Applicant shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Applicant shall not resume practice until an appropriate practice setting is established.

- 3. <u>PROHIBITED PRACTICE</u>. During the first year of probation, Applicant is prohibited from practicing medicine outside of an ACGME-approved postgraduate residency or fellowship program.
- 4. <u>MONITORING PRACTICE</u>. Within 30 calendar days of Applicant's successful completion of an ACGME-approved residency or fellowship program, Applicant shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval as a practice monitor, the name and qualifications of one or more licensed physicians and surgeons whose licenses are valid and in good standing, and who are preferably American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certified. A monitor shall have no prior or current business or personal relationship with Applicant, or other relationship that could reasonably be expected to compromise the ability of the monitor to render fair and unbiased reports to the Board, including but not limited to any form of bartering, shall be in Applicant's field of practice, and must agree to serve as Applicant's monitor. Applicant shall pay all monitoring costs.

The Board or its designee shall provide the approved monitor with copies of the Decision and Statement of Issues, and a proposed monitoring plan. Within 15 calendar days of receipt of the Decision, Statement of Issues, and proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a signed statement that the monitor has read the Decision and Statement of Issues, fully understands the role of a monitor, and agrees or disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan. If the monitor disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a revised monitoring plan with the signed statement for approval by the Board or its designee.

Within 60 calendar days of Applicant's successful completion of an ACGME-approved residency or fellowship program, and continuing throughout probation, Applicant's practice shall be monitored by the approved monitor. Applicant shall make all records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises by the monitor at all times during business hours and

shall retain the records for the entire term of probation.

If Applicant fails to obtain approval of a monitor within 60 calendar days of successful completion of an ACGME-approved residency or fellowship program, Applicant shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Applicant shall cease the practice of medicine until a monitor is approved to provide monitoring responsibility.

The monitor(s) shall submit a quarterly written report to the Board or its designee which includes an evaluation of Applicant's performance, indicating whether Applicant's practices are within the standards of practice of medicine and whether Applicant is practicing medicine safely, billing appropriately or both. It shall be the sole responsibility of Applicant to ensure that the monitor submits the quarterly written reports to the Board or its designee within 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

If the monitor resigns or is no longer available, Applicant shall, within 5 calendar days of such resignation or unavailability, submit to the Board or its designee, for prior approval, the name and qualifications of a replacement monitor who will be assuming that responsibility within 15 calendar days. If Applicant fails to obtain approval of a replacement monitor within 60 calendar days of the resignation or unavailability of the monitor, Applicant shall receive notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Applicant shall cease the practice of medicine until a replacement monitor is approved and assumes monitoring responsibility

In lieu of a monitor, Applicant may participate in a professional enhancement program approved in advance by the Board or its designee that includes, at minimum, quarterly chart review, semi-annual practice assessment, and semi-annual review of professional growth and education. Applicant shall participate in the professional enhancement program at Applicant's expense during the term of probation.

5. <u>NOTIFICATION</u>. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, the Applicant shall provide a true copy of this Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to

Applicant, at any other facility where Applicant engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to Applicant.

Applicant shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days.

This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

- 6. <u>SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE</u>

 <u>NURSES.</u> During probation, Applicant is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses.
- 7. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u>. Applicant shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.
- 8. <u>QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS</u>. Applicant shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation.

Applicant shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

Compliance with Probation Unit

Applicant shall comply with the Board's probation unit.

Address Changes

Applicant shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Applicant's business and residence addresses, email address (if available), and telephone number. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021, subdivision (b).

Place of Practice

Applicant shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Applicant's or patient's place of residence, unless the patient resides in a skilled nursing facility or other similar licensed facility.

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License Renewal

Applicant shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's license.

Travel or Residence Outside California

Applicant shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than thirty (30) calendar days.

In the event Applicant should leave the State of California to reside or to practice, Applicant shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return.

- INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE. Applicant shall be 10. available in person upon request for interviews either at Applicant's place of business or at the probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.
- NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Applicant shall notify the Board or its 11. designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Applicant's return to practice. Non-practice is defined as any period of time Applicant is not practicing medicine as defined in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. If Applicant resides in California and is considered to be in non-practice, Applicant shall comply with all terms and conditions of probation. All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-practice and does not relieve Applicant from complying with all the terms and conditions of probation. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice.

In the event Applicant's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar months, Applicant shall successfully complete the Federation of State Medical Board's Special

Purpose Examination, or, at the Board's discretion, a clinical competence assessment program that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine.

Applicant's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two (2) years. Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

Periods of non-practice for an Applicant residing outside of California will relieve

Applicant of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws;

General Probation Requirements; Quarterly Declarations; Abstain from the Use of Alcohol and/or Controlled Substances; and Biological Fluid Testing.

- 12. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u>. Applicant shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Applicant's certificate shall be fully restored.
- 13. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u>. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of probation. If Applicant violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Applicant notice and the opportunity to be heard may seek to revoke probation or file disciplinary charges against Applicant. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Applicant during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- 14. <u>LICENSE SURRENDER</u>. Following the effective date of this Decision, if Applicant ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, Applicant may request to surrender his or her license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Applicant's request and to exercise its discretion in determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Applicant shall within 15 calendar days deliver Applicant's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its designee and

ENDORSEMENT The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Probationary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California. DATED: <u>7</u>/15/2021 Respectfully submitted, ROB BONTA Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO Supervising Deputy Attorney General LATRICE R. HEMPHILL Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant LA2020401181 Williams stipulatio-Final.docx

Exhibit A

Statement of Issues No. 800-2020-067883

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1	XAVIER BECERRA	·	
2	Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General LATRICE R. HEMPHILL		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 285973		
5	California Department of Justice 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702		
6	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6198		
7	Facsimile: (916) 731-2117 Attorneys for Complainant		
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9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10	21112 31 3		
11	In the Matter of the Statement of Issues	Case No. 800-2020-067883	
12	Against:	Case No. 800-2020-007883	
13	VALERIE RENEE WILLIAMS	STATEMENT OF ISSUES	
14	6035 S. Croft Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90056-1612,	STATEMENT OF ISSUES	
15	Applicant.		
16			
17		-	
18	Complainant alleges:	•	
19	PAR	<u>l'IES</u>	
20	1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this Statement of Issues solely in his official		
21	capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer		
22	Affairs ("Board").		
23	2. On or about December 18, 2019, the	Board received an application for a Physician's	
24	and Surgeon's License from VALERIE RENEE WILLIAMS (Applicant). On or about Decembe		
25	17, 2019, Valerie Renee Williams certified under penalty of perjury to the truthfulness of all		
26	statements, answers, and representations in the a	oplication. The Board denied the application on	
27	April 8, 2020.	• .	
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STATEMENT OF ISSUES (Valerie Renee Williams Case No. 800-2020-067883)

JURISDICTION

- 3. This Statement of Issues is brought before the Board under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.
 - Section 2221 of the Code states:
 - (a) The board may deny a physician's and surgeon's certificate to an applicant guilty of unprofessional conduct or of any cause that would subject a licensee to revocation or suspension of their license. The board in its sole discretion, may issue a probationary physician's and surgeon's certificate to an applicant subject to terms and conditions, including, but not limited to, any of the following conditions of probation:
 - (1) Practice limited to a supervised, structured environment where the licensee's activities shall be supervised by another physician and surgeon.
 - (2) Total or partial restrictions on drug prescribing privileges for controlled substances.
 - (3) Continuing medical or psychiatric treatment.
 - (4) Ongoing participation in a specified rehabilitation program.
 - (5) Enrollment and successful completion of a clinical training program.
 - (6) Abstention from the use of alcohol or drugs.
 - (7) Restrictions against engaging in certain types of medical practice.
 - (8) Compliance with all provisions of this chapter.
 - (9) Payment of the cost of probation monitoring.
 - (b) The board may modify or terminate the terms and conditions imposed on the probationary certificate upon receipt of a petition from the licensee. The board may assign the petition to an administrative law judge designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code. After a hearing on the petition, the administrative law judge shall provide a proposed decision to the board.
 - (c) The board shall deny a physician's and surgeon's certificate to an applicant who is required to register pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code. This subdivision does not apply to an applicant who is required to register as a sex offender pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code solely because of a misdemeanor conviction under Section 314 of the Penal Code.
 - (d) An applicant shall not be eligible to reapply for a physician's and surgeon's certificate for a minimum of three years from the effective date of the denial of his or her application, except that the board may, in its discretion and for good cause demonstrated, permit reapplication after not less than one year has elapsed from the effective date of the denial.
 - (e) The board shall disclose a probationary physician's and surgeon's certificate

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10.	Applicant began the Obstetrician/Gynecologist training program at Charles R. Drew
Universit	y of Medicine & Science at Martin Luther King, Jr./Charles R. Drew Medical Center
("Drew M	fedical Center") on July 1, 2000. Applicant served as an intern from July 1, 2000 until
June 30, 2	2001. Applicant started her position as a resident on July 1, 2001.

- 11. On or about October 29, 2001, Applicant voluntarily resigned from her residency program at Drew Medical Center, effective November 1, 2001.
- 12. On or about July 1, 2002, Applicant began a residency program at the California Hospital Medical Center.
- 13. On or about May 31, 2003, Applicant took a leave of absence from her residency program at California Hospital Medical Center. Applicant did not return to the program and her contract was not renewed.
 - 14. Applicant completed about 27 months of postgraduate training.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

(Valid Examination Scores)

- 15. Applicant's application is subject to denial under Code section 2184, subdivision (b)(1), in that the Applicant's scores on Step 1 and Step 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) have expired and are no longer valid. The circumstances are as follows:
- 16. On or about October 14, 1997, Applicant passed the USMLE Step 1, with a score of 189.
- 17. On or about May 17, 2000, Applicant passed the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge exam, with a score of 195. On or about March 29, 2014, Applicant passed the Step 2 Clinical Skills exam.
- 18. Applicant's Step 1 and Step 2 Clinical Knowledge exam scores are older than 10 years and are no longer valid.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

(Incompetence)

19. Applicant's application is subject to denial under Code section 2234, subdivision (d), in that the Applicant has not engaged in any clinical duties or patient care since May 2003, and