BEFORE THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT

AGAINST

MELISSA CHINN, D.O.,
License No. 1166,
RESPONDENT.

Case No.: MA0912001

NV STATE BOARD OF
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
FILED: OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
MAR 03 2010

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

I. PARTIES

This Settlement Agreement and Order ("Agreement and Order") is made by and
between S. Paul Edwards, Esq., Investigative Board Member ("Mr. Edwards" or "Investigative
Board Member") for the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine ("the Board") through
the Board's Counsel/Executive Director, Dianna Hegeduis, Esq., and Melissa Chinn, D.O.
("Dr. Chinn") (collectively referred to as "the Parties").

II. RECITALS

As a preamble to this Agreement, the Parties agree to the following:

A. WHEREAS, the Board, through Investigative Board Member, ascertained certain
information regarding a prior lawsuit filed against Dr. Chinn. The information was
ascertained as a result of the Board's staff due diligence in investigating its
applicants/licensees.

B. WHEREAS, the Investigative Board Member ("IBM") has alleged as follows:
(1) Respondent failed to timely report the actions by the Washington State licensing
Board, which action was a reportable event to the National Practitioner Data Bank.
(2) Respondent failed to also mention this action in Respondent's renewal application
for 2009, submitted in 2008. The IBM has alleged all such failures are violations of
NRS chapter 633 as discussed hereinafter.

C. NRS 633.527(1) states that a licensed "osteopathic physician shall report to the
Board: (a) any action for malpractice against the osteopathic physician not later than 45
days after the osteopathic physician receives service of a summons and complaint for
the action; (b) any claim for malpractice against the osteopathic physician that is
submitted to arbitration or mediation not later than 45 days after the claim is submitted
to arbitration or mediation; (c) any settlement, award, judgment or other disposition or
any action or claim described in paragraphs (a) or (b) not later than 45 days after the
settlement, award, judgment or other disposition; and (d) any sanctions imposed
against the osteopathic physician that are reportable to the National Practitioner
Data Bank not later than 45 days after the sanctions are imposed. NRS 633.527(2)
states that should the Board find "that an osteopathic physician has violated any
provision of this section, the Board may impose a fine of not more than $5,000 against the osteopathic physician for each violation, in addition to any other fines or penalties permitted by law.” (Emphasis added.) This statute was added to the law in 2003. By the use of the word “shall” by the Nevada State Legislature in this statute, the Legislature intended to mandatorily require all osteopathic physicians to report any of the four (4) events mentioned in the statute.

D. NRS 633.131(1) defines “unprofessional conduct” as including “willfully making a false . . . statement . . . in applying for a license to practice osteopathic medicine or in applying for renewal of a license to practice osteopathic medicine.” Pursuant to NRS 633.511(1), “unprofessional conduct” is a ground for initiating a formal disciplinary proceeding; and such discipline may include public reprimands, the suspension or revocation of the license to practice osteopathic medicine in the State of Nevada, and an assessment of a fine not to exceed $5,000 per violation.

E. NRS 622.400(1) states that a “regulatory body [such as this Board] may recover from a person reasonable attorney’s fees and costs that are incurred by the regulatory body as part of its investigative, administrative and disciplinary proceedings against the person if the regulatory body” either enters a final order or enters into a settlement agreement.

F. WHEREAS, the parties have agreed to settle this matter, rather than requiring the Board to file a formal disciplinary complaint.

G. WHEREAS, the parties understand that this Agreement will be signed by the respective parties and will then be offered to the Board for the entire Board’s approval at the next Board meeting, with the recommendation of the Investigating Board Member that this matter be settled. The Agreement shall not become effective until it has been approved by a majority of the Board and endorsed by a representative member of the Board.

H. WHEREAS, Dr. Chinn understands that the Board is free to accept or reject this Agreement and, if rejected by the Board, a formal disciplinary complaint may be filed and a hearing scheduled on the same. The Board members who review this matter for approval of this Agreement may be the same members who ultimately hear the disciplinary complaint if this Agreement is not approved by the Board. Dr. Chinn hereby agrees to waive any rights she might have to challenge the impartiality of the Board to hear the disciplinary complaint, based on prior knowledge obtained by the Board through consideration of this Agreement, if after review by the Board, this Agreement is rejected. Furthermore, if the Board does not accept the Agreement, it shall be regarded as null and void.

I. WHEREAS, Dr. Chinn acknowledges that the Board will retain jurisdiction over this matter until all terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement and Order have been met to the satisfaction of the Board.

J. WHEREAS, Dr. Chinn acknowledges that the Board had a reasonable basis to believe that the statutes and/or regulations regulating the practice of Osteopathic Medicine in the State of Nevada may have been violated.

K. WHEREAS, in order to resolve the matter prior to it becoming a disciplinary proceeding and to save further costs and expenses, Dr. Chinn has elected to enter into this Agreement to resolve this matter, and this matter only.

L. WHEREAS, Dr. Chinn acknowledges that once accepted by the Board, this Agreement and all associated documentation become a matter of public record (with the exception of medical information related to the patient).

M. WHEREAS, Dr. Chinn has had the opportunity to obtain the advice from competent counsel of her choice concerning the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the execution thereof. No coercion has been exerted upon Dr. Chinn, nor have any
promises been made other than those reflected in this Agreement. Dr. Chinn freely and voluntarily entered into this agreement, motivated only by a desire to resolve the issues addressed herein. Dr. Chinn has executed this Agreement only after a careful reading of it and a full understanding of all its terms.

N. WHEREAS, Dr. Chinn is fully aware of her rights to contest the charges pending against him. These rights include: representation by an attorney at her own expense, the right to a public hearing on any charges or allegations filed, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses called to testify against her, the right to present evidence on her own behalf, the right to compulsory process to secure the attendance of such witnesses, the right to testify on her own behalf, the right to receive written findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting the decision on the merits of the complaint and the right to obtain judicial review of the Board’s decision. Should the Board accept this Agreement, Dr. Chinn voluntarily waives these rights.

O. WHEREAS, this Agreement and Order shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada.

P. WHEREAS, this Agreement and Order contains a complete description of the agreement between the parties and it supersedes any previous agreements between the parties. All material representations, understandings and promises of the parties are contained in this Agreement. Any modifications must be set forth in writing, signed by all the parties, and approved by the Board.

III. TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT

A. Dr. Chinn acknowledges that the failure to report allegations are true, and each such failure to timely report is a violation of NRS chapter 633 and discipline is permissible under Nevada law. In exchange for the Board not pursuing an administrative action and Dr. Chinn not pursuing subsequent reviews by the appropriate appellate Courts, the parties have agreed to resolve the current matter, and only this matter. Dr. Chinn will henceforth insure that all lawsuits involving her will be timely and accurately reported to the Board, and the failure to do so may result in the Board bringing a disciplinary action against the osteopathic medical license issued by the Board to Dr. Chinn. If any lawsuit is not reported to the Board, such will be in violation of this agreement as well as the applicable statutes. THE BOARD ACKNOWLEDGES, AND THE PARTIES DO HEREBY AGREE, THAT A DISCIPLINARY ACTION WILL NOT AND HAS NOT BEEN FILED BY THE BOARD; AND THAT THE PARTIES HAVE SIMPLY AGREED TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE FINE BEING ASSESSED SOLELY FOR THE NON-REPORTING VIOLATION, I.E., NOT FOR ANY-ALLEGATIONS REGARDING UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND/OR REGARDING THE PHYSICIAN’S COMPETENCY.

B. Dr. Chinn agrees to pay the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars ($750.00) as the fine imposed for having violated NRS 633.527(1) for the failure to timely report the settlement of the lawsuit. This sum includes all fees and costs incurred by the Board up to and including the approval of this settlement agreement by the Board at its next scheduled board meeting pursuant to NAC 633.470(2)(b)(6). Such amount shall be payable in monthly installments of $______ each with the first payment being due on the ______ day of ____________, 2010, and a like payment being due on the ____ day of each month thereafter until said amount is paid in full.
C. Should Dr. Chinn fail to satisfy and pay the indebtedness of $750.00 in a timely manner as discussed herein, Dr. Chinn understands and agrees that she will be considered in default of this Agreement, and this agreement will be null and void, with the Respondent receiving credit for payments made to date. The Board may take whatever action it deems appropriate, including but not limited to reducing the balance to judgment pursuant to NRS chapter 353C.

D. The Respondent, Dr. Chinn, agrees to bear her own fees and costs, including the fees and expenses of her own attorney(s) if applicable.

E. This Agreement and Order shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon each of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, personal representatives, assigns and successors in interest of each party.

F. This Agreement and Order shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada.

G. This settlement agreement consists of six (6) pages and embodies the entire agreement between the Board and the osteopathic physician. It may not be altered, amended or modified without the express consent of the parties, and any subsequent alteration, amendment, or modification shall be in writing and subject to approval by the Board.

H. In consideration for the execution of this Agreement, Dr. Chinn hereby releases and forever discharges the State of Nevada, the Board of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Nevada State Attorney General's Office (as counsel for the Board), and each of their representatives, investigators, and employees, in their individual and representative capacity (collectively the State of Nevada Agencies) from any and all manner of actions, causes of actions, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims, and demands whatsoever known or unknown, in law and in equity, that he may have had, now has, may have had, or claim to have against any and all of the persons and entities named in this paragraph arising out of, or by reason of, the investigation of the allegations raised in this matter, including those noted in the administrative complaint on file herein, and other matters relating thereto.

I. Dr. Chinn, for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, hereby indemnifies and holds harmless the State of Nevada, the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, the Nevada Attorney General's office and each of their members, agents and employees in their individual and representative capacities against any and all claims, suits, demands, actions, debts, damages, costs, charges, and expenses, including court costs and attorney's fees against any persons or entities as well as all liability, losses, and damages of any nature whatsoever that the persons and entities named in this paragraph shall have or may at any time sustain or suffer by reason of this investigation, this settlement or its administration.

J. This document may be prepared in multiple counterparts. Each counterpart, whether it be originally typed, a carbon, photocopy, facsimile or other type of copy, shall be deemed an original hereof if executed by each of the Parties hereto.
K. LASTLY, by executing this agreement, Respondent Physician hereby expressly, knowingly, and intentionally waive the 21-working days notice requirement pursuant to Nevada’s Open Meeting Laws and acknowledges that this Agreement shall be on the agenda for the Board’s approval in the month of MARCH.

MELISSA CHINN, D.O.

Osteopathic Physician

Dated: 2/12/10

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

BY: S. Paul Edwards, Esq.
Investigating Board Member

Dated:

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

By: Dianna Hegeduis, Executive Director -
Board Counsel

Dated: 2-16-2010

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On this the 12th day of February, 2010, the said MELISSA CHINN, D.O., personally appeared before me, a notary public, and signed the above document, freely and voluntarily, under no duress.

Cara Gass Ander
Notary Public

ORDER OF THE BOARD

IT IS SO ORDERED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that should Dr. Chinn fail to comply with any terms or conditions of this Agreement, Dr. Chinn will be in breach of this Agreement; and this Agreement will be null and void. The Board may take whatever action it deems appropriate,
K. LASTLY, by executing this agreement, Respondent Physician hereby expressly, knowingly, and intentionally waive the 21-working days notice requirement pursuant to Nevada’s Open Meeting Laws and acknowledges that this Agreement shall be on the agenda for the Board’s approval in the month of ________________, 2010.

MELISSA CHINN, D.O.

____________________________________
Osteopathic Physician
Dated: _______________________________

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

BY: S. Paul Edwards, Esq.
Investigating Board Member
Dated: 2/27/2010

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

By: Dianna Hegeduis, Executive Director - Board Counsel
Dated: _______________________________

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
On this the _____ day of ________________, 20__, the said MELISSA CHINN, D.O., personally appeared before me, a notary public, and signed the above document, freely and voluntarily, under no duress.

____________________________________
Notary Public

ORDER OF THE BOARD

IT IS SO ORDERED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that should Dr. Chinn fail to comply with any terms or conditions of this Agreement, Dr. Chinn will be in breach of this Agreement; and this Agreement will be null and void. The Board may take whatever action it deems appropriate,
including but not limited to proceeding with the administrative action against Dr. Chinn.

Should this Agreement become null and void by Dr. Chinn’s failure to comply with terms or
conditions of this Agreement, the Board may not only pursue an administrative action against
Dr. Chinn, but the Board may also seek the maximum fees, fines, and costs.

DATED this 29th day of March, 2010.

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

BY: Dr. Daniel K. Curtis, Chairman/President of the Board