

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

United States District Court  
Northern District of Florida

Case Number: 4:22-cv-00325-RH-MAF

August Dekker, et al.

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Jason Weida, et al.

Defendants:

\_\_\_\_\_ /

VIDEOCONFERENCE DEPOSITION OF  
JASON WEIDA

DATE: April 24, 2023

TIME: 3:00 p.m. - 6:31 p.m.

LOCATION: 119 South Monroe Street, Suite 500  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

REPORTED BY: John Bilich, Notary Public

JOB NO.: 5884626

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

A P P E A R A N C E S

By Videoconference:  
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP  
BY: Gary J. Shaw, Esquire  
1200 Seventeenth Street  
NW Washington, DC 20036  
gary.shaw@pillsburylaw.com

By Videoconference:  
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP  
BY: Jennifer G. Altman, Esquire,  
BY: Marcus Jude Andre Leonard, Esquire  
600 Brickell Avenue, Suite 3100  
Miami, Florida 33131  
Jennifer.Altman@pillsburylaw.com  
marcus.leonard@pillsburylaw.com

Appearing in Person:  
Holtzman Vogel Baran Torchinsky & Josefiak, PLLC  
BY: Gary V Perko, Esquire  
119 South Monroe Street, Suite 500  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
gperko@holtzmanvogel.com

By Videoconference:  
Lambda Legal  
BY: Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, Esquire  
120 Wall Street, 19TH Floor  
New York, NY 10005  
ogonzalez-pagan@lambdalegal.org

Appearing in Person:  
Holtzman Vogel Baran Torchinsky & Josefiak, PLLC  
BY: Michael Robert Beato, Esquire  
BY: Mohammad Jazil, Esquire  
BY: Gary V. Perko, Esquire  
119 South Monroe Street, Suite 500  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
mbeato@holtzmanvogel.com  
mjazil@holtzmanvogel.com  
gperko@holtzmanvogel.com

1 By Videoconference:  
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration  
2 BY: Andrew Sheeran, Esquire  
2727 Mahan Drive MS #3  
3 Tallahassee, FL 32308  
andrew.sheeran@ahca.myflorida.com

4  
5 By Videoconference:  
Southern Legal Counsel  
6 BY: Chelsea Dunn, Esquire  
BY: Simone Chriss, Esquire  
7 1229 NW 12th Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601  
8 Chelsea.Dunn@southernlegal.org  
Simone.Chriss@southernlegal.org

9  
10  
11  
12 Also Present:  
13 Thomas Thomas, Videographer  
14 Anna Gonzalez, Paralegal (By Video Conference)  
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP

15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1 A No.

2 Q Do you recall being in attendance at a  
3 meeting with officials from the governor's office  
4 and people from the Florida Department of Health, as  
5 well as people from AHCA prior to April 20th of  
6 2022?

7 A Not -- may I ask you a clarifying  
8 question?

9 Q Yes, of course.

10 A Okay. Regarding gender-related issues?

11 Q Correct. Well, gender dysphoria and  
12 transgender issues in particular, not gender issues  
13 generally.

14 A Right, I just want to make sure, because  
15 we have a lot of meetings and I have met with the  
16 Department of Health in the past on a range of  
17 topics. But with respect to the topics at issue in  
18 this lawsuit, I do not recall being at a meeting  
19 with all of those individuals.

20 Q Do you recall being in a meeting with some  
21 subset of those individuals?

22 A Yes, I do.

23 Q Okay. When was that?

24 A I don't have an exact date, but I believe  
25 it would have been early April.

1 Q Who was present in the meeting?

2 A So in addition to myself -- well, I want  
3 to be -- I just want to be clear here. So I  
4 remember two such meetings, and I don't remember  
5 exactly who was at one meeting versus the other, but  
6 I can tell you who I remember being at both of those  
7 meetings cuz I know that there was at least one  
8 person and possibly more who was at one, but not  
9 both, and I just don't remember which ones those  
10 were. But I can just tick through the whole list if  
11 that's okay with you?

12 Q Fair enough. Before you do that, was the  
13 other meeting -- you mentioned that one meeting was  
14 early April. Was the other meeting in March, or was  
15 the other meeting after the meeting in early April?

16 A I believe it was after the meeting in  
17 early April.

18 Q So, as you recall today, you had a meeting  
19 in early April and then a meeting after that  
20 meeting, correct?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q All right. So let's start with, tell me  
23 everyone that you can remember that was in those  
24 meetings collectively, since you can't remember who  
25 was in which one.

1           A     Right.  So, collectively, obviously  
2     without representing that they were all there for  
3     both, the people that I remember being at one or the  
4     other, or possibly both of those meetings, were  
5     secretary Marstiller, who was the secretary of the  
6     Agency for Healthcare Administration at the time.  
7     Cody Farrill, who was the chief of staff at the  
8     Agency for Healthcare Administration at the time,  
9     Josie Tamayo, who was the General Counsel for the  
10    Agency for Healthcare Administration at the time.  
11    Andrew Sheeran, who at the time was the chief  
12    litigation counsel.  He worked for Josie Tamayo.  
13    He's our current General Counsel, but at the time he  
14    was the chief litigation counsel.  I recall Ryan  
15    Newman being present.  Ryan is and was at the time  
16    the governor's General Counsel.  And at one or both  
17    of those meetings, Katie Strickland, who is the  
18    deputy chief of staff for the governor, one of the  
19    deputy chiefs of staff.  And I also recall Maureen  
20    Furino, although I don't remember if she was present  
21    or just called in.  I think she might have called  
22    into the meeting.  So I don't think she was  
23    technically present.

24           Q     And who is she?

25           A     She is a deputy General Counsel.  She

1 worked for Mr. Newman.

2 Q Okay. Anyone else you recall being there?

3 A Not that I can recall.

4 Q Who called the meeting?

5 A I don't know who --

6 Q -- organized -- (Talking simultaneously.)

7 [Inaudible].

8 A I don't know.

9 Q How did you find out you were going to be  
10 there, or needed in the meeting?

11 A I believe I was invited by somebody from  
12 the agency management team at the Agency for  
13 Healthcare Administration. I just don't remember  
14 who that would've been.

15 Q What were you told the meeting was going  
16 to be about?

17 A I was told the meeting was going to be  
18 about recent guidance that had been issued by the  
19 United States Department of Health and Human  
20 Services regarding treatments for gender dysphoria.

21 Q And do you recall who told you that?

22 A No, I don't.

23 Q Do you recall, did you get a calendar  
24 invitation for the meeting?

25 A I don't recall. It was about a year ago,

1 Q Yes.

2 A So, I don't have the full list in front of  
3 me, but my understanding is that there are, I don't  
4 know exactly how many, but several coverage policies  
5 in the Bureau of Medicaid policy that provide for  
6 various mental health and behavioral health services  
7 for the treatment of gender dysphoria.

8 Q What analysis was done to determine  
9 whether or not there's any evidence that  
10 psychotherapy or behavioral health therapy on its  
11 own is an appropriate treatment for gender  
12 dysphoria?

13 A Well, the GAPMS report focused on the  
14 procedures that are described in the current rule.  
15 The GAPMS report did not focus on, directly at least  
16 behavioral health services. So that was not part of  
17 the GAPMS process or the review.

18 Q Has any analysis been done to determine  
19 whether or not psychotherapy or behavioral health  
20 therapy alone is an appropriate treatment for gender  
21 dysphoria?

22 A I don't know the answer to that question.

23 Q Shouldn't you know the answer to that  
24 question? Is if that's the only thing that's  
25 covered for gender dysphoria, shouldn't you know, as