

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
3 TALLAHASSEE DIVISION

4 AUGUST DEKKER, et al.)

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6 vs.) NO. 4:22-CV-00325-RH-MAF

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12 VIDEOCONFERENCE DEPOSITION OF
13 G. KEVIN DONOVAN, M.D., M.A.
14 LOCATED IN SAND SPRINGS, OKLAHOMA
15 TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS
16 ON MARCH 22, 2023

18 REPORTED BY: JANA C. HAZELBAKER, CSR

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1 web page of the Catholic Medical Association?

2 A I don't think so.

3 Q So the website states that, "The following
4 are resolutions accepted as positions at the Catholic
5 Medical Association."

6 And we're going to jump to the resolutions
7 that are listed in the topic of "Family and Sexual
8 Education." Specifically I'm going to look at
9 Resolution 8-12, which is a resolution on transgender
10 treatments.

11 Resolution 8-12 reads that, "The Catholic
12 Medical Association does not support the use of any
13 hormones, hormone-blocking agents, or surgery in all
14 human persons for the treatment of gender dysphoria."

15 Were you aware of this resolution of the
16 Catholic Medical Association?

17 A No. As I've mentioned, I'm not a member of
18 the Catholic Medical Association.

19 Q And if you --

20 A I wasn't aware of this.

21 Q You weren't aware of this?

22 A No.

23 Q If you had been aware of this, would it
24 have changed your decision to publish in the Catholic
25 Medical Association's official journal?

1 A Well, I -- I imagine that I would probably
2 be pleased if anybody agrees with me.

3 Q So are your beliefs aligned with this
4 resolution?

5 A I don't know because I haven't seen the
6 full text of it. I just see a title there.

7 Q So this is the full text of the resolution.
8 The title is "8-12: Resolution on Transgender
9 Treatments." And then it says "Be it resolved."

10 A Well, then, that does sound reasonable.

11 Q Okay. And then if we move down to
12 Resolution 8-13, which is the "Resolution on Gender
13 Dysphoria," it reads, "Be it resolved that the
14 Catholic Medical Association and its members reject
15 all policies that condition all persons with gender
16 dysphoria to accept as normal a life of chemical and
17 surgical impersonation of the opposite sex. Further,
18 that the use of puberty-blocking hormones and
19 cross-sex hormones and surgical reassignment surgery
20 be rejected."

21 Were you aware of this resolution of the
22 Catholic Medical Association?

23 A No. Like I said, I've never seen this page
24 before and I don't know if any of these were ever
25 adopted.

1 Q These are on the website of the Catholic
2 Medical Association as adopted resolutions.

3 A Okay.

4 Q I'll represent that to you. And so if you
5 had been aware of this resolution, would it have
6 impacted your decision to publish in The Linacre
7 Quarterly, the Catholic Medical Association's
8 official publication?

9 A No.

10 Q And are your beliefs around the treatment
11 of gender dysphoria aligned with this
12 Resolution 8-13?

13 A I would not have used this language, but I
14 don't have severe disagreements with it.

15 Q Okay. At this point we're going to turn
16 back to what has been marked as Plaintiffs'
17 Exhibit 1. And that is your report, which is not on
18 my screen anymore, so I'm going to have to stop that
19 share again.

20 (Document is displayed).

21 This, we already identified, as the expert
22 declaration that was provided, written by you and
23 provided to plaintiffs by the defendants in the
24 lawsuit that brings us here today, Dekker versus
25 Weida.

1 by your terminology. So you say that you "have
2 studied issues surrounding transgender patients."
3 Specifically, what issues related to transgender
4 patients have you studied?

5 A Well, I think that the things that I have
6 read about and been concerned about exactly parallel
7 those that you see in the younger patients, as well,
8 in terms of the concept, the diagnosis and the
9 treatment and the results.

10 Q So can you estimate how many times you've
11 been consulted on issues specific to transgender
12 patients?

13 A No. I mean, these are not formal
14 consultations, these are discussions.

15 Q I'm sorry. So going back to your role
16 providing ethical consultations, either -- I guess at
17 Georgetown would have been primarily the period of
18 time we're talking about. Can you estimate how many
19 of those ethical consults would have related to
20 transgender patients?

21 A None of the hospital consults related to
22 transgender patients as transgender patients.

23 Q So you've not given an ethical consult with
24 regard to patient care for a patient that was
25 transgender?

1 A Not for an individual patient, no.

2 Q And that extends to both children and
3 adults?

4 A Correct.

5 Q Moving on to Paragraph 11 where you say,
6 "For ethical as well as medical reasons, I have never
7 prescribed medications nor referred for surgery any
8 patients that consider themselves transgender."

9 These medical reasons you reference --
10 going back to your specialty, you're a pediatric
11 gastroenterologist. We've established that. That's
12 right, right? Is that right?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Did any of your pediatric gastroenterology
15 patients identify as transgender, to your knowledge?

16 A No --

17 Q To your knowledge --

18 A -- not to my knowledge.

19 Q Oh, I'm sorry, I cut you off again. I
20 apologize.

21 What were you saying?

22 A I just said "not to my knowledge."

23 Q To your knowledge, have any of your
24 pediatric gastroenterology patients been diagnosed
25 with gender dysphoria?

1 A Not to my knowledge.

2 Q Have you ever prescribed a medication to a
3 patient in your role as a bioethicist?

4 A That's not the role of a bioethicist.

5 Q Okay. I just wanted to confirm that.

6 Do bioethicists treat medical conditions
7 with surgical referrals?

8 A That's not the role of the bioethicist.

9 Q Okay. When you -- so turning back to
10 Paragraph 11, when you refer to ethical reasons that
11 you don't prescribe medications, is that because your
12 activities as a bioethicist are informed by your
13 Catholic faith?

14 A No, it's because I think that it's
15 unethical.

16 Q Do you think that it's unethical because
17 it's not consistent with the ERDs that we talked
18 about as Plaintiffs' Exhibit 4?

19 A No, I think it's unethical on the face of
20 it. I don't think you have to be Catholic, Muslim,
21 Jewish, or none of the above to come to the same
22 conclusions.

23 Q In Paragraph 12 you say that, "None of your
24 opinions are biased by professional income."

25 The entirety of your career in medicine