

**ALASKA STATE MEDICAL BOARD**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024**

**DRAFT - AGENDA**

Only authorized members will be permitted to remain in the Board/Zoom room during executive / deliberative sessions.

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82062766008?pwd=tpJcCQouvP9KoxJfywVXViG5hwt9o2.1>

**Agenda**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 4:00 p.m. | 1. Call to Order / Roll Call – Dr. Nimmo, Chair  |
| 4:02 p.m. | 2. Review / Approval of Agenda   |
| 4:05 p.m. | 3. Investigations Update – Executive Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Case: 2023-000030</li></ul>                                     |
| 4:20 p.m. | 4. Strategic Goals and Priorities - Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposal to designate E.A. to approve Full licenses</li></ul> |
| 5:20 p.m. | 5. Annual Report – Review and Approval   |
| 5:45 p.m. | 6. Physician Assistant Work Group  |
| 6:00 p.m. | 7. Applicant Review  |
| 6:15 p.m. | 8. Wrap up / Adjourn   |

**Board Members:**

Eric Nimmo, MD  
(Chair)

Sarah Bigelow-Hood,  
PA-C (Vice-Chair)

Lydia Mielke  
Public Member  
(Secretary)

David Barnes, DO

Matt Heilala, DPM

David Paulson, MD

Brent Taylor, MD

David Wilson  
Public Member

**Upcoming Meetings:**

August 9, 2024

November 8, 2024  
(Tentative)

Alaska State Medical Board Goals FY 2024

Guiding Principles	Goals	Strategies	*Example Ideas / Activities / Needs
Public Safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ensure appropriate regulations are in place and enforced.</li> <li>2) Ensure practitioners receive the health services they need to maintain safe practice.</li> <li>3) Address unsafe procedures and emerging issues in the practice of medicine that pose threats to patients</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Continue to examine existing regulations related to the safe practice of medicine and revise regulations as needed.</li> <li>1.2 Prioritize timely investigative reviews/explore additional resources for expert consultation.</li> <li>2.1 Continue to partner with the Physician Health Committee to support rehabilitative services for licensees</li> <li>3.1 Issue position statements / practice guidance on special topics</li> </ol>	<p>The Physician Assistant regulations must be revised.</p> <p>Issue a statement on gender-affirming treatment for minors.</p> <p>Issue a statement on insurance restrictions on physician care.</p> <p>Explore ways to fix the problem of licensees failing to register for the PDMP.</p> <p>Explore Updating CME requirements.</p> <p>Explore creating a telemedicine license apart from full medical license.</p> <p>Establish new guidelines for malpractice review (settlement threshold, cluster of cases during certain timeframe, etc.)</p> <p>Explore updating regulations related to Physician-Pharmacy agreements</p> <p>No definition of “physician-patient relationship” exists in regulation under the medical board.</p> <p>“Medical Spas” are emerging as a popular business model, concerns about public safety have been raised; these business and their services are unregulated in Alaska. The division is exploring the need for regulations/the board will be asked to assist/endorse</p>

## Alaska State Medical Board Goals FY 2024

<p>Customer Service</p>	<p>4) Ensure the licensing process is <b>thorough</b>, timely, efficient, and equitable.</p>	<p>3.1 Continue to work with stakeholders to explore and address strategies to make the licensure process efficient. This will include continued work on regulation changes, and revisions to license applications.</p> <p>3.2 Implement processes for more frequent approvals for full licensure</p>	<p>Consider adopting new processes for how full licenses are approved.</p> <p><b>Consider short monthly meetings at a regular time (example – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 4:00 – 4:30) to approve applications and small administrative issues.</b></p> <p><b>Consider approaching the legislature to change statute to increase board membership to decrease work load on individual members.</b></p> <p>Consider adopting changes to how malpractice cases are reviewed</p> <p>Consider adopting a consistent approach to reviewing professional fitness questions.</p>
<p>Communication/Public Engagement</p>	<p>5) Engage in effective communication to promote transparency.</p> <p>6) Engage with other Boards/entities to leverage advocacy on priority issues.</p>	<p>4.1 Maintain accuracy of website</p> <p>4.2 Promote and Utilize List-Service</p> <p>5.1 <b>Delegate Board Liaison(s) to the Legislature; authorize delegates to testify and be a resource on proposed legislation.</b></p>	<p>The Med Board has been asked to work with the Board of Pharmacy to address opioid shortages.</p>
<p>Others?</p>			

Department of Commerce, Community  
and Economic Development

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Division of Corporations, Business  
and Professional Licensing

## **Alaska State Medical Board**

### **Annual Report**

Fiscal Year 2024



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

P.O. Box 110806  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806  
Email: [License@Alaska.Gov](mailto:License@Alaska.Gov)

*This report is required under Alaska Statute 08.01.070(10).*

**Program Name  
FY 2024 Annual Report**

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**Board Membership (as of the Date This Report was Approved)**

**Date of Final Board Approval:** Click or tap to enter a date.

Eric Nimmo, MD  
Board Chair

Sarah Bigelow Hood, PA-C  
Vice-Chair

Lydia Mielke, Public Member  
Board Secretary

David Barnes, DO

Matt Heilala, DPM

David Paulson, MD

Brent Taylor, MD

David Wilson, Public Member

**Program Name**  
**FY 2024 Annual Report**

**Accomplishments**

The Alaska State Medical Board (ASMB) is responsible for protecting the public through the licensing, regulation, and discipline of allopathic and osteopathic physicians, podiatrists, and physician assistants. The Board establishes and evaluates competency standards for applicants to practice medicine in Alaska.

During FY2024 the Board explored joining the Interstate License Medical Compact (ILMC). After considerable review, discussion and listening to presentations, the Board opted to proceed with multiple regulation changes aimed at in-house efficiencies and streamlining the licensure process, rather than to endorse the ILMC. These proposed changes are still being worked through the regulatory change process.

The Board finalized a regulation package aimed at modernizing the practice of physician assistants. Oral and public comments were received on the proposed changes. After reviewing the public comments, the Board voted to table the regulation project and form a new work group consisting of State Medical Board members, Alaska Physician Assistant Academy Board members, and other members of the public to continue to discuss and identify new recommended changes to the regulations. The work of the appointed group was tabled during the 2024 legislative session.

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**Activities**

During FY 2024, The Alaska State Medical Board met 10 times, including 4 quarterly meetings and 6 special meetings. A significant amount of time was spent considering potential board actions to address violations by licensees and reviewing the process by which board members arrive at such decisions. The Board received two trainings and held multiple discussions on the role of Reviewing Board Members in the deliberative process.

Board Investigators received and opened 128 new investigative cases and closed 138 cases on behalf of the Medical Board during this fiscal year. Out of those 138 cases, 100 cases were referred to board members to review and make recommendations. Licensed board members are tasked with reviewing all case documents (medical records, interviews, documents, etc.) and making recommendations to resolve the matter, which may include either no further action or imposing a sanction on the licensee. In cases that involve standard of care violations, two licensed board members must review the case to ensure a thorough review is completed. Standard of Care violations, comprising 20% of the cases brought to the board, were the most common types of violations; while violations of reporting requirements and failing to meet continuing education requirements were the next most common types of violations.

The Board reviewed 24 malpractice cases reported by licensees, screening for gross negligence and avoidable patient harm. Following their case review, licensees were notified regarding recommended follow up actions.

The Medical Board continues to experience a high volume of applicants, a trend that began in 2020 and continues as the practice of telemedicine becomes increasingly ubiquitous in Alaska.

During FY 2024 (July 1, 2023, through June 20, 2024), the board issued 901 licenses, including:

- 632 allopathic physicians
- 87 osteopathic physicians
- 0 podiatrists
- 48 residents
- 2 locum tenens
- 80 physician assistants
- 4 military courtesy licenses

Every complete application is reviewed by a licensed Board member prior to the applicant being approved for a permanent (renewable) license.

Licensing staff compile and review applications for completeness and accuracy. In addition to the 901 license applications completed in FY24, at any given time there are also approximately 300 license applications in various stages of completions for which staff are monitoring and working with applicants to complete.



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**Needs**

Board members continue to cite the crushing work load put on them due to the high volume of investigative cases and application reviews as being unsustainable. As unpaid volunteers, with numerous other professional and personal obligations, many worry about not being able to commit to their four year appointments. The board continues to explore options for how to address these issues.

## New Physician Assistant Work Group - Background

At the request of the AK Physician Assistant Academy, the Medical Board and the academy formed a work group which met during late 2021 and intermittently throughout 2022 to revise/modernize the existing physician assistant regulations. The board approved a version of these proposed changes in early 2023 which were then sent to Law for review. Law took several months to review and based on their recommendations, further revisions were made by Dr. Wein and approved by the board in August 2023. This version was submitted for public comment in September 2023.

After reviewing the public comments, during the November 2023 meeting, the board voted to table the regulation project and form a new work group consisting of State Medical Board members, Alaska Physician Assistant Academy Board members, and other member of the public to continue to discuss and identify new recommended changes to the regulations. Ms. Norberg solicited Statements of Interest from individuals interested in joining the new work group. Twenty-one responses were received. Responses were reviewed and nine individuals (see list below\*) were selected and approved through a ballot process by the board in January 2024. In February 2024, the board declined to add additional members to the work group, as requested by the Medical Association; and noting the traction of SB 115 in the legislature, the board tabled the work group during the legislative session. Now that the legislative session is over and SB 115 did not pass, the Board must decide:

- 1) Whether to “untable” the work group and commission it to begin work on proposing new changes.
- 2) Whether to keep the previously selected work group members or re-solicit for all new members.
- 3) If the board chooses to keep the existing membership, how to fill the vacancy left by Dr. Gibson, who informed Ms. Norberg he is no longer able to serve on the committee.

List of selected workgroup members from January 2024:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Sarah Bigelow-Hood, PA-C	Medical Board
Matt Heilala, DPM	Medical Board
Pam Ventgen	AK Medical Assoc Board
Jenny Fayette, PA-C	APAA Board
Meghan Hall, PA-C	APAA Board
Elizabeth Roll, MD	Tribal Health/Rural AK Provider
Robert Gibson, MD	Tribal Health/Rural AK Provider
Candace Hickel, PA-C	Member from the public
John Riley, PA-C	Member from the public

**17. Applicant Review / Full License Approvals**

	<b>Lic Type</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
1.	MD	Kyle	Bonar
2.	PA	Jennifer	Brooks
3.	PA	Lisette	Carrera
4.	MD	Dawn	Clancy
5.	DO	Kelsey	Flynn
6.	MD	Lilian	Holloway
7.	DO	Patrick	Moran
8.	MD	Khalid	Mughal
9.	DO	Frias	Naji
10.	MD	Laura	Nason
11.	MD	Emil	Sanchez
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			