

1 STATE OF ALASKA
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
3 DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS, AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
4

5 STATE MEDICAL BOARD
6 MINUTES OF MEETING
7 Thursday June 13, 2024
8

9 *These are DRAFT minutes prepared by staff of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional*
10 *Licensing. They have not been reviewed or approved by the Board.*
11

12 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a special meeting of
13 the Alaska State Medical Board was held Thursday, June 13, 2024.
14

15 **1. Call to Order/ Roll Call**

16 The meeting was called to order by Chair Nimmo at 4:02 p.m.
17

18 **Roll Call**

19 Board members present:

20 Eric Nimmo, MD, Chair
21 David Barnes, DO
22 Matt Heilala, DPM
23 Lydia Mielke, Public Member (Secretary)
24 Brent Taylor, MD (New)
25

26 State employees present:

27 Sonia Lipker, Senior Investigator, Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator, Jason Kaeser, Licensing
28 Supervisor
29

30 Board members, David Wilson, joined the meeting at 4:11 p.m., David Paulson joined at 4:22 p.m. and
31 Sarah Bigelow Hood joined at 4:25 p.m.
32

33 **2. Review / Approval of Agenda**
34

35 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Dr. Barnes, the Alaska State Medical**
36 **Board approved by roll call vote the agenda as presented.**
37

38 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, and Dr. Taylor
39 Absent: Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Paulson and Mr. Wilson
40

41 **3. Investigations Update**
42

43 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and approved by a roll call**
44 **vote, the Alaska State Medical Board entered executive session under AS 44.62.310(c)(2) & (3)**
45 **involving Division case #2023-000030 with Investigations and Board staff remaining in the**
46 **session and the reviewing board member abstaining from the session.**
47

48 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, and Dr. Taylor
49 Absent: Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Paulson and Mr. Wilson

1
2 The Board entered executive session at 4:06 p.m. The Board exited executive session at 4:25 p.m.
3

4 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
5 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board decided to table the imposition of a civil fine and**
6 **request a voluntary suspension of license involving Division case #2023-000030.**
7

8 Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr. Paulson, Dr.
9 Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.

10 Abstained: Dr. Barnes
11

12 **4. Strategic Goals and Priorities**

13
14 Chair Nimmo introduced this topic, referencing the *Goals and Priorities* document drafted by Ms.
15 Norberg, which includes a compilation of former Board priorities and strategies and new strategies
16 identified by board members through an online survey process.
17

18 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Dr. Barnes, and approved by roll call vote,**
19 **the Alaska State Medical Board approved the 2024 board priorities, goals and strategies as**
20 **presented.**
21

22 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr.
23 Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
24

25 Sarah Bigelow Hood requested an additional priority be added to the list: The board's advocacy for a
26 statutory change related to eliminating the requirement to respond to subpoena requests only by
27 telephone and adding the ability to respond through an email.
28

29 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Dr. Barnes, and approved by roll call vote,**
30 **the Alaska State Medical Board decided to revise the 2024 board priorities, goals and**
31 **strategies to include advocating for statutory change related to the method for subpoena**
32 **responses.**
33

34 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. David Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo,
35 Dr. Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
36

37 Chair Nimmo recommended as a next step, the board rank the list of strategies in the order of their
38 perceived urgency or priority in order to help the board identify a timeline for pursuing its goals and
39 strategies.
40

41 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
42 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved to request the Executive Administrator to**
43 **poll board members for the purpose of ranking the list of board goals and strategies in priority**
44 **order.**
45

46 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr.
47 Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
48

1 Chair Nimmo asserted that two items should not wait to be prioritized and could be immediately
2 addressed by the board. The first of these issues being the consideration of establishing a regular, short,
3 monthly meeting for the purpose of addressing time-sensitive business items such as licensing
4 applications, investigative matters, or possibly interviews. Several board members spoke in favor of
5 adopting a regular, monthly meeting schedule, allowing for flexibility as needed.
6

7 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
8 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the implementation of a regular monthly**
9 **meeting schedule to address business that cannot wait until the quarterly meetings.**

10
11 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr.
12 Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
13

14 The second priority item raised by Dr. Nimmo was the matter related to the authorization of Board staff
15 to approve full licenses for applicants with clean records. At the last quarterly meeting the Board
16 approved the initiation of a regulation project aimed to address this matter. Ms. Norberg explained that
17 after a thorough examination, it was determined that the framework for this delegated authority
18 currently exists in statute and regulation and a new regulation project is not necessary. This goal may
19 be achieved through a Board motion.
20

21 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
22 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board granted Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator,**
23 **the authority to approve full licensure to applicants with a complete application and no “yes”**
24 **answers to professional fitness questions.**

25
26 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr.
27 Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
28

29 **5. Annual Report**

30 Chair Nimmo invited Ms. Norberg to introduce the draft Annual Report. Ms. Norberg explained that a
31 report containing a summary of the Board’s activities is required annually to the legislature. The report
32 must be approved by the board before it can be transmitted to the legislature. It was suggested that the
33 aforementioned statutory change, related to eliminating the requirement to respond to subpoena
34 requests only by telephone, be added under the “needs” section of the report. Additionally, the final
35 numbers of approved licenses will be updated just prior to the report’s submission to reflect the most
36 accurate statistics for the year.
37

38 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
39 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the FY 2024 draft annual report as**
40 **presented and with the amendments as discussed.**

41
42 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr.
43 Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
44

45 **6. Physician Assistant Work Group**

46 Chair Nimmo reminded board members that at the February 2024 board meeting the Physician
47 Assistant Work Group was tabled for the duration of the legislative session. Now that the legislative
48 session is over, the board must decide whether to 1) reconvene the work group; 2) maintain the existing

1 work group membership, and if so; 3) what to do about the two vacant work group positions. Ms.
2 Bigelow Hood asserted that there is still a strong public interest in having the regulations modernized.
3 Mr. Wilson asked for clarity regarding the key changes that need to be made for the regulations to be
4 “modernized.” Prescribing and scope of practice restrictions, remote practice rules and requirements for
5 an alternate collaborating physician were examples of topics previously identified as needing to be
6 updated. Several board members voiced support for reconvening the work group.
7

8 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood, and approved by roll**
9 **call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the reconvening of the Physician Assistant**
10 **for Work Group for the purpose of recommending changes to modernize existing regulations**
11 **and directed the Executive Administrator to solicit statements of interest from physicians who**
12 **may be interested in joining the work group to replace the physicians who dropped out.**
13

14 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Matt Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr.
15 Paulson, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Wilson.
16

17 7. Applicant Review

18
19 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Bigelow Hood and approved by**
20 **roll call vote, the Alaska State Medical Board approved the following list of applicants for**
21 **full licensure.**
22

23 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr.
24 Paulson, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson
25
26

	Lic Type	First Name	Last Name
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

27 8. Wrap up /Adjourn

28
29 Chair Nimmo opened the floor for board members to discuss the issue of the recusal of the Reviewing
30 Board Member’s participation in deliberative sessions; after noting that it appears the matter continues
31 to remain unresolved after the special legal training and discussion on this topic during the May 30
32 special board meeting. Board members reflected on their experiences as reviewing board members and
33 provided suggestions for ensuring the process is unbiased, defensible and protects the public. Some
34 members suggested that having increased access to legal council during deliberative sessions would
35 increase their confidence in the process and make them feel more comfortable about having the
36

1 Reviewing Board Member Excluded from sessions. In conclusion, Chair Nimmo summarized the
2 consensus of the board as being that Reviewing Board Members will be excluded from deliberative
3 sessions unless there are extraordinary circumstances.

4
5 The Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:46 p.m.

6
7

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