

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 December 19, 2024
8

9 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a special meeting of
10 the Alaska State Medical Board was held Thursday, December 19, 2024.
11

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

13 The meeting was called to order by Chair Nimmo at 4:00 p.m.
14

15 **Roll Call**

16 Board members present:

17 Eric Nimmo, MD, Chair
18 David Barnes, DO
19 Sarah Bigelow-Hood, Vice-Chair
20 Matt Heilala, DPM
21 Lydia Mielke, Public Member (Secretary)
22 Brent Taylor, MD
23 David Wilson, Public Member
24

25 Absent: David Paulson, MD and Brent Taylor, MD
26

27 State employees present:

28 Sylvan Robb, CBPL Director; Erika Prieksat, Chief Investigator; Sonia Lipker, Lead Investigator,
29 Kendra Wardlaw, Lead Investigator; Jason Kaeser, Licensing Supervisor; and Natalie Norberg, Executive
30 Administrator
31

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

34 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood, the Alaska State**
35 **Medical Board approved the agenda as presented.**
36

37 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow-Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr. Taylor,
38 and Mr. Wilson

39 Absent: Dr. Paulson and Dr. Taylor
40

41 **3. Investigations Update**
42

43 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood, the Alaska State**
44 **Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(4, for the**
45 **purpose of discussing Case#2023-000549 with Division staff remaining during the session.**
46

47 The Board entered executive session at 4:03 p.m. The Board returned on the record at 4:36 p.m.
48

49 Dr. Paulson joined the meeting at 4:24 p.m.
50

1 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood, the Alaska State**
2 **Medical Board decided against modifying the conditions of probation in Case#2023-000549 as**
3 **presented.**

4
5 Roll Call: Nays, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow-Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr. Paulson
6 and Mr. Wilson

7 Absent: Dr. Taylor
8

9 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood, the Alaska State**
10 **Medical Board entered into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(4, for the**
11 **purpose of discussing Case#2023-001091 with Division staff remaining during the session.**

12
13 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow-Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr. Paulson
14 and Mr. Wilson

15 Absent: Dr. Taylor
16

17 The Board entered executive session at 4:38 p.m. The Board returned on the record at 4:44 p.m.
18

19 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Mr. Wilson, the Alaska State Medical**
20 **Board accepted the consent agreement as proposed for Thomas Barale in Case#2023-001091.**
21 **It was noted that the Reviewing Board Member abstained from the executive session.**

22
23 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr. Paulson and Mr. Wilson

24 Abstained: Ms. Bigelow-Hood

25 Absent: Dr. Taylor
26

27 **4. Applicant Full Board Review**

28
29 It was reported that Mr. Ohlrich submitted all requested documents and was recommended for
30 licensure.

31
32 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood, the Alaska State**
33 **Medical Board approved Greg Ohlrich for a full license to practice as a physician assistant in**
34 **the State of Alaska.**

35
36 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow-Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, and Dr.
37 Paulson

38 Note: Internet connectivity issues prevented Mr. Wilson from casting a vote

39 Absent: Dr. Taylor
40

41 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood the Alaska State**
42 **Medical Board entered executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(2), and the**
43 **Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing the license**
44 **application for Sean Chang.**

45
46 The Board entered executive session at 4:49 p.m. The Board returned on the record at 4:54 p.m.
47

48 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood the Alaska State**
49 **Medical Board approved Dr. Sean Chang a full license to practice in the State of Alaska.**
50

1 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow-Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr. Paulson
2 and Mr. Wilson
3 Absent: Dr. Taylor
4

5 **5. Old Business - Telemedicine**

6 Chair Nimmo initiated a discussion regarding the 2022 FSMB guidelines Telemedicine. There was a lack
7 of consensus from board members regarding adopting the guidelines by reference into regulation.
8 Board members generally agreed that they would like to better understand the differences between the
9 2014 FSMB guidelines (which were adopted by reference into regulation and the 2022 guidelines. The
10 executive administrator agreed to prepare and provide this information to the Board at a future
11 meeting.
12

13 Dr. Brent Taylor joined the meeting at 5:07 p.m.
14

15 **6. New Business – Physician Pharmacy Agreement**

16 Chair Nimmo facilitated a discussion regarding a Cooperative Practice Agreement proposed by a group
17 of physicians and pharmacists affiliated with the Alaska Native Medical Center and Southcentral
18 Foundation. Board members voiced concerns regarding the broad scope of clinical activities outlined in
19 the plan to be delegated to pharmacists, which in essence appears to endorse pharmacists in the ability
20 to practice medicine. Board members questioned the legal basis for pharmacists to be granted such
21 abilities. It was also noted that the agreement appears to specifically lack language to prohibit the
22 pharmacists from administering or dispensing schedule I, II, II, or IV controlled substances, which
23 violates section 12 AAC 40.983 [c](11).
24

25 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood the Alaska State**
26 **Medical Board decided to table a decision regarding the approval of the proposed Cooperative**
27 **Practice Agreement and request the Executive Administrator to ask South Central Foundation**
28 **to bring their proposed agreement in compliance with existing regulation.**
29

30 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. Barnes, Ms. Bigelow-Hood, Dr. Heilala, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Nimmo, Dr. Paulson,
31 Dr. Taylor and Mr. Wilson
32

33 **6. Wrap up / Adjourn**

34 The next meeting will be on January 16, 2024, at 4:00 PM.
35

36 The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:05 p.m.
37