



# Medical Spa Services Work Group

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

## DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 4:00 PM AKDT via Teams

Website: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/MedicalSpaServicesWorkGroup>

Work Group members present: April Erickson, Ashley Schaber, Kenley Michaud, Shannon Thompson, David Paulson

Absent: Brian Larson

Staff present: Sara Chambers, facilitator; Shane Bannarbie, Natalie Norberg, Patty Wolf, Lacey Derr

Members of affiliated board present: Kevin McKinley, Mae Canady

### CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Chambers called the Work Group to order at 4:00 p.m., noted the roll, and welcomed staff and members of the public who were present.

She clarified the purpose of the Work Group:

- Identify “lifestyle enhancement” services that have a medical nexus and are currently performed or likely to be performed outside of a medical clinic or without appropriate supervision.
- Identify existing statutes and regulations that govern current requirements for training, licensure, and supervision of these procedures.
- Clarify how licensing boards could—jointly or in part—explain existing statutes and regulations that would help the public and licensees understand how these procedures should be safely administered according to the current laws of the state.
- Suggest changes in statute that would allow defensible and transparent pathways forward for appropriately trained and supervised individuals to provide these services without imposing undue economic or regulatory barriers.
- Carry forward Work Group updates and work products to the member boards for their subsequent review and action.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Jacqueline Polis, licensed esthetician, expressed her appreciation for the Work Group and stated concern that noninvasive procedures be allowed to be performed by estheticians.

Teesha Northcutt, licensed esthetician and owner of Skin Life Med Spa, also expressed her appreciation for the work being done and described her experience as a successful medical spa owner.

### REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE

The Work Group reviewed the letter and articles provided by the Northwest Society of Plastic Surgeons regarding medical spas, legal liability of practitioners, and Botox. Dr. Erickson raised concerns about the sponsorship of the article on legal liability and the potential for bias in the presentation and conclusions. She said she drew on her extensive training in reviewing scholarly and scientific work and found several flaws in the support for the data and its conclusions.

### ADVANCED ESTHETICS

The Work Group reviewed the Esthetics Procedures Continuum presented in the meeting materials, primarily discussing the two options for future legislative change: requiring continuing education for certain esthetics

procedures and a potential advanced esthetics license that would allow holders to practice certain procedures that currently require medical supervision if the procedure is within the scope of their training and education as determined by the board.

The Work Group looked at the Medical Board regulations on delegation; however, Dr. Paulson, being newly appointed to the work group, requested that topic be delayed until the next meeting. He joined the meeting around 4:30 p.m. just prior to this discussion and also declared that his wife is a nonpracticing licensed esthetician.

Dr. Schaber said that the Board of Pharmacy had recently worked on regulations regarding practice within a Standard of Care and suggested similar language could be used by the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers and other boards. This will allow safe, regulated practice without needing to express a list of every possible scenario in regulation. Dr. Michaud echoed the desire for broad yet measurable standards that don't inadvertently pin down regulators or restrict licensees.

**MOTION by Dr. Michaud to support the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers in seeking statutory changes to require continuing education for certain complex esthetics practices and a new license to allow people who have had training and education in advanced esthetics to practice without medical supervision.** Seconded by Dr. Erickson.

DISCUSSION: Mr. McKinley asked whether the group considered tattoo removal to be within the scope of a tattoo licensee. It may be unclear whether saline removal is considered "ablative" and likely a medical procedure. Members suggested the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers should take up that topic under their statutes and consider whether language changes are needed. Ms. Thompson mentioned that the concept of "tattoo lifting" may be a better way of describing the procedure when performed using saline instead of a laser.

Ms. Chambers reminded the Work Group that their vote on the motion is nonbinding and would result in a show of support to their fellow board. She expected any future legislative proposal could come back to the Work Group for their input and would urge the members to serve as emissaries to educate their boards on the learning and discussion on the subject matter. Boards would be encouraged to offer constructive feedback and collaboration, ideally leading to support for legislation that meets the needs of Alaskans.

**Upon a roll call vote, support for the motion was unanimous. MOTION PASSED.**

The Work Group set their next meeting for Friday, April 4, at 4:00 p.m. The topic would be a deep dive into Medical Board and Board of Nursing statutes and regulations pertaining to medical supervision and delegation to persons who are unlicensed or who do not have a license qualifying them to practice independently. Ms. Chambers said she would connect with Dr. Paulson and Dr. Erickson to discuss their roles in the presentation, with the ultimate goal of issuing combined guidance on the circumstances surrounding medical supervision or delegation of duties.

## **ADJOURN**

The Work Group adjourned at 5:19 p.m.