



AK PT/OT Board - Legislative Committee Mtg May 9, 2024 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
9:00 AM AKDT – 11:00 AM AKDT
Juneau - Zoom

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Members: Tina McLean and Enlow Walker

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2), and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled committee meeting of the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board was called to order at 9:03 am AKDT on Thursday, May 9, 2024 and Roll Call was done by Tina McLean. Present: Tina McLean. Absent Enlow Walker. No quorum of committee members to hold the meeting but as public members were present, Ms. McLean decided to hold public comment. Committee member Enlow Walker joined at 9:10 am.

Official roll call done at 9:18 am. Present Tina McLean and Enlow Walker. Quorum established to hold the committee meeting.

Staff present: Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner.

Guests: Cary S. Keller, MD, FACSM and Jim Kimball, Fairbanks.

2. Public Comment

Public comment period 9:04 am - 9:14 am - Cary S. Keller, MD, FACSM gave public comment regarding the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board's Letter of Opposition for HB336 - Athletic Trainer Bill. Dr. Keller disagrees with board letter submitted. See letter provided by Dr. Keller for testimony.

No other public comment given.

Committee member Enlow Walker joined at 9:10 am.

Action Items:

- Dr. Cary Keller to email testimony to physicalandoccupationaltherapy@alaska.gov
- Staff to forward testimony letter to full PHY board.

3. Review/Approve Agenda

Agenda accepted as submitted.

4. Approve Minutes 04-25-2024

Committee meeting minutes from 04-25-2024 approved as written. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

5. Action Items

A. Bill Monitoring:

- [HB137](#)* / [SB74](#)* - PT Compact - Hearing scheduled w/House Finance 5/3 at 1:30 pm; amendments 5/8 @ 1:30 pm; rescheduled to 5/8 at 4:00 pm; rescheduled to 5/9 at 10:00 am
- [HB85](#)* - Temp Permits
- [SB83](#)* - Temp Permits
- [HB314](#)* - Occupational Licensing Fees
- [SB225](#)* - Occupational Licensing Fees
- [HB187](#)* - Prior Auth Exempt for Health Providers
- [HB115](#)** - Naturopaths; Licensing; Practice
*PHY Board Letter of Support on record
**PHY Board Letter of Opposition on record

Status updates for each bill reviewed by the committee members.

B. Bill Discussion:

- [SB91](#) - Telehealth: Multidisciplinary Care Team - Hearing scheduled w/House Finance 5/7 @ 1:30 pm; rescheduled to 5/8 at 9:00 am; rescheduled to 5/9 @ 6:00 pm
- [HB336](#)** - Athletic Trainers Scope of Practice - Hearing scheduled w/House Labor & Commerce 5/10 @ 3:15 pm

Break held 9:31 am through 9:43 am. Recording restarted 9:43 am.

Roll call: Tina McLean and Enlow Walker present.

Guests:

Members reviewed/discussed testimony given by Dr. Cary Keller re: HB336. Difference of interpretation regarding language changes - no limitation on who athletic trainers could treat or in which environment as written. Understand need to broaden definition of "athlete" to more freely participate in clinical situations. Committee feels HB336 bill language as written would broaden scope to allow athletic trainer to practice medicine. Committee believes there is a need to redefine what an "athlete" is.

Dr. Keller was invited by committee members to give input. Discussed how to accomplish language that would be mutually acceptable to both physical therapy

and athletic trainers. Discussed possibility of PT Board established workgroup with PT state association + AT representatives (Lynn and Caroline) – time constraint due to current legislative session end date – to accomplish common language goals.

SB91 - Committee discussed concerns re: SB91 and reviewed draft letter of concern(s) for recommendation to the board. Committee approved draft letter of concern for SB91 to be forwarded to full board for consideration.

Action Items:

Staff to put draft letter of concern regarding SB91 Telehealth on letterhead and put in OnBoard for full PHY board review/vote.

- C. Strategic Plan - Goal 3.A - Enact Compact Licensure – monitoring HB137/SB74.
- D. Strategic Plan - Goal 3.C - Seek statutory change to add an Administrative Executive for the board – tabled for next legislative session.

6. Next Steps

- 1. Dr. Cary Keller to email in his public testimony to physicalandoccupationaltherapy@alaska.gov
- 2. Staff to forward public testimony to full PHY board as correspondence.
- 3. Staff to put draft letter of concern regarding SB91 Telehealth on letterhead and put in OnBoard for full PHY board review/vote to file for hearing today 5/9.
- 4. Tina McLean and staff to coordinate work group creation for ATH HB336 language changes.

7. Adjourn

The State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board Legislative Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am AKDT on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

Next meeting for PHY Legislative Committee scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Approved 02/14/2025 by unanimous vote.