

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Alaska Board of Pharmacy

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development Division of
Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
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Alaska Board of Pharmacy
FY 2023 Annual Report

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Identification of the Board

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Ashley Schaber, PharmD Pharmacist, Chair	Anchorage	July 1, 2021	March 1, 2024
James Henderson, RPh Pharmacist, Vice Chair	Soldotna	March 1, 2017	March 1, 2025
Ramsey Bell, RPh Pharmacist, Secretary	Anchorage	March 1, 2022	March 1, 2026
Carla Hebert, RPh Pharmacist	Anchorage	December 29, 2022	March 1, 2026
Sara Rasmussen Public Member	Anchorage	March 1, 2023	March 1, 2026
Vacant Pharmacist			
Vacant Public Member			

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Identification of Staff

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**Alaska Board of Pharmacy
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Narrative Statement

The Board of Pharmacy (the board) submits this narrative statement highlighting its endeavors to promote the welfare and safety of the public through the effective regulation of the pharmacy profession and pharmaceutical supply chain in Alaska for 2023. In FY 2023, the Board of Pharmacy:

- Sent email notification to licensees of meetings;
- Supported the American Pharmacists Association's Pharmacist's Fundamental Responsibilities and Rights document in a September 2022 meeting and notified licensees via listserv;
- Updated statutes/regulations and FAQs following HB 145 (32nd legislative session) and sent notification to licensees;
- Continued work on regulation changes with a barrier-reduction regulatory framework to scale-up pharmacy services and support the growth of the Alaskan economy with many changes effective 12/28/2022;
- Finalized desired statute changes prior to legislative session allowing for quick identification of a legislative sponsor and ultimate legislative passing of HB 112.

FY 2021-2022 marked the beginning of the board's first sunset audit since 2017, which both acknowledged the proliferation of regulatory projects drafted and implemented by the board and provided areas where improved regulatory oversight can be concentrated to further advance its profession and improve patient care. House Bill 306, which passed the legislature at the final hour of the FY 2022 session, extended the Board of Pharmacy through June 30, 2028. While not the full eight (8)-year period that would have extended the board through 2030, the six (6)-year extension is necessitated by the need to reassess the administration and oversight of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), the state's controlled-substance prescription database and interactive technological tool to assist providers in combating the opioid epidemic. As the PDMP affects a total of five (5) professions regulated by the State Medical Board, Board of Nursing, Board of Examiners in Optometry, Board of Dental Examiners, and the Board of Pharmacy, the legislature expects to see continued collaboration among these boards and their constituents.

The sunset audit also illuminated inherent statutory limitations that impose challenges on the board's ability to satisfy reporting requirements to the legislature and its ability to comply with federal grant deliverables. At the request of the legislature, DCCED - CBPL is procured a consultant in FY 2023 to analyze the structure of the PDMP, assess effectiveness of program administration and regulation, and to provide recommendations on how the system can more aptly align with its legislative intent to support judicious prescribing and reduce diversion and abuse of federally-scheduled controlled substances. The consultant report completed by the McKinley Research Group (MGR) and released in February 2023 recommended CBPL convene a PDMP working group to review the findings of the analysis and prioritize changes for improved effectiveness and impact through a multi-perspective lens. MGR noted that the nature of this optimization effort is beyond the scope or capacity of just the Board of Pharmacy itself and/or other healthcare licensure boards. Based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) framework for PDMP Use and Effectiveness, it is recommended that the working group be comprised of representatives from the PDMP program, state health department (i.e., Chief Medical Officer), state insurance programs (i.e., Medicaid Medical Director), healthcare licensure boards, and law enforcement. The Board of Pharmacy looks forward to participating in the workgroup to optimize the PDMP.

Relevant legislation in FY2023 includes House Bill 112/Senate Bill 94 (Profession of Pharmacy), an effort led by the Board of Pharmacy with support from and collaboration with the Alaska Pharmacists Association.

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Narrative Statement (continued)

HB 112 sponsored by Representative Justin Ruffridge and SB 94 sponsored by Senator Cathy Giessel streamline the licensure process while improving public safety; aligns pharmacy statutes with other Alaska boards and other states' statutes by replacing one of the two public member seats with a pharmacy technician seat, recognizing retired pharmacists, and allowing flexibility for a pharmacist to serve in the board's executive administrator role; increases access to epinephrine auto-injectors, medication delivery devices for anaphylaxis emergencies; and ensures the board's powers and duties support the federal Drug Supply Chain and Security Act (DSCSA) to ensure Alaskans receive safe medications.

The board's other major legislative priority is addressing Pharmacy Benefits Manager practices impacting access to care for Alaskans. Senate Bill 121, sponsored by Senator Cathy Giessel, was recently introduced to address these practices. During its April 2023 meeting, the board voted to support SB 121 which will effectively address Pharmacy Benefits Managers' practices including white-bagging and brown-bagging and mail-order which have been identified as having a negative impact on patient care, public health infrastructure, and pharmacy access in Alaska. The board has received feedback about these practices in the form of public comment and industry updates over the past few years and appreciates the opportunity to support SB 121.

The board collaborated with the legislature on language in HB 96, which has a goal to decrease barriers to patients receiving home dialysis. This language was ultimately added to HB 112/SB 94 with the board's support. The board is working with the legislature on language in HB 96, which has a goal to decrease barriers to patients receiving home dialysis. The board supported the Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association (AKVMA) and the Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiner's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) exemption bills, HB 56 and its companion bill, SB 51. The board supported SB 55, which extends the State Medical Board, noting that the Board of Pharmacy has had a good working relationship with the Medical Board for many years with the goal for the board to continue to be a collaborative resource with the state Medical Board to optimize and expand access to safe care for Alaskans.

Recognizing the need for efficient license pathways and processes, the Board of Pharmacy supported SB 83 (Professional Licensing; Temp Permits) and its companion bill HB 85. The board acknowledged that these bills expand the temporary license period the board currently has in place from 90 days to 180 days and provides an efficient pathway for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to not only work under a temporary license but also to obtain permanent licensure in Alaska.

No meetings for the Controlled Substances Advisory Subcommittee (CSAC) were held in FY 2023 after the public board member serving on the committee resigned from the board. However, the board will continue to be led by the Board of Pharmacy's chair or chair's delegate. In April 2023, the board reviewed the duties of this position, identified a new delegate to serve in this role, and is committed to supporting the Controlled Substances Advisory Committee (CSAC). These functions include: to evaluate the effectiveness of current programs, budget and appropriations, enforce policies and procedures, treatment, counseling, and regulations regarding controlled substances and to further make recommendations to the Governor, Alaska Court System and Legislature based upon their findings.

On the regulatory front, the board held timely quarterly and special teleconference meetings to push forward a compilation of regulatory proposals. In total, 29 regulation changes completed (finalized on December 28, 2022); 3 changes recently completed the public comment period (ended January 12, 2023; finalized to continue moving through process on 2/16/2023); 2 reviews submitted to Department of Law.

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Narrative Statement (continued)

Additionally, a large regulatory project was approved by Department of Law and released for public comment in March 2023. These proposed changes include 20 efficiency regulation changes approved by the board to streamline licensure and processing for all license types. An additional 15 proposed regulation changes include creation of new regulation sections for manufacturers, remodeling, and automated distribution kiosks to optimize business while promoting safety.

Regulation	Licensing Area	What This Does
12 AAC 52.020(f)	Pharmacy license	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates requirement to submit a new and separate initial license application when an in-state or out-of-state pharmacy changes its name, ownership, or physical address; notification may be in writing, e.g.: via email or letter Replaces the inspection report with an attestation Pharmacy will keep its existing license number
12 AAC 52.120(e)	Pharmacist intern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes requirement for pharmacist interns to return their technician license to the board once issued an intern license
12 AAC 52.220(d)	Pharmacist intern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes requirement for pharmacist interns to submit a work experience report within 30 days
12 AAC 52.250	Student job shadowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates requirement for pharmacist-in-charge supervising a high-school student in a job shadow program to submit a form to the board Allows pharmacies to continue providing job shadowing programs and manage these opportunities independently
12 AAC 52.300	License renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes language indicating that pharmacies, wholesale drug distributors, outsourcing facilities, and third-party logistics providers are not eligible for renewal if they have undergone a change in name, physical address, or ownership
12 AAC 52.423	Remote pharmacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates requirement to submit a new and separate initial license application when a drug room changes its name, ownership, or physical address; notification may be in writing, e.g.: via email or letter Drug room will keep its existing license number

Regulation	Licensing Area	What This Does
12 AAC 52.610(c)	Wholesale drug distributor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates requirement to submit a new and separate initial license application when an in-state or out-of-state wholesale drug distributor changes its name, ownership, or physical address; notification may be in writing, e.g.: via email or letter Wholesale drug distributor will keep existing license number
12 AAC 52.696(c)	Outsourcing facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates requirement to submit a new and separate initial license application when an outsourcing facility changes its name, ownership, or physical address; notification may be in writing, e.g.: via email or letter Outsourcing facility will keep its existing license number
12 AAC 52.697(c)	Third-party logistics provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates requirement to submit a new and separate initial license application when a 3PL changes its name, ownership, or physical address; notification may be in writing, e.g.: via email or letter Outsourcing facility will keep its existing license number
12 AAC 52.800(c) & (d)	Drug room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates requirement to submit a new and separate initial license application when a drug room changes its name, ownership, or physical address; notification may be in writing, e.g.: via email or letter Drug room will keep its existing license number
12 AAC 52.855(b)	PDMP registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates requirement of pharmacists not engaged in the dispensing controlled substances to submit exemption form

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Narrative Statement (continued)

In FY2023, the board implemented regulations to (based on license type):

Pharmacists:

- Remove the transcript requirement for licensure;
- Delegate the examination eligibility approval to the NABP;
- Authorize a pharmacist-in-charge to serve as a PIC for more than one pharmacy upon a written request to the board;
- Allow the official License Transfer Application to also serve as a license verification from the reciprocating state;
- Remove requirement to submit separate verifications of licensure for reciprocity applicants;
- Clarify patient counseling requirements.

Interns:

- Expand the criteria to qualify for an internship license by recognizing recent graduates;
- Extend the duration of the license from 2 years to 5;
- Remove the affidavit of moral character requirement;
- Replace the 1,500-hour education requirement for pharmacist licensure with standardized language.

Technicians:

- Clarify pharmacy technician duties and duties that do not require a technician license;
- Remove language relating to on-the-job training for the preparation of sterile pharmaceuticals.

Pharmacies:

- Replace the requirement for pharmacies located outside of the state to submit a certified true copy of the home jurisdiction license with a simple copy;
- Replace the inspection report requirement with an attestation that an inspection was completed.

Facilities:

- Remove the fingerprint and resume requirements for wholesale drug distributors, outsourcing facilities, and third-party logistics providers;
- For wholesale drug distributors, require a copy of the home jurisdiction license only if the state requires licensure as a wholesale drug distributor.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program:

- Adopt by reference the PDMP data dispenser submission guide;
- Recognize 3rd party reporting vendors;
- Define “appropriate identifier” as the provider’s/pharmacist’s license number;
- Clarify that a provider/pharmacist must submit a zero report when no controlled substances are dispensed.

Pharmacy Technician Immunization changes as a result of passage of HB 145 in 2022. These were signed by the LT Governor on April 19, 2023, and will go into effect May 19, 2023:

- To allow pharmacy technicians with national certification to administer an immunization and related emergency medication under supervision of a pharmacist.

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Narrative Statement (continued)

- Continuing education requirements for pharmacy technicians to require pharmacy technicians who are nationally certified to complete at least one hour of continuing education specific to immunizations or vaccines as part of the 10 contact hours of continuing education requirement if engaged in this practice.
- Administration of vaccines and related emergency medications to amend the requirements relating to administration of vaccines and related emergency medications. Changes made to reflect requirements for pharmacy technicians administering immunizations.

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

With the passage of HB 112 in FY 2023 that overlaps with changes the Board of Pharmacy previously identified in its FY 2022 legislative recommendations and FY 2022 board meetings, a number of intended statutory changes will be resolved. These areas covered in HB 112, effective by November 26, 2023, following the anticipated Governor's signature, include:

REPEALING the following:

- AS 08.80.110(2) - (Qualifications for Licensure by Examination): "furnish the board with at least two affidavits from reputable citizens that the applicant has known for at least one year attesting to the applicant's good moral character;"
- AS 08.80.145(3) - (Reciprocity; License Transfer): "is of good moral character;"
- AS 08.80.145(5) - (Reciprocity; License Transfer): "or has met the internship requirements of this state;"
- AS 08.80.160(10) - (Fees): "Registration or;"
- AS 17.22.020(c) which is the Department's epinephrine auto-injector training program;
- AS 17.22.090(1) that defines the department as the Dept of Health, since it will no longer be the approving entity of the epinephrine auto-injector training program.

AMENDING the following:

- AS 08.80.0310(a) - (Creation and Membership of Board; Officers): "There is created the Board of Pharmacy, composed of seven (or eight) members, five of whom shall be pharmacists licensed in the state who have been actively engaged in the practice of pharmacy in the state for a period of three years immediately preceding their appointment. One shall be a pharmacy technician licensed in the state for at least two years. One shall be a person with no direct financial interest in the healthcare industry."
- AS 08.80.030 (Powers and Duties of the Board):
 - (b)(10) Separates out the licensing/regulating entities relating to manufacturing and distributing of drugs and devices by use of the word "or;"
 - (b)(12) adds an epinephrine auto-injector training program;
 - (b)(14) Clarifies that only pharmacists who dispense federally scheduled controlled substances be required to register with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP);
 - (b)(16) Adds pharmacies and manufacturers from out-of-state to the list of entities to be licensed and inspected;
 - (b)(17) Adds internet-based pharmacies to the list of entities to be licensed if they are servicing Alaskans;
 - (b)(18) adds language adopting regulations pertaining to retired pharmacist status.
- AS 08.80.145 Reciprocity; license transfer
 - (3) removes character requirement - "of good moral character;"
 - (4) removes internship details – this is a national standard among schools of pharmacy.

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Narrative Statement (continued)

- AS 08.80.157 Licensing of facilities
 - (k) add out-of-state pharmacies and manufacturers to the list of entities that must be licensed and inspected
- AS 08.80.159 Licensing and inspection of facilities outside the state
 - Add “distributor, pharmacy, manufacturer” to those out-of-state entities that must be licensed and inspected, under the Drug Supply Chain and Security Act.
- AS 08.80.159 Licensing and inspection of facilities outside the state
 - (c) adds “pharmacy and manufacturer” to list that may be inspected if located outside the state.
- AS 08.80.160 Fees
 - Removes the word “registration” since the bill mandates licensure of a facility
- AS 08.80.168 and add a new subsection – Administration of vaccines and related emergencies
 - (e) Allows a pharmacist to administer epinephrine to a person or prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors to someone who has completed the epinephrine auto-injector training program.
- AS 08.80.270 Executive administrator of the board
 - Adds an additional salary range option for the executive administrator, allowing flexibility for the Division to select a pharmacist for the role.
- AS 08.80.420 Certain advertising prohibited
 - Adds the term “apothecary” to list of those that cannot be used in media or advertising unless the store employs a licensed pharmacist with regular hours.
- AS 12.62.400 National criminal history record check
 - (a)(23) adds pharmacist and pharmacy technician to list of professions where a background check is required. Aligns with State of Alaska’s nursing requirements and pharmacy requirements typical in other states. This adds a national level background check.
- AS 17.22.010 Prescription, purchase, administration of epinephrine by a trained individual
 - Allows anyone over 18 to purchase or be prescribed an epinephrine auto-injector, and to administer epinephrine in an emergency to another person if they have completed an epinephrine auto-injector training program approved by the board. It removes very outdated language from this section.
- AS 17.22.020(a) Approval of training programs
 - Allows the board, rather than the department, to adopt standards for the epinephrine auto-injector training program and deletes outdated language.
- AS 17.22.020(b) Approval of training programs
 - Allows the board, rather than the department, to approve an epinephrine auto-injector training program that meets the board’s standards.
- AS 17.22.030 Applicability
 - States that this chapter does not apply to someone currently authorized under another law to administer epinephrine, such as a nurse or doctor, or some other authorized professional.
- AS 17.22.040 Liability of certified individual
 - Outlines that a person may not be sued who administers epinephrine to another in an emergency, and in good faith, if he or she has completed the epinephrine auto-injector training program approved by the board.
- AS 17.22.090 Definitions
 - (3) defines the “board” as the Board of Pharmacy.

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Narrative Statement (continued)

The board is also excited to highlight developments and engagements of both new and existing partnerships with agencies sharing common goals to promote parity in health care, support accessibility of treatment to underserved and geographically-challenged areas and populations, and identify and address challenges and opportunities to support valued personnel within a demanding pharmaceutical infrastructure. FY 2023 efforts include:

- Continued collaboration with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) to delegate eligibility approval for MPJE and NAPLEX exams and explore options for out of state entity inspections;
- Participating in question development and reviews to ensure the validity and integrity of examinations required for licensure;
- Partnership with the Alaska Pharmacists Association on legislative and practice advancement priorities as well as wellbeing for licensees.

FY 2023 was a license renewal year for the Board of Pharmacy. The following number of license renewals were processed by Division staff: Pharmacist – 991; Pharmacy Technician – 892; Pharmacy Intern – 8; Pharmacy – 127; Out of State Pharmacy – 600; Third-party Logistics Providers – 166; Outsourcing Facility – 30; Wholesale Drug Distributors – 17; Out of State Wholesale Drug Distributors – 637; Drug Rooms – 38.

While the board and its collaborators have made great strides in FY 2023, there is much more to be accomplished in the next fiscal year. The board is keyed in to anticipate changes with the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) effective in FY 2024 and stands ready to promulgate regulations needed to initiate an effective regulatory response for entities involved in the distribution of prescription drugs. In entering FY 2024, the board will continue its efforts to ensure a healthy Alaska through continued development of strategic plans, removal of barriers to and streamlining the process for licensure and renewal, exercise collaborative oversight of the PDMP, and nurture continued relationships with departments and organizations whose support is invaluable to the strengthening and advancement of its profession.

With gratitude,

Ashley Schaber, PharmD, MBA, BCPS
Chair, Alaska Board of Pharmacy

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024

Budget Recommendations section anticipates the board’s fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. Please complete all parts of this section with details about anticipated meetings, conferences, memberships, supplies, equipment, to other board requests. Meeting expenses that are being funded through third-party reimbursement or direct booking must be identified separately from expenses paid through license fees (receipt- supported services or RSS). Be sure to explain any items listed as “other” so they may be tracked appropriately.

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
August 10, 2023	Anchorage, AK	7	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$300.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$200.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify): M&IE			\$350.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$850.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
November 16, 2023	Anchorage, AK	7	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$300.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$200.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify): M&IE			\$350.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$850.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
February, 2024 - TBD	Anchorage, AK	7	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$300.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$200.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify): M&IE			\$350.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$850.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
April, 2024 - TBD	Anchorage, AK	7	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$300.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$200.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify): M&IE			\$350.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$850.00

Travel Required to Perform Examinations			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable			
Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify):			
Total Estimated Cost:			\$0.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#1 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
October 22-25, 2023	Jackson Hole, WY	1	1

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) District 6 – 8 meeting (Alaska is in district 7)

At the district meeting, NABP and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) have a unique opportunity to address not only professional issues affecting today’s pharmacy practice, but also educational matters influencing tomorrow’s pharmacists. Board members and faculty come together to discuss regional and national issues during the meeting.

Attendees:

Board Member

Executive Administrator

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$3,000.00			\$3,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$1,800.00			\$1,800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$150.00			\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00			\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	\$1,620.00			\$1,620.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): M&IE				
Net Total:	\$6,570.00			\$6,570.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#2 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
May, 2024 - TBD	Fort Worth, TX	2	1

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

120th Annual Meeting of the NABP

State boards, regulators, and stakeholders gain a deeper understanding of how NABP and the pharmacy regulatory boards work together to protect public health. Attendees have the opportunity to network and participate in business sessions to keep abreast of the salient issues affecting pharmacy practice and regulation.

Attendees:

Board Chair

Board Member

Executive Administrator

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$3,000.00			\$3,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$1,800.00			\$1,800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$150.00			\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00			\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	\$1,620.00			\$1,620.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): M&IE, 3rd party conference scholarship opportunity \$1500 reimbursement				
Net Total:	\$6,570.00			\$6,570.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#3 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
April, 2024 - TBD	TBD	1	2

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

National Rx and Illicit Drug Summit

The Rx and Illicit Drug Summit is the largest national collaboration of professionals from local, state, and federal agencies, business, academia, treatment providers, and allied communities impacted by prescription drug misuse and illicit drug use. It is the event for decision-makers and allied professionals working to address this public health emergency. This conference supports the state’s opioid response and the board’s efforts to effectively administer the state’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP).

Attendees:

Board Member on the Controlled Substances Advisory Committee

PDMP Manager

PDMP Investigator

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$3,000.00			\$3,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$1,800.00			\$1,800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$150.00			\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference	\$0.00			\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	\$1,080.00			\$1,080.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): M&IE				
Net Total:	\$6,030.00			\$6,030.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#4 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD	TBD	1	0

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Compounding Pharmacy Compliance Conference

The board has been working on advancing their compounding regulations over the last few years. This conference is an opportunity to network with experts in the compounding industry, analyze evolving regulations, strengthen compounding systems and processes, and gain insight into techniques to ensure the board's statutes and regulations are in step with the standards and guidelines of U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) General Chapter 797 Pharmaceutical Compounding—Sterile Preparations.

Attendee:

Board Member on the Compounding Committee

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$600.00			\$600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$50.00			\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00			\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	\$540.00			\$540.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): M&IE				
Net Total:	\$2,190.00			\$2,190.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#5 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
TBD	TBD	0	1

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Alaska Pharmacists Association (AKPhA) 58th Annual Convention & Tradeshow 2024

The AKPhA Annual Convention & Tradeshow is an event that pharmacy professionals in Alaska look forward to attending each year. There are typically over 200 attendees from all corners of the state. This is a great opportunity for board members and staff to attend meetings and get to know pharmacy professionals and stakeholders throughout the state of Alaska. In 2023, the February board meeting was held in conjunction with the 57th Annual Convention & Tradeshow.

Attendees:

- All Board Members
- Executive Administrator
- PDMP Manager

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$0.00			\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$600.00			\$600.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$200.00			\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00			\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	\$700.00			\$700.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): M&IE				
Net Total:	\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable
 Resources
 Examinations
 Membership
 Training
 Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact

- Not Applicable
 Cost Per Event:
 Number of Events:

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Summary of FY 2024 Fiscal Requests:

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$3,400.00
Travel for Exams:	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$22,160.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$0.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	\$0.00
Other:	\$0.00
Total Requested:	\$25,560.00

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Legislative Recommendations - Proposed Legislation for FY 2024

No Recommendations

The Board has no recommendations for proposed legislation at this time.

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

A summary of the Board of Pharmacy's legislative recommendations it intends to pursue in FY 2024 include:

- Statutory changes to optimize use and efficacy of the PDMP (AS 17.30.200)
- Statutory changes to expand and optimize pharmacists' independent prescriptive authority (AS 08.80)
- Review and update of Title 17 (Food and Drugs), specifically pharmacy-related changes needed in AS 17.20. AS 17.20.105 Part B has a line for therapeutic substitution allowing a pharmacist to substitute a product that is approximately equal in therapeutic value if the provider is not available and if the pharmacist notifies the provider. Bring Alaska into alignment with other states.

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Regulation Recommendations - Proposed Regulations for FY 2024

No Recommendations

The Board has no recommendations for proposed regulations at this time.

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

A summary of the Board of Pharmacy's regulations changes it intends to pursue in FY2024 include:

- Streamline licensure and processing for all license types (see efficiency regulation chart below)
- Create new regulations to align with the federal Drug Supply Chain and Security Act (DSCSA)
- Remove outdated and unnecessary language.
- Add manufacturer to the licensing categories.
- Expand the notification of change requirement of pharmacist-in-charge from 10 to 30 days from the date of assignment; and remove outdated regulations.
- Allow automated distribution kiosks to be kept outside of the secured prescription area of a pharmacy.
- Establish and streamline the notification process during a licensed or registered pharmacy remodeling.
- For wholesale drug distributors, outsourcing facilities, and third-party logistics providers, amend the term "facility manager" to "designated representative" to align with national industry standard;

To correspond with changes in HB 145 (2021-22 32rd Legislative session), the Board of Pharmacy recommends CHANGES to:

- 12 AAC 52.992 - Re-title and replace term, "independent administration of" with "prescribe" wherever applicable
- 12 AAC 52.994 - Re-title and replace term, "independent dispensing of" with "prescribe" wherever applicable
- 12 AAC 52.460(c) - Remove "dosage form"

The Board of Pharmacy recommends NEW SECTIONS for:

The Board of Pharmacy recommends Updates for:

- 12 AAC 52.310 Reinstatement of an Expired Pharmacist or Pharmacy Technician License
- 12 AAC 52.430 Guidelines Related to Sterile Pharmaceuticals

The Board of Pharmacy acknowledges it must create and update regulations by November 26, 2023, corresponding with HB 112:

- New sections: Internet pharmacies, retired pharmacist license, epinephrine training program
- 12 AAC 52.130 - (Registration of Pharmacies Located Outside of the State) to update the language from "registration" to "license"

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Goals and Objectives





**Part I
FY 2023's goals and objectives and how they were met:**

In its FY 2023 strategic plan, the Board of Pharmacy identified four (4) overarching goals inspired by (4) guiding principles in the focus areas of communication, administration, licensure, and regulation/enforcement. Each goal includes identification of strategies (objectives) to support and advance the board's guiding principal areas. This section highlights the board's progress with its 17 identified strategies.



**ALASKA BOARD OF PHARMACY
2023 STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Alaska Board of Pharmacy endeavors to promote, preserve, and protect the public health, safety, and welfare by and through the effective control and regulation of the practice of pharmacy.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES	GOALS	STRATEGIES
 COMMUNICATION	1. Engage in effective communication and promote transparency of public information.	1.1 Improve customer service by providing timely and informative updates to applicants and licensees. 1.2 Maximize communication channels through the Board of Pharmacy website and List Service. 1.3 Maintain accuracy of website content and ensure accessibility of up-to-date resources
 ADMINISTRATION	2. Adhere to and strive for improved organizational efficiencies without compromising quality of record keeping.	2.1 Avoid delays in application processing by maintaining adequate staffing and exploring flexible retention strategies. 2.2 Maintain a proactive approach to licensing by consulting historical knowledge, researching national trends, and encouraging innovation in the planning process. 2.3 Automate licensure through online applications. 2.4 Exercise fiscal discipline through effective budget management. 2.5 Embrace innovation by exploring integration and/or delegation opportunities to support core administration functions.
 LICENSURE	3. Ensure competency and qualifications prior to licensure and renewal.	3.1 Adhere to established licensing standards by reviewing education, experience, and examination requirements. 3.2 Take a proactive approach to application and form revision subsequent to regulation changes. 3.3 Review professional fitness questions for applicability and update applications accordingly
 REGULATION & ENFORCEMENT	4. Grow the economy while promoting community health and safety.	3.4 Develop a license application for manufacturers. 4.1 Routinely review effectiveness of regulations that reduce barriers to licensure without compromising patient health and safety. 4.2 Combat the opioid crisis by effective administration of the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), including collaboration with providers and key stakeholders. 4.3 Establish disciplinary guidelines to ensure established safety protocols and competencies are met. 4.4 Advocate for legislation as the pharmacy profession evolves and new opportunities for improved patient safety arise. 4.5 Anticipate changes to the Drug Supply Chain Security Act and respond proactively.

For more information, please visit the following resources:
 Board of Pharmacy Homepage: pharmacy.alaska.gov
 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP): pdmp.alaska.gov
 Email: pharmacy@alaska.gov
 Phone: 907-465-1073

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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part I (continued)

FY 2023's goals and objectives and how they were met:

GOAL/STRATEGY	MET BY
1.1 Improve customer service by providing timely and informative updates to applicants and licensees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued use of email listserv including timely notification of Board meetings. • Consistently provided authorization codes for applicants to check their application/record status in real-time using MY LICENSE. • Utilized a spreadsheet to track follow-up with in-process applicants. • Provided MY LICENSE status each time staff make a change to a licensing file.
1.2 Maximize communication channels through the Board of Pharmacy website and List Service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued use of email listserv including timely notification of Board meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Notification of September, October, and November Board meetings. ○ Board supported the American Pharmacists Association's Pharmacist's Fundamental Responsibilities and Rights document at the September 2022 meeting. Sent via listserv on 11/1/22. ○ Updated statutes/regulations and FAQs following HB 145 sent 11/3/22. ○ Notification of regulation changes effective 12/28/22 sent on 11/29/22.
1.3 Maintain accuracy of website content and ensure accessibility of up-to-date resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely posting of Board meeting agendas, public packets, and meeting minutes. • Reviewed website material monthly and adjusted information to ensure the website stays relevant to changes.
2.1 Avoid delays in application processing by maintaining adequate staffing and exploring flexible retention strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed redundancy in application processing procedures. • Shifted priorities to in-state applicants to get more licensees in the state working sooner. • Provided detailed instructions via MY LICENSE to applicants to improve application processing times.
2.2 Maintain a proactive approach to licensing by consulting historical knowledge, researching national trends, and encouraging innovation in the planning process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk Manual was updated to remove obsolete procedures in application processing. • Staff use of the desk manual alongside checklists for application processing to ensure accuracy and speed. • Use of policies and procedures provided by division leadership.
2.3 Automate licensure through online applications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal temporary licensure legislation took priority. Goal for online applications is now tentatively set for June 2024.

**Alaska Board of Pharmacy
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

<p>2.4 Exercise fiscal discipline through effective budget management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board regularly <u>received</u> budget updates and responds accordingly to adjust licensing fees as needed. • Board meetings were periodically held in teleconference format <u>in an effort to save money</u>.
<p>2.5 Embrace innovation by exploring integration and/or delegation opportunities to support core administration functions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnering with NABP to optimize use of NABP inspection program for out-of-state pharmacies. • License integration with the PDMP vendor to deactivate stale accounts. • Exploring option to auto-approve PDMP accounts.
<p>3.1 Adhere to established licensing standards by reviewing education, experience, and examination requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlined the application review process using the NABP license transfer which supplies this information. • Continued use of application checklists and amended the checklists to remove redundancy or obsolete requirements.
<p>3.2 Take a proactive approach to application and form revision subsequent to regulation changes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing. Executive Administrator submitted updated applications and forms for revisions 30 days prior to all regulations changes since coming on in December 2022. • Executive Administrator is proactive with form updates and anticipates form updates necessitated by regulation changes.
<p>3.3 Review professional fitness questions for applicability and update applications accordingly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation changes in process to streamline. • All applications were revised to clarify requirements for professional fitness questions and posted to the website on January 30, 2023.
<p>3.4 Develop a license application for manufacturers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is in process and will be completed in accordance with division policy and procedure subsequent to statute and regulation changes.
<p>4.1 Routinely review effectiveness of regulations that reduce barriers to licensure without compromising patient health and safety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported SB 83 (Professional Licensing; Temp Permits) and its companion bill HB 85. • The board is successful in continuing to work on and support the division's <i>Right Touch Regulations</i> initiative. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reducing barriers to licensure by eliminating onerous requirements, including authorization for release of records, affidavits of moral character for interns, inspection requirements,

**Alaska Board of Pharmacy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Goals and Objectives (continued)

	<p>background reports and resumes for facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eliminating requirements made redundant by similar industry or employer requirements, including academic transcripts. ○ Streamlining application processing by delegating approval to the board's executive administrator
<p>4.2 Combat the opioid crisis by effective administration of the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), including collaboration with providers and key stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enabled several enhancements to the PDMP to improve the registration process and overall user experience. These enhancements include license integration, a communications module, and an annual audit of delegate accounts. ● The PDMP renewal was integrated into the professional license renewal application to streamline the renewal process. ● Enabled Statewide Gateway Integration to allow for single sign on access through integration with EHR and PMS's. ● Hired an outside consultant, McKinley Research Group, to assess the PDMP. ● Maintained integration and continued collaboration with HealtheConnect, the HIE for Alaska. ● Continued collaboration with partners and stakeholders through participation at annual conferences, board meetings, and through participation in the opioid workgroup.
<p>4.3 Establish disciplinary guidelines to ensure established safety protocols and competencies are met.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Disciplinary matrix approved February 2022 and used regularly to ensure consistency during board review of investigations
<p>4.4 Advocate for legislation as the pharmacy profession evolves and new opportunities for improved patient safety arise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supported House Bill 112/Senate Bill 94 (Profession of Pharmacy) which included multiple changes identified by the board over the last few years as well as changes related to "right-touch regulations." ● Supported SB 83 (Professional Licensing; Temp Permits) and its companion bill HB 85. ● Supported SB 55, which extends the State Medical Board, noting that the Board of Pharmacy has had a good working relationship with the Medical Board for many years with the goal for the board to

Alaska Board of Pharmacy
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

	<p>continue to be a collaborative resource with the state Medical Board to optimize and expand access to safe care for Alaskans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worked the legislature on language in HB 96, which has a goal to decrease barriers to patients receiving home dialysis. This language was ultimately added to HB112/SB94.• Supported the Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association (AKVMA) and the Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiner's PDMP exemption bills, HB 56 and its companion bill, SB 51.• Supported SB 121 which will effectively address Pharmacy Benefits Managers' practices including white-bagging and brown-bagging and mail-order which have been identified as having a negative impact on patient care and public health infrastructure in Alaska. The board has received feedback about these practices in the form of public comment and industry updates over the past few years.
4.5 Anticipate changes to the Drug Supply Chain Security Act and respond proactively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supported House Bill 112/Senate Bill 94 (Profession of Pharmacy): ensures the Board's powers and duties support the federal Drug Supply Chain and Security Act (DSCSA) to ensure Alaskans receive safe medications.

**Alaska Board of Pharmacy
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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II

FY 2024’s goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:

The Board of Pharmacy's SWOT analysis is below:

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Technologically adaptive	Staff turnover	Board member participation	Staff availability and competing demands
Use of diverse communication channels	Board member participation/availability	Expanded online licensing	Multiple legislative and profession changes requiring regulation updates
Established licensing policies and procedures		Rapport with other Alaska professional licensing boards	
Task list accountability and follow-up		Board Member Vacancies	
Rapport with stakeholder partners (Alaska Pharmacists Association, Dept of Health, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, other state Boards of Pharmacy)			
Public comment opportunities during board meetings			

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Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 7/15/2021

Board Sunset Date: 6/30/2028

Audit Recommendation:

The board chair and Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing's director should improve procedures and training to ensure applicants meet requirements prior to licensure.

Action Taken:

Ensure use of existing checklists and proper use of the licensing system.

Next Steps:

Ongoing staff training.

Complete : No Yes **If yes, date completed:**

Audit Recommendation:

The board should adopt regulations for renewing outsourcing facilities and third-party logistics provider licenses.

Action Taken:

The board began drafting regulations for renewal of out-of-state facilities in 2020, adopting language during its November 2021 meeting. Amendments were released for public comment in February 2022.

Next Steps:

The board adopted renewal regulations for out-of-state facilities under 12 AAC 52.300.

Complete : No Yes **If yes, date completed:** 12/28/2022

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Sunset Audit Recommendations (continued)

Audit Recommendation:

Applicable occupational boards and Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing's director should continue to coordinate efforts to improve the monitoring and enforcement of Controlled Substance Prescription Database (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program) requirements.

Action Taken:

Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing's director procured a consultant to assess the administration of the database. The analysis' recommendations were reviewed by the board upon completion.

Next Steps:

The division is in the process of forming a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program work group to address the considerations outlined in the analysis.

Complete : **No** **Yes** **If yes, date completed:**

Audit Recommendation:

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development's commissioner should allocate sufficient resources to ensure licensees holding a DEA registration number are consistently recorded in Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development's licensing database.

Action Taken:

Training provided to staff on how to identify and enter DEA registration numbers; development of checklists and instructional materials.

Next Steps:

Continued progress on actions already taken.

Complete : **No** **Yes** **If yes, date completed:**

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Sunset Audit Recommendations (continued)

Audit Recommendation:

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development's commissioner should allocate sufficient resources to ensure the Controlled Substance Prescription Database (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program) requirements are enforced.

Action Taken:

Continued resources to support affected boards; training materials provided and disseminated. An Investigator position was created for the Controlled Substance Prescription Database (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program).

Next Steps:

Continued progress on actions already taken.

Complete : No Yes **If yes, date completed:**