

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  
7 MINUTES OF MEETING  
8 Thursday June 10, 2021

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13 By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a scheduled meeting  
14 of the Alaska State Medical Board was held on Thursday, June 10, 2021

15  
16 Thursday, June 10

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

19 The meeting was called to order by Chair Wein at 3:10 p.m.

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21 **Roll Call**

22 Board members present:

23 Sarah Bigelow Hood, PA-C  
24 Maria Freeman, MD  
25 Lydia Mielke  
26 Steve Parker, MD  
27 Richard Wein, MD (Chair)

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29 Board Members absent:

30 David Boswell, Public Member (Secretary)  
31 Larry Daugherty, MD

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33 Board and Division staff present: Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator

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35 **2. Review Agenda**

36 The board reviewed the meeting agenda.

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38 **On a Motion duly made by Dr. Wein and approved by affirmation, the Board approved**  
39 **the agenda.**

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41 **3. Attorney General Case Consultation – Megyn Weigand, AAG**

42 Chair Wein explained that Ms. Weigand was invited to provide legal consultation on the license  
43 application for Ernest Ivey, MD. Ms. Weigand advised that the board would need to go into executive  
44 session.

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**On a motion duly made by Dr. Wein, seconded by Dr. Freeman and approved by roll call vote, the State Medical Board entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters under AS 44.62.310(c)(2, 3, and 4) with Division and Dept. of Law Staff remaining.**

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow-Hood, Dr. Freeman, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Parker, Chair Wein  
Absent for Vote: Mr. Boswell and Dr. Daugherty

The Board entered executive session at 3:15 pm and exited executive session at 3:36 pm.

**On a motion duly made by Dr. Parker, seconded by Dr. Freeman and approved by roll call vote, the board agreed to grant Dr. Ernest Ivey a full and unrestricted Emergency Courtesy License.**

Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow-Hood, Dr. Freeman, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Parker, Dr. Wein  
Absent for Vote: David Boswell and Dr. Daugherty

**4. Naturopath presentation**

Chair Wein invited Dr. Abbi Laing, with the Alaska Association of Naturopathic Doctors, to begin her presentation by introducing the topic and identifying any specific requests of the Medical Board desired by Naturopaths. Dr. Laing reiterated that the goal of today’s presentation is to introduce Naturopaths, address any misunderstandings regarding their training and scope of practice and identify ways for collaboration to produce the best health outcomes for Alaskans. Due to outdated statutes, Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) have one of the most limited scopes of practice in Alaska than in any other state in the nation. This is leading to many NDs leaving the state. Naturopaths helped introduce Naturopathic reform bills (SB 28 and HB 40) during this session that would help to modernize the scope of practice allowed in Alaska to commensurate with the training received by NDs. Nationally, the scope of practice by ND’s can vary significantly because some states do not require a regulated licensure process. Naturopaths licensed in Alaska must complete a 4-year post-graduate education program and a 2-year residency. Naturopaths have as much education and training as some other health care professionals in the state yet are not allowed under Alaska statute to perform the services they are trained to provide. For example, they are trained to provide intravenous therapies yet are not allowed to administer vaccines. They are an under-utilized resource when it comes to increasing Alaskan’s access to quality health care.

In response to questions from the Board, Dr. Laing provided the following information:

- A key priority as a result of the new legislation is for the ability of Naturopaths to gain limited prescriptive authority for things like intravenous vitamins, vaccinations or antibiotics; they are not asking to be able to prescribe controlled substances
- The demand seems to be high at this time in Alaska for ND services.
- ND’s are not interested in becoming their own board at this time.
- ND’s utilize lab work and imaging tests in their practice
- The procedures they perform are limited to sutures and wart removals, IUD’s nothing past superficial tissue

**5. Physician Assistant Presentation**

1 Chair Wein invited Chris Dietrich, President for the Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants, to address  
2 the Board and to identify specific requests by the Physician Assistant Association of the Medical Board.  
3 Mr. Dietrich's presentation highlighted barriers and issues that cause delays for Physician Assistant's  
4 with Alaska's licensure process and timeline. Mr. Dietrich cited many concerns with respect to the  
5 requirements around Collaboration Plans. Some of these concerns include:

- 6 • Collaborative Plans must be posted on the Medical Board website before a DEA license will be  
7 issued.
- 8 • Collaborative Plans do not detail the scope of practice or expertise for the Physician Assistant.
- 9 • When PA's move to a new practice their Collaborative Plan must be updated, this is time  
10 consuming
- 11 • If a physician unexpectedly leaves the practice, the PA's ability to provide services is also  
12 terminated, which may cause significant service gaps and hardships in hard to serve areas of the  
13 state.
- 14 • Alaska lacks a modern approach to licensure. Many states have adopted license reciprocity to  
15 ease the ability for PA's to work in multiple states. Many states have also allowed for the ability  
16 for PA's with a certain amount of years of experience t no longer work under a Collaborative  
17 Plan.

18  
19 Overall, Mr. Dietrich identified that the requirements for practice assessments and collaborative plans  
20 need careful review and revision. As follow up, Mr. Dietrich agreed to provide the presentation slides  
21 and a legal analysis of changes could be made by the Medical Board without statutory changes - to  
22 streamline the PA license application process. Chair Wein reiterated that streamlining and modernizing  
23 the license application process is a priority for the board.

## 24 25 **6. Public Comment**

26 Public comments were received from:

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28 *Daniel Nelson, Pharmacist from Fairbanks:* Mr. Nelson addressed the board to voice his frustrations  
29 regarding problematic controlled substance prescribing and the lack of timely regulatory and  
30 enforcement body response and actions from the DEA and entities like the Medical Board to multiple  
31 and repeated reports of unethical, dangerous, unprofessional and possibly illegal prescribing practices  
32 by an individual provider. Recently a prescriber was required to give up his DEA license under duress.  
33 The DEA and Medical Board had been made aware of this individual for at least 10-15 years prior to any  
34 action taken. He was able to continue to prescribe until very recently. This doctor's former patients were  
35 prescribed high doses and extremely unsafe combinations of opioids and benzodiazepines. It has been  
36 upsetting to see the aftermath of the destructive behaviors of this prescriber. Mr. Nelson urged the  
37 Medical Board to take expeditious action against this provider so that he can no longer practice  
38 medicine in Alaska. Per Chair Wein's request, Mr. Nelson agreed to forward the name of the prescriber  
39 to the Executive Administrator. Chair Wein expressed the Board's commitment to follow up on this  
40 matter.

41  
42 *Malan Paquette, citizen from Anchor Point in the Kenai Borough:* Ms. Paquette described herself as an  
43 advocate and stated she wished to call the Board's attention to similar concerns as those addressed by  
44 the previous speaker. Ms. Paquette encouraged the Board to listen to the Controlled Substance Advisory  
45 Committee by the Dept. of Law, which was also held on this date, June 10, 2010. During this committee  
46 meeting it was reported that there are new forms of narcotics being smuggled and being prescribed in  
47 the state. Ms. Paquette raised concerns regarding the high number (78) of missing persons year-to-date

1 in our state. Ms. Paquette challenged the Board to work collaboratively with the investigators with  
2 Alcohol Control Board and to exercise its authority in providing oversight of licensees.

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4 **7. Investigations Unit/Board Action – Megan Weigand, Assistant Attorney General**

5 AAG Weigand provided a brief introduction of the matter and recommended that the Board enter  
6 executive session.

7 **On a motion duly made by Dr. Wein, seconded by Dr. Parker and approved by roll call vote,**  
8 **the State Medical Board entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters**  
9 **under AS 44.62.310(c)(2, 3, and 4) regarding Division case no. 2021-000150 with Division**  
10 **and Dept. of Law Staff remaining.**

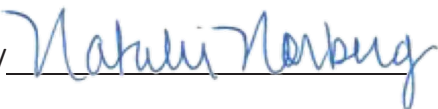
11 Roll Call: Yeas, Ms. Bigelow-Hood, Dr. Freeman, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Parker, Chair Wein  
12 Absent for Vote: Mr. Boswell and Dr. Daugherty

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14 The Board entered executive session at 4:50 pm and exited executive session at 5:35 pm. Dr. Parker and  
15 Ms. Mielke left the meeting, leaving the Board without a quorum.

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17 **8. Adjournment**

18 The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 pm.

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20  
21 Respectfully submitted:

22  
23 /s/ 

24 Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator  
25 Alaska State Medical Board

26  
27 August 20, 2021

28 Date

Approved:

/s/ 

Richard Wein, MD, President  
Alaska State Medical Board

August 20, 2021

Date