

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, March 30, 2023
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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, March 30, 2023
11

12 Note: Prior to the meeting being called to order, Dr. David Barnes was acknowledged by the Chair as
13 being recently appointed by the Governor to the Board. Dr. Barnes is an Internal Medicine physician
14 from Wasilla and replaces Dr. Steve Parker who resigned in February 2023. .
15

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

17 The meeting was called to order by Chair Wein at 4:04 p.m.
18

19 **Roll Call**

20 Board members present:

21 David Barnes, DO
22 Sarah Bigelow Hood, PA-C
23 Maria Freeman, MD
24 Lydia Mielke, Public Member (Secretary)
25 David Paulson, MD
26 Richard Wein, MD (Chair)
27 David Wilson, Public Member
28

29 Board Member not present:

30 Matthew Heilala, DPM
31

32 Board / Investigation Unit staff present: Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator, Sonia Lipker,
33 Investigations Supervisor, Kendra Wardlow, Investigator
34

35 Invited Guest: Ashley Schaber, Chair, Board of Pharmacy
36

37 **2. Review / Approval of Agenda**
38

39 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood, the Board approved by**
40 **roll call vote to amend the agenda to add a discussion related two new bills introduced in the**
41 **legislature within the last two weeks which would impact the medical board. These bills include SB91**
42 **and SB115.**
43

44 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. David Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Wein and
45 Mr. Wilson.

46 Absent for Vote: Dr. Heilala
47

48 **3. Investigations Update**
49

50 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood, the Board approved by**

1 **roll call vote to that the Alaska State Medical Board enter into executive session in accordance with AS**
2 **44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing Case**
3 **number 2023-00013 with Board and Investigative staff to remain during session.**

4
5 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. David Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Wein and
6 Mr. Wilson.

7 Absent for Vote: Dr. Heilala

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9 The Board entered into executive session at 4:09 pm and returned on the record at 4:18 pm.

10
11 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood, the Board approved by**
12 **roll call vote to grant Dr. Megan Aspelund a full license.**

13 Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. David Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Wein and
14 Mr. Wilson.

15 Absent for Vote: Dr. Heilala

16 17 **4. Special Topic: Pharmacy Agreements and Proposed Regulation Changes**

18 Chair Wein initiated an introduction to this topic by identifying and explaining the requests from the
19 Board of Pharmacy outlined in a letter to the State Medical Board dated November 21, 2022. The
20 requests include 1) a repeal of the requirement for a physical exam of the patient as currently required
21 in 12 AAC 40.983. (d); and to change in regulation the title of from *“Cooperative” Practice Agreements*
22 *with Pharmacists* to *“Collaborative” Practice Agreements with Pharmacists*.

23 Chair Wein also provided a general overview of pharmacy agreements as outlined in Medical Board
24 regulations 12 AAC 40.983. Most Board members acknowledged having no knowledge of Pharmacy
25 Agreements, prompting a discussion regarding the scope of services, informed consent and health
26 emergency protocols provided by pharmacists under such agreements. Chair Wein invited Board of
27 Pharmacy Chair, Dr. Ashley Schaber to address questions and concerns raised by Board Members. A
28 question was raised as to whether pharmacies are providing informed consent specifically for COVID
29 vaccinations. Chair Schaber advised that pharmacies should be able to provide copies of informed
30 consents for any vaccines administered. As a follow up, it was suggested the Executive Administrator
31 should request copies of the informed consents provided by pharmacies for vaccines. Dr. Schaber noted
32 that pharmacy agreements were originally created and intended as clinical agreements for pharmacies
33 embedded in clinics. Yet, as in the example pharmacy agreement provided to Board members, it was
34 pointed out by Ms. Norberg that the context for the majority of agreements currently in operation are
35 not embedded clinics. No decision was made with respect to the proposed regulation changes as
36 presented. Chair Wein recommended Board members independently consider desired edits to the
37 regulations and for this matter to be addressed again at a later date.

38 39 **5. Discussion on Proposed Legislation**

40 41 **• HB 85 / SB 83: Universal Temporary Licensing**

42 Chair Wein provided an overview of the bills and opened the floor for discussion. Several members
43 voiced support for the bills, citing the measures designed to help board staff expedite initial licensure
44 and the ability to extend temporary licensure for an additional 180 days as being especially favorable for
45 licensees.

46 **On a motion duly made by Ms. Mielke and seconded by Ms. Bigelow-Hood, the Board approved by**
47 **roll call vote to request the Executive Administer to draft a statement of support for HB 85 / SB 83 –**
48 **Universal Temporary Licensing and this for this position statement to be transmitted to the**
49 **legislature as soon as possible.**

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Roll Call: Yeas, Dr. David Barnes, Ms. Bigelow Hood, Dr. Freeman, Ms. Mielke, Dr. Paulson, Dr. Wein and Mr. Wilson.
Absent for Vote: Dr. Heilala

• **SB 91: Telemedicine and Multidisciplinary Teams**

Chair Wein provided an overview of the bill and opened the floor for discussion. Several members noted that the language of the bill is confusing, and the intent is unclear. Ms. Mielke read the bill’s sponsor statement out loud to help provide clarity for the type of professionals that comprise a physician’s multidisciplinary team. It was further recognized that the bill is intended to expand the flexibilities of the 2022 telemedicine legislation to allow midlevel healthcare professionals, not licensed in Alaska, the ability to provide services to Alaskans. It was suggested that a meeting with the bill’s sponsor, Senator Claman, may be needed before the Board takes a position on whether to support or propose the bill.

• **SB115: Physician Assistant Scope of Practice**

Chair Wein provided an overview of the bill and opened the floor for discussion. Chair Wein reminded the Board that draft regulations intended to modernize the practice of physician assistants were approved and forwarded for legal review and public input. This bill goes much farther with respect to expanding the scope of practice for physician assistants than the draft regulations Ms. Bigelow-Hood advised that she is scheduled to meet with McKenzie Pope, staffer for the bill’s sponsor, Senator Tobin, to gather more information regarding the intent of the bill. A decision regarding whether to support or oppose the bill was postponed until Ms. Bigelow-Hood reports back to the Board regarding the sponsor’s intent.

5. Closing Business/Adjourn

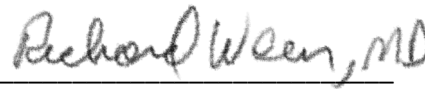
The Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ 
Natalie Norberg, Executive Administrator
Alaska State Medical Board

05/19/2023
Date

Approved:

/s/ 
Richard Wein, MD, President
Alaska State Medical Board

May 19, 2023
Date